



NEWS RELEASE

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Infrastructure grants to help S.C. communities

S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority approves grant assistance for 28 communities

COLUMBIA, S.C. -- The S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) has approved grant assistance for 28 communities totaling more than \$12 million to ensure safe drinking water for residents and provide infrastructure reliability for area businesses. Funds will be used for construction of pump stations, elevated water storage tanks, line extensions as well as upgrades to treatment plants. Recipients share in the cost of projects by paying for non-construction activities and, often times, providing additional funds for construction.

With nearly two-thirds of projects in more rural and less developed counties, the RIA grant program provides an opportunity for applicants to address their most pressing infrastructure needs.

"These funds are vital to help communities make the necessary investments to modernize and improve their water and sewer infrastructure," said executive director Bonnie Ammons.

Whether it's constructing a new well to meet the daily demand for water in a community, upgrading outdated sewer lines or mitigating the health and safety risks of flooding by improving a neighborhood's drainage infrastructure, these grant awards will have a significant impact on the residents and businesses that they serve.

RIA grants are awarded twice a year through a competitive process that considers the need for improved public health, environmental protection, community sustainability and economic development. Applications are selected by the RIA board based on criteria, including: severity of the problem, expected impact and project feasibility.

A list of grant recipients to date in fiscal year 2018 is below. To learn more about RIA or how to apply for grant assistance, visit www.ria.sc.gov.

Aiken County - Breezy Hill Water and Sewer Co.	Water and Sewer Improvements	\$500,000
Barnwell, City of	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000
Batesburg-Leesville, Town of	Water Tank Improvements	\$130,515
Beaufort-Jasper County Water & Sewer Authority	Sewer Line Extension	\$500,000
Berkeley County Water and Sanitation	Pump Station Upgrade	\$500,000
Blacksburg, Town of	Economic Sewer Improvements	\$480,500
Clarendon County	Water System Improvements	\$486,080
Dalzell Rural Water District	Water System Improvements	\$190,781
Denmark, City of	Economic Water and Sewer Infrastructure	\$500,000
Dillon County	Economic Water and Sewer Infrastructure	\$500,000
Easley Combined Utilities	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000
Fort Mill, Town of	Economic Water Improvements	\$500,000
Gaffney Board of Public Works	Sewer System Improvements	\$473,000
Georgetown County Water and Sewer District	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000
Great Falls, Town of	Pump Station Upgrade	\$290,000
Greenville Water	Economic Water Improvements	\$500,000
Horry County	Drainage System Upgrade	\$336,226
Lake City, City of	Water Tank Improvements	\$251,250
Lancaster County Water and Sewer District	Water Line Improvements	\$500,000
Lockhart, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	\$365,000
Manning, City of	Sewer System Improvements	\$496,800
McColl, Town of	Water System Improvements	\$500,000
Newberry County Water & Sewer Authority	Water Tank Improvements	\$404,000
Pageland, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000
Saluda County	Economic Water Infrastructure	\$338,663
Union, City of	Economic Sewer Improvements	\$1,000,000

Whitmire, Town of	Water Tank Improvements	\$164,897
Winnsboro, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	\$424,600
TOTAL	28 projects	\$12,332,312

About S.C. Department of Commerce

As South Carolina's leading economic development agency, the Department of Commerce works to recruit new businesses and help existing business grow. Commerce has recruited world-class companies to South Carolina such as BMW, Boeing, Continental, Giti Tire, LPL Financial Holdings, Mercedes-Benz Vans, Samsung, Toray and Volvo Cars and also supports startups, small and existing business, innovation and rural development initiatives. Commerce partners with the [S.C. Technical College System](#) via [readySC](#) to support workforce training and recruiting, and with the [S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce](#), which provides worker training and employment opportunities within the state. With a strong international footprint, since 2011, South Carolina has ranked among top three in the nation for attracting jobs through foreign investment on a per capita basis, according to IBM-Plant Location International. Additionally, in five of seven years, the state has won the Gold Shovel Award from Area Development magazine. For more information, visit www.SCcommerce.com.

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