



SANTEE LYNCHES

FY 2021-2022

Annual REPORT

A Letter FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

DEAR REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER,



This time last year, the Chairman's statement highlighted that the linchpin to continually adding value to our region was professional staff. They are, and will continue to be, the lifeblood of our organization. This diverse group was able to navigate the uncertainty of what was to come, all while heavily investing in the vision of the agency.

The previous 12 months had been one of the most significant periods of global change and transformation the world had ever seen. COG staff were steadfast in all of our program areas and did more than just keep the agency afloat. Staff stayed aggressive in searching for new opportunities to supplement and support existing programs. This was a critical part of our success, a part that now not only has a story but also a playbook on how to repeat these steps when faced with adversity.

The Board of Directors and executive leadership spoke of technology as a driving force for positive social impact – through broadband initiatives and Far-UV technology in all schools – and of the changing future of the workplace, which directly affected our region and our organization. Each of those issues remains just as vital today, and staff will continue to

search for ways to fund and advance Santee-Lynches communities.

Looking back, it was unknown how much the months, and now years, after those early weeks of the global pandemic would transform our world. How lives around the world would be impacted. How the makeup of the traditional work environment and the way our children learn would be reshaped. How our cities would evolve and the conventional structures of our communities challenged. Lastly, no one could anticipate how critical technology, workforce, and economic collaboration would be to our lives every day.

Amongst the challenges and the complexity of new and residual funding last year, we delivered premiere results. I am pleased to see that our strong performance, transformational progress, operational resilience, financial discipline, and responsible staff and Board of Directors have postured us for future success.

We demonstrated our focus and resilience by delivering these premiere results in 2021 and 2022, but this year was about much more than that. What I now know is that our member governments, state partners,

and colleagues around the region have supported each other on an unpredictable journey. We have fought for the best possible outcome in an uncertain world and continue to use our professional staff to advance the Santee-Lynches communities. As I reflect on our organizational vision of “equipping our communities to achieve their full potential,” it feels more pertinent today than ever. It's a privilege to know that our resourcefulness – coupled with our relentless determination to deliver for the region – has kept our agency running, workforce strong, children learning, and public services operating in the most challenging of times.

Looking ahead, our focus remains on building strong communities where every county, city, town, and resident can benefit in the shared value of our region's success. I'm confident that the adaptability over the last year only creates more opportunity for Santee-Lynches to empower our member governments and our wider society to not only survive in the 'new normal' but also thrive in a way that helps the agency, our partners, and our residents achieve even higher levels of success.



Julia Nelson
Chairman of the Board

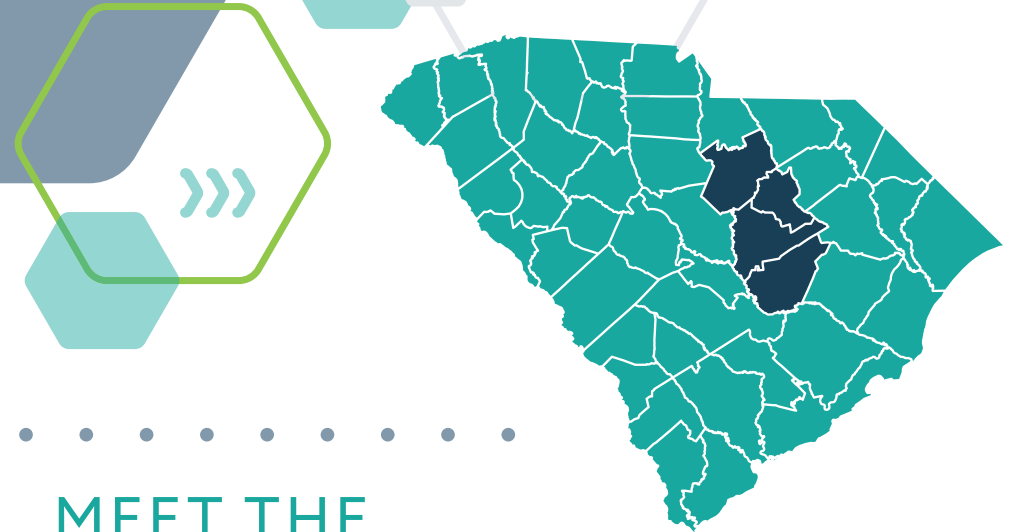


We are SANTEE-LYNCHES COG

Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments (COG) is one of ten regional, sub-state districts in South Carolina. Santee-Lynches COG was established in 1971 and serves Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee and Sumter counties.

We serve the region by working with local governments to bring public and private sector leaders together to solve emerging and persistent problems. In addition to providing planning-related services, Santee-Lynches COG is also instrumental in administering federal and state grants aimed at facilitating community and economic development, improving the quality of our workforce, and improving the quality of life for our older populations. Santee-Lynches COG is also a designated Economic Development District under the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Our purpose is to work with local governments, public agencies, private companies, and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. COGs are a means of bringing the public and private sector leaders of a region together to determine needs, set priorities, develop alternative solutions to common problems, and capitalize on mutually beneficial opportunities.



MEET THE Board

CLARENDON COUNTY

Councilman Benton Blakely
Sen. Kevin L. Johnson
Shirley Keels (*Mbr at Large*)
Mayor Julia Nelson (*Chairwoman*)
Chairman Dwight Stewart

KERSHAW COUNTY

Chairman Julian Burns
Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford
Rep. Lauri Funderburk
Councilman Jeffrey Graham
Brad Hanley (*Mbr at Large*)
John Wesley Lee (*Mbr at Large*)
Kenneth McCaskill (*Mbr at Large*)
Vice-Chairman Sammie Tucker, Jr.
(*1st Vice-Chair*)

LEE COUNTY

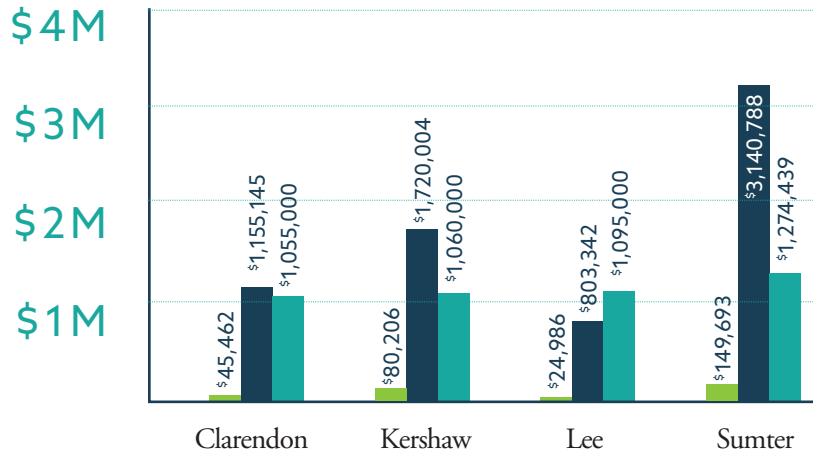
Mayor Grady Brown
Councilwoman Jacqueline Josey
Rep. Will Wheeler (*2nd Vice Chair*)
Chairman Travis Windham (*IPC*)

SUMTER COUNTY

Councilman Eugene Baten
Councilman Steven Corley
Jeffrey (Jay) W. Davis, Jr. (*Mbr at Large*)
Chairman James McCain (*Secretary/Treasurer*)
Mayor David Merchant
Councilwoman Vivian McGhaney (*IPC*)
Roland Robinson (*Mbr at Large*)
Rep. David Weeks
Chuck Wilson (*Mbr at Large*)
Earl Wilson (*Mbr at Large*)

IPC = Immediate Past Chair

RETURN ON Investment



	Clarendon Co.	Kershaw Co.	Lee Co.	Sumter Co.
Dollar amount invested:	\$45,462	\$80,206	\$24,986	\$149,693
Return on Investment:	48:1	34:1	75:1	28:1

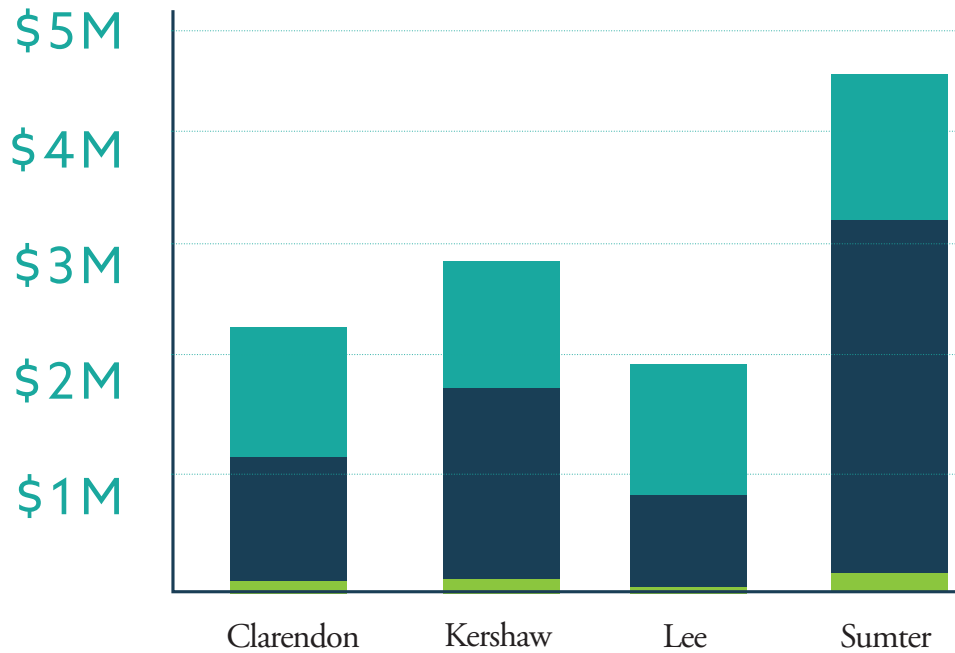
-  Local Dues from County (including City amts)
-  SLR/COG Program & Admin Funds
-  Direct Grants to Locality by SLR/COG Initiation

TOTAL INVESTMENT:

\$300,347



WITH AN AVERAGE ROI ON \$1 OF **\$37**



- Local Dues from County (including City amts)
- SLRCOG Program & Admin Funds
- Direct Grants to Locality by SLRCOG Initiation



**SUMMARY OF
REVENUE &
EXPENDITURES
FY 2021 - 2022**

REVENUE	
	Federal and state revenue.....\$5,672,562
	State General Assembly appropriations..... \$41,242
	Local government appropriations \$300,347
	Contracts and miscellaneous \$857,145
	Interest earnings..... \$5,889
	Total revenue..... \$ 6,877,185

EXPENDITURES	
	Personnel.....\$2,101,168
	Development, training, and travel \$65,496
	Operations, maintenance, and other admin\$980,669
	Equipment and furniture purchases..... \$69,551
	Direct participant support and pass-thru funding...\$3,602,395
	Total expenses.....\$6,819,278





Health & HUMAN SERVICES

The HHS Department strives to make a continual positive difference in our community by focusing on the health (physical, mental, financial, relational) of our citizens. We currently serve adults aged 60 and above, but we are actively searching for opportunities to expand our reach.



AREA AGENCY ON Aging

The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) contracts with providers for in-home and community based services throughout the region to provide group dining and home-delivered meals, transportation, home care, and health promotion programs. Each eligible client must complete a current assessment of their individual needs with the AAA before services begin.

“Thank you for all your agency does. The meals are very helpful to my 90-year-old mother.”

Mr. Corley, Sumter County

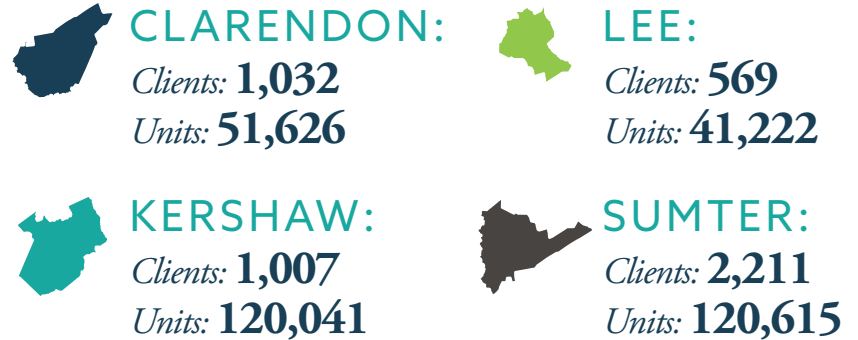


To celebrate Older Americans Month, the South Carolina Department on Aging and Santee-Lynches AAA staff hosted a Senior Day event at the South Hope Center on May 12. The 2022 theme was Aging My Way, an opportunity for all of us to explore how older adults can remain in and be involved with their communities.

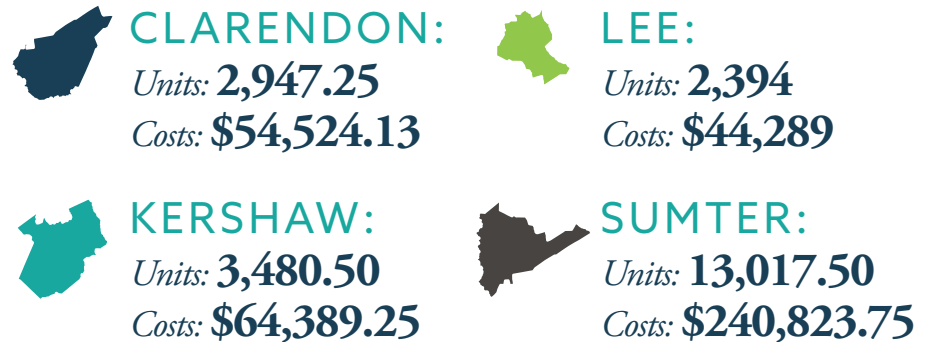
More than 300 seniors attended from the 10 senior centers within Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, and Sumter counties. We were fortunate to be able to utilize the funds from expanded access to COVID-19 vaccines, resulting in 33 seniors who were either vaccinated or received their booster.

We were glad to host a fun-filled day of music, games, and prizes for these wonderful members of our community!

Total number of clients and units served for group dining, transportation, and home-delivered meal programs by county:



Total number of hours spent and costs associated with receiving home care by county:



Total funding spent:

\$404,026.13

Regional total hours spent on home care:

21,839.25



Family CAREGIVER SUPPORT

The demands of caregiving may be physical, emotional, and financial. The Family Caregiver Support Program helps through respite, education, and supplemental services. Caregivers caring for loved ones 60 or older, or caring for an individual with Alzheimer's or a dementia-related diagnosis are eligible to apply. Services are also available for seniors raising children who are 18 years of age or younger.

Total funding spent on caregiver support:
\$314,032.39

Total funding spent on supplemental services:
\$3,639.30

Respite Hours: **30,424**
Caregivers: **213**
Support Groups: **10**
Caregiver Training: **3**



ASSESSMENTS:

We employ Aging Program Specialists through our Area Agency on Aging who go into long-term care facilities or the homes of elderly residents to conduct an assessment to determine the level of need. A database of the information creates a prioritized list based on the assessment and required services.

Assessments completed July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022:

 *Clarendon:* **288** *Lee:* **173**
Kershaw: **404** *Sumter:* **743**

Regional Re-assessments: **1,069**

Regional New Assessments: **539**

Insurance COUNSELING

Insurance counseling is available for individuals who are enrolled in Medicare, Medicare supplemental insurance, and other insurance options. Through our State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) and the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), we educate Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries on ways to avoid, detect, and prevent healthcare fraud.

Total contacts made through insurance counseling (SHIP/SMP): **2,548**

Legal ASSISTANCE

Legal Assistance Services works with attorneys and state agencies to provide referrals for legal services to individuals 60 years of age or older. Working with South Carolina Legal Services, our legal services team helps ease the financial burden of legal help among our aging population.

 **CLARENDON:**
Clients: **21** *Hours:* **132.85**

 **KERSHAW:**
Clients: **25** *Hours:* **184.67**

 **LEE:**
Clients: **10** *Hours:* **58.2**

 **SUMTER:**
Clients: **36** *Hours:* **206.33**

LONG-TERM CARE Ombudsman

The Ombudsman helps ensure the safety and protection of individuals living in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities (LTCF). The Ombudsman is certified through the South Carolina Department on Aging (DOA) to identify, investigate, and resolve concerns on behalf of LTCF residents. Additionally, the Ombudsman trains staff, residents, and family members on residents' rights and how to recognize signs of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

County	Cases	Complaints	Consults	Friendly Visits
Clarendon	2	2	5	14
Lee	5	9	16	15
Kershaw	2	4	21	31
Sumter	16	36	79	98
Total	25	51	121	158



Pilot PROGRAMS

Veteran TRANSPORTATION PROJECT

Our AAA provides reimbursements to veterans ages 60 or older for transportation to Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VA) appointments and non-essential trips.

Veterans Served April 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022:

Total Veterans Served: **43**

Total Funding: **\$12,900**



Clarendon: 4

Kershaw: 2

Lee: 1

Sumter: 36



SC Thrive

LONG-TERM CARE PROJECT

In partnership with SC Thrive and the other nine South Carolina AAAs, our AAA helped families complete complicated applications for in-home or facility-provided Long-Term Care Medicaid services. These services will help meet the health and personal needs of individuals who are aged, blind, or disabled and are provided by a nursing home or certified at-home care provider.

LTC Contacts, Submitted Applications and Outreach Events July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

AAA	Contacts	Submitted Applications	Outreach Events
Appalachian	192	54	36
Catawba	44	41	41
Central Midlands	70	6	14
Lowcountry	10	9	26
Pee Dee	58	21	54
Santee-Lynches	127	108	24
Trident	244	89	53
Upper Savannah	15	15	75
Waccamaw	26	2	9
Total	786	345	335

Total number of LTC applications submitted July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, by county for the Santee-Lynches Region.



Clarendon: 28
 Kershaw: 15
 Lee: 4
 Sumter: 59
 Other: 2

Total:
108

As a result of our regional and statewide efforts, SC Thrive awarded Santee-Lynches AAA with Partner of the Year for 2022.



Information REFERRAL & ASSISTANCE (IR&A)

The IR&A Specialist helps citizens identify, understand, and effectively access regional services, providing a comprehensive understanding of the service delivery system. Our staff participates in outreach events in the region and is available to provide presentations on topics such as long term care, benefits, or available resources for older adults and individuals with disabilities.



Top Presenting Needs:

- Information & referral assistance
- Aging assessment services
- Home delivered meals
- Homemaker services

Top Unmet Needs:

- Information & referral assistance
- Home delivered meals
- Home repairs
- Aging assessment services

Total outreach events in the Santee-Lynches service area: **15**



Clarendon: 1 Sumter: 6
 Kershaw: 1 Other: 6
 Lee: 1

Total contacts: **926**



Clarendon: 150 Sumter: 448
 Kershaw: 235 Other: 19
 Lee: 74



For additional information on HHS Programs:

santeelynchescog.org/aging



Workforce DEVELOPMENT

The Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments serves as the administrative entity (AE) and grant recipient to implement the goals of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) in Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, and Sumter counties. AE staff administer Workforce Development Board (WDB) established policies and guidelines to deliver workforce investment activities to businesses and individuals who need those services, including small and large businesses, job seekers, dislocated workers, veterans, incumbent workers, new entrants to the workforce, youth, and people with disabilities.

The mission of the Santee-Lynches WDB is to “improve the quality of the workforce and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the region” through a local SC Works/one-stop workforce development delivery system.



Employer SERVICES

On-the-Job Training (OJT), a federal program funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA):

- Enables employers to hire and train skilled workers and get reimbursed for their efforts.
- Reimburses an employer up to 50 percent (75 percent for smaller businesses) of an employee's starting wages while they are training.
- Requires no change in a company's personnel policies.
- Ensures smooth new-hire transitions into the workplace.
- Offsets the training cost for businesses.
- Increases return on investment.

Incumbent Worker Training

The Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) Program provides funding to help cover the costs of training needed to retain a competitive workforce. Such training is meant to be used as part of a layoff-aversion strategy or to assist with expansion, new technology, retooling, new services/product lines, and/or new organizational structuring. IWT is funded by the Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Veteran Placement Representatives

Free Job Postings

- Employee screening.

Interview Locations

- Off-site, private, & convenient location to interview pre-matched applicants.

Skills Assessments (WIN)

- Profiles & assesses basic technical skills.

Business Solutions Centers

- Provides a "second office" in which to conduct business, equipped with phone, fax, email, internet access, copier, and more.

Employer Events

- Job fairs.
- "Employer on the Floor" hiring events.
- Business on-site hiring events.

Rapid Response Events

- The SC Rapid Reemployment Team responds to downsizing and closures that impact SC workers, enabling those affected to return to work as quickly as possible. At the request of the company, SC Works staff can offer on-site support in resume building, interviewing skills, and online job searches.

Business Engagement

- Job postings.
- Applicant screening and referral.
- Work experience.
- On-the-job training opportunities.
- Incumbent Worker Training (IWT).
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC).

Employee SERVICES

Resource Lab

- Easy access to phones, fax machines, computers with internet access, printers, and copiers. Job seekers can access job banks, apply for financial aid assistance for education and training programs, or use our job readiness e-resources.

Resume Development

Skills Assessments (WIN)

- Provides youth or individuals with a clear picture of their strengths and weaknesses.

Employability Workshops

- Workshops cover a wide range of topics, including conducting a job search, filling out an application, interviewing, resume writing, and job readiness.

Job Development Assistance

Financial Aid Assistance

- Up-to-date information and support for completing the applications needed to apply for financial aid.

SC Economic Data

- Data and trends from the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce's Labor Market Information Division

Occupational Resources

Individualized and Training Services

- These services include individual career management, career counseling, paid education and occupational skills training, on-the-job training, and more.



Youth PROGRAMS

We provide employment assistance to young people ages 16-24 that meet certain criteria including:

- Disabled and/or learning-disabled youth
- English language learner
- Foster child
- Homeless or runaway
- Low income, at-risk youth
- Offender
- Pregnant or parenting
- School dropout
- Under-prepared youth
- Basic Skills Deficient
- Any youth who is an individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment



Workforce Innovation AND OPPORTUNITY ACT SERVICES

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

WIOA provides employment and training services for adults, dislocated workers, and youth. WIOA increases the quality and accessibility of services that job seekers and employers receive at their local SC Works Centers. WIOA also helps job seekers acquire industry-recognized credentials for in-demand jobs.

Supportive Services: WIOA allows for supportive services to be provided to individuals who participate in training and employment activities. These services include transportation, childcare, dependent care, housing, and needs-related payments. Supportive services are utilized as a resource to help eliminate barriers to training and employment.

Incumbent Worker Training (IWT): IWT helps employers stay on the cutting edge and increase productivity and quality by providing employees with needed training in order for the business to remain competitive. IWT provides funding to help cover the costs of training needed to retain a competitive workforce.

Types of Training Available: A variety of occupational skills training is made available to participants who require skills upgrading or new skills. These training programs include but are not limited to: Associates Degrees in General Technology and Nursing, Commercial Driver's License, Clinical Medical Assistant, Patient Care

Technician, Nursing Assistant, Emergency Medical Technician, EKG & Phlebotomy Technician, Certified Welder, and other approved areas of training. On-the-job training and work experience opportunities also enable participants to gain hands-on experience in various fields.

Types of Certificates: WIOA participants have the opportunity to achieve a range of attainable certificates, including basic skills training in which they can obtain a high school diploma or GED, or strengthen their basic math, English, or reading skills. They also have the resources available to them to attain occupational/vocational training for skills that are needed in high-demand jobs in the region including, but not limited to, advanced manufacturing, logistics/transportation, and healthcare sectors.

Measurable Skills Gain: The purpose of the Measurable Skills Gain (MSG) indicator is to track and measure important progressions and achievements made by WIOA clients through pathways and towards various goals of

their individual programs. MSGs can be obtained by completing an occupational skills training program or attaining a level of basic skills achievement (i.e. increased math and reading levels, earning a high school diploma or GED).

Services Provided to Job Seekers: Through the SC Works centers, all partners collaborate to leverage the state's workforce system by providing services such as career guidance, free job search through our SC Works Online Services (SCWOS) system, resume creation and assistance, job referrals, testing, and training to job seekers. Other job seeker services include free workshops, access to job fairs, information on training and education programs, and Labor Market Information to help look at employment trends and local workforce information.





“The OJT program is extremely easy to use and beneficial to our small company. We are grateful that we have been introduced to its benefits.”

– Teresa Bloomer,
Advanta Southeast in Manning



Total number of applicants that received a job (regionally): **267**

12 Management Meetings and four Group Information Sessions with 49 attendees were held in Santee-Lynches during Program Year 2021.

Total number of rapid response events: 4
Total number of participants: 15

 **KERSHAW:**
14 hiring events
44 applicants attended

 **SUMTER:**
38 hiring events
91 applicants attended

Total number of business engagements: **76**
 Clarendon: 14
Kershaw: 21
Lee: 5
Sumter: 36



Workforce Innovation AND OPPORTUNITY ACT SERVICES (WIOA) PROGRAM YEAR 2021

Total amount directly invested in workforce participants: **\$387,435**

Total dollars invested in training **\$327,526**

Clarendon County: **\$73,889**
Kershaw County: **\$46,563**
Lee County: **\$26,737**
Sumter County: **\$180,337**

Total dollars invested in supportive services **\$59,909**

Clarendon County: **\$15,128**
Kershaw County: **\$12,285**
Lee County: **\$4,903**
Sumter County: **\$27,593**

Total youth job placements: **32**

Clarendon: **10**
Kershaw: **7**
Lee: **3**
Sumter: **12**

Youth job placement success rates:
(completed training & employed in field)

Clarendon: **63.47%**
Kershaw: **18.3%**
Lee: **41.8%**
Sumter: **25.66%**

PY 2021 WIOA PARTICIPANT RESULTS

Total WIOA adults and dislocated workers served: **259: 235 (adult) 24(DW)**
Clarendon: 9, Kershaw: 46, Sumter: 204,

Customers served through SC Works Centers: **23,500**
Clarendon: 1,118, Kershaw: 14,035, Lee: 118, Sumter: 8,229

Total WIOA youth served: **89**
Clarendon: 37, Kershaw: 9, Lee: 12, Sumter: 31

Number of services provided to job seekers: **615,518**
Clarendon: 73,118, Kershaw: 141,555, Lee: 6,647 Sumter: 394,198

Total youth measurable skills gains: **173**
Clarendon: 60, Kershaw: 18, Lee: 22, Sumter: 73

Number of employers served through SC Works Centers: **690**
Clarendon: 6, Kershaw: 230, Sumter: 454

Total Youth GED/high school diplomas earned: **6**
Clarendon: 1, Kershaw: 1, Lee: 3, Sumter: 1

Number of services provided to employers: **5,633**
Clarendon: 142, Kershaw: 1,527, Sumter: 3,964

Total youth occupational skills credentials earned: **61**
Clarendon: 26, Kershaw: 10, Lee: 6, Sumter: 19





Travis Johnson was unemployed and seeking a new career path when he entered the WIOA Adult program on March 2, 2022. He started training with Palmetto Training Inc. on April 4, 2022, completed the CDL training in five weeks, and earned his Class A License. Travis secured full-time employment with J.B. Hunt and started training in July 2022.

“This is a great program to pursue your career and accomplish goals. They are very understanding and willing to work with you to get you to the next step in your life.”

– Travis Johnson
WIOA Adult Participant



Teonna Kinlaw was determined to make a change after her arrest. “As I sat in jail, I made the decision I was not going to put myself in a position like this again,” she recalled. When she got out of jail, she sought help from Eckerd Connects, began working with a career coach, and received assistance getting her record expunged. “I am so very grateful for the wonderful Eckerd Connects program. They have and still are helping me become a better version of myself,” Teonna said. During her expungement process, she was able to take medical administrative assistant courses and received certification shortly after. Her mentor set her up with two job interviews that would provide her with work experience in the field she was interested in.

“This program has helped me in ways I couldn’t even imagine and connected me with amazing mentors, like Ms. Kathleen L. Gibson, who I currently work for. I just want to say thank you.”

– Teonna Kinlaw
Eckerd Connects Program Participant



Shamaria VanBuren was underemployed at her job when she was connected with SC Works and the WIOA program in July 2021. Through the program, she started working in home health while in training to become a certified nursing assistant. After passing her state exam in November 2021, Shamaria was hired by McLeod Hospital in the surgical unit. She is now training to be a phlebotomist.

“I am so thankful to SC Works and the WIOA program for the opportunity and plan to keep moving up and pass my state exams, so I can help people in more than one area. I recommend it to anyone who wants to be more.”

– Shamaria VanBuren
WIOA Program Participant

For additional information on Workforce Service/Programs:

santeelynchescog.org/workforce-development-department



Government SERVICES

The Government Services Department provides planning and project implementation services for local governments in the four-county region, as well as for other partners from the nonprofit and for-profit sectors.

We provide the following services initiated both through regional collaborative processes and individual requests:

- Transportation
- Environment
- Community Development
- Planning & Zoning Officials Training
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Santee-Lynches Tenant Empowerment Program (S.T.E.P)





Transportation

YEAR IN REVIEW

\$4,000,000

Total amount of transportation funding brought into the region:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) was completed and approved by the COG board. Created with key stakeholder input, the CEDS guides regional economic development for the next five years.
- In collaboration with the Pee Dee COG, completed the FEMA Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Pee Dee region.
- Submitted proposal to FEMA for updating the Santee-Lynches region's Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan will help to minimize the impacts of natural disasters and maintain communities' eligibility for disaster-related funding needed.

COG planners continue to support the local governments in the region through on-call planning, zoning, and development management assistance.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Pursued project-specific improvements including:

- Black River Road Corridor Phase I project
- Bishopville Truck Route project

Partnered with SCDOT and local governments to develop a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Bishopville Truck Route.

- A new set of potential alternatives were delivered to the public during the year, and the preferred alternative has been identified. We continue to work with the City of Bishopville, Lee County, and SCDOT to find the most cost-effective and impactful implementation for this project.



Because of uncertainty around COG/MPO Boundaries due to changes seen in the 2020 Census, the Santee-Lynches COG board of directors voted to place the Black River Road Phase I project on hold in September 2021 to verify the project area would remain in the Santee-Lynches planning jurisdiction. The results of these updates showed that Camden (and to an extent the Black River Road area) will continue to be part of the COG's jurisdiction through at least 2030. As such, the project was reinstated to the Santee-Lynches Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with planning and right-of-way acquisition set to begin in FY 2023.



Environmental

YEAR IN REVIEW

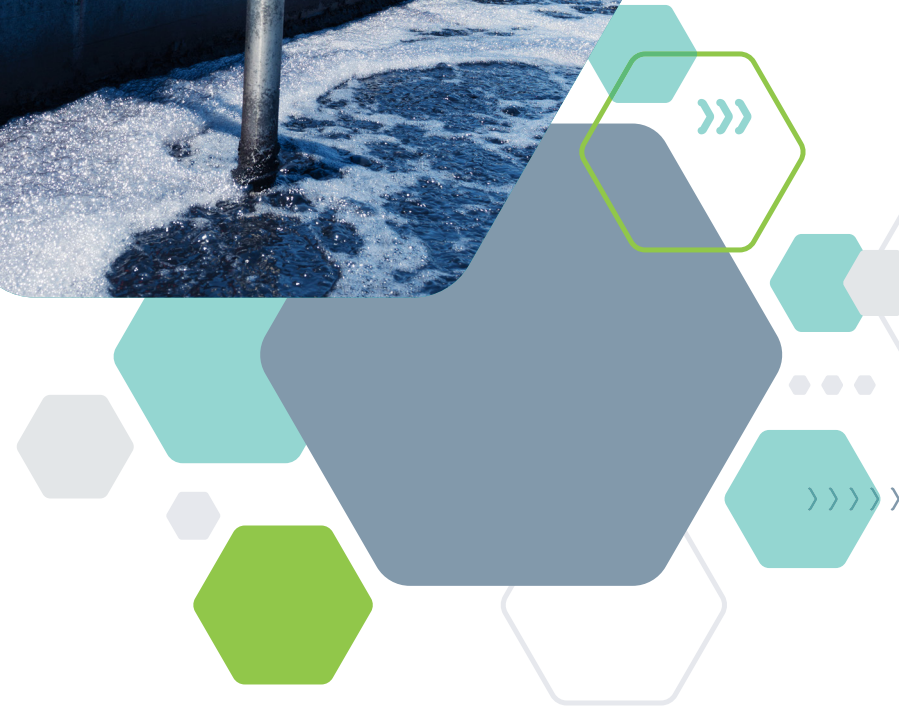
The Santee-Lynches COG region covers over 2,400 square miles. Our diverse region is home to wetlands, forests, farmland, rivers, and lakes; a complex cultural landscape; and small cities and towns. Santee-Lynches maintains a Regional Green Infrastructure Inventory to track and analyze these natural assets.

In partnership with the Green Infrastructure Center and the SC Forestry Commission, an updated Green Infrastructure Plan was completed for the Santee-Lynches region.

Brownfields remediation planning began for the region through the South Carolina Brownfields Environmental Site Testing (SC BEST) program in partnership with SCDHEC and the other COGs across the state. This program allocated \$78,160 for brownfield site assessments in the region.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Santee-Lynches 208 Water Quality Management Plan, the regional water quality management planning document for wastewater providers in the four counties, was updated and approved by the EPAC and the full COG board.
 - Annual reporting to SCDHEC of the COG's 208 Water Quality Management planning activities closed on October 30, 2022, to accord with the federal fiscal year.
 - Fourteen Water Quality Management Plan conformance reviews were conducted ranging from residential subdivisions to land application of biosolids.
 - Santee-Lynches is now a participating member of the Pee Dee River Basin Council, the Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group, and the Congaree Biosphere Reserve Advisory Council.





Community Development & HOUSING YEAR IN REVIEW

Santee-Lynches provided professional services in support of community infrastructure projects for the region funded via the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

Completed projects total: \$3,609,087

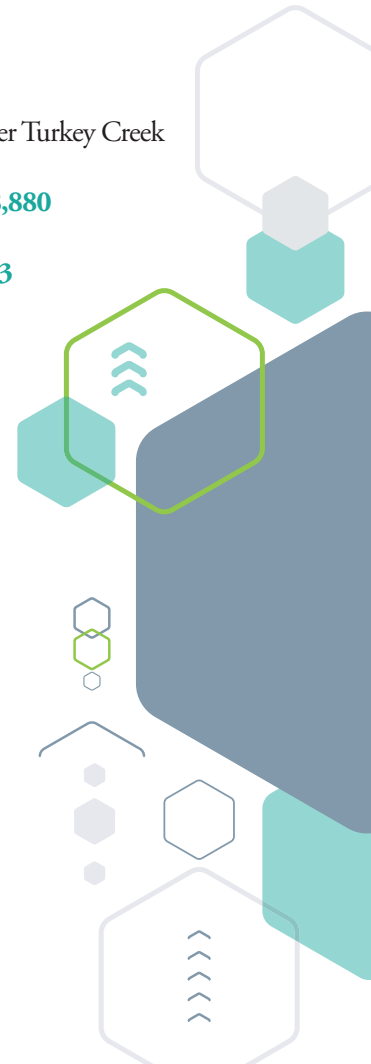
(Clarendon: \$902,390, Lee: \$593,510, Kershaw: \$593,510, Sumter: \$1,079,676)

- **CDBG-CV Services FAR-UV** for local school buses (all regions): **\$858,438**
- **The Shannontown Blight Elimination Project for Sumter County**, in the Greater Turkey Creek neighborhood: **\$283,983**
- **The Dickson/Durant Blight Elimination Project** for the City of Manning: **\$308,880**
- **PROVALUS** for Economic Development for Clarendon County: **\$440,000**
- **CDBG-CV Facilities Pinewood Community Playground** (all regions): **\$202,183**
- **CDBG-CV Services FAR-UV** for local schools (all regions): **\$1,515,602**

Projects underway: \$5,503,863

(Clarendon: \$0 Lee: \$1,687,098, Kershaw: \$4,310,592, Sumter: \$666,100)

- **Town-wide demolition** for the Town of Mayesville: **\$494,500**
- **WWTP upgrade** for the City of Bishopville: **\$1,000,000**
- **GE appliances – Project Sweeper** for Kershaw County: **\$3,550,000**
- **The Bishopville Harlem/Blue Pond Neighborhood Demolition**: **\$426,500**
- **Firetruck for Bethune Fire District** for Kershaw County: **\$499,994**
- **Town-wide demolition** for the Town of Pinewood: **\$171,600**
- **CDBG-CV facilities freezers and generators** for COA (all regions): **\$521,196**





Housing

YEAR IN REVIEW

We continue to support the region's HOME Consortium with annual activities designed to increase the supply of decent, safe, affordable housing. This is accomplished through homeowner-occupied rehabilitation, tenant-based rental assistance, and support to housing development not-for-profit groups.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Total HOME funds allocated: **\$829,807**

Homeowner-Occupied Rehabilitation

- *Total amount invested in rehabs:* \$0.00
- *Forecasted:* \$350,000

Clarendon (18.2%)	\$63,7000 Forecasted
Kershaw (19.9%)	\$69,650 Forecasted
Lee (11.4%)	\$39,900 Forecasted
Sumter (Co-30.7%; City 19.8%)	\$176,750 Forecasted

Number of rehabs: 0



Housing Development

NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS)

Agreements were executed with eligible Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) to purchase and/or rehabilitate rental properties in addition to the region's affordable rental housing stock. Two units were purchased and construction is currently in progress for the executed agreements. A subrecipient agreement was signed with Kershaw County Habitat for Humanity to construct one new unit for sale to a qualified buyer.

Total HOME Funds Allocated: **\$124,471.05**

\$116,395.05 was awarded to Santee-Lynches Affordable Housing from FY 2018 to Lee County. The funds are expected to be used between FY 2020-22, for two affordable single-family houses.

SANTEE-LYNCHES

Tenant Empowerment PROGRAM (STEP)

The program supports households in need of temporary rental assistance. The program requires that participants work to develop the skills necessary to obtain and maintain full-time employment during the year in which they receive rental assistance. A total of three households (six individuals) were assisted during the year.

Total STEP Funds Allocated: **\$99,897.72 + Admin \$82,980.70**



Economic Development

YEAR IN REVIEW



Total EDA Funding: **\$610,000**

GRANT AMOUNT: **\$210,000**

- Our region was awarded a three-year EDA partnership planning grant to help facilitate ongoing economic development planning efforts for the four-county region.
- We are working to develop project proposals that will successfully leverage federal economic development grant funds to improve the infrastructure, workforce, and other critical factors that industries look for when making their site selections.

GRANT AMOUNT: **\$400,000**

- This year represented the first year of the five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) which contains goals, strategies, and priority projects designed to improve the region's economy.
- Santee-Lynches is working with telecom providers in the region to obtain data and create partnerships to assist in a holistic study of broadband to find which areas were underserved or unserved by FCC standards. Santee-Lynches engaged with providers to identify these shortfalls and generate solutions, including technical assistance agreements to aid in the development and submission of grant funding for these providers.

RESILIENCY PLANNING

- Planning Department staff is serving on the Advisory Committee to the South Carolina Office of Resilience's Strategic Statewide Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan. The plan will provide strategies for local governments to implement resilience in their communities in order to mitigate potential flood risks.
- The Planning Department completed "Resilience Elements" per the 2020 amendment to the state Planning Enabling Act for the Comprehensive Plans for all six counties in the Pee Dee region.
- Mapping of households' and businesses' access to broadband internet service was completed in 2021. This year, under a grant and Memorandum of Understanding with the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff, the COG is partnering with local telecommunication providers to bring service to these areas.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING

- The annual updating and reporting for the newly-adopted Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy began, including migrating the CEDS into a new online platform.
- Completed a full revision and update of the City of Manning's zoning ordinance.
- In partnership with the City of Sumter and Sumter County, began Environmental Reviews for the demolition of 247 dilapidated structures with assistance from the offices of Congressman Clyburn and Senator Graham.
- In collaboration with the Pee Dee COG, completed a Comprehensive Plan for the City of Darlington, South Carolina.
- Began the East Camden/US-1 Corridor Study in collaboration with Kershaw County. The study will address flooding, vehicular and pedestrian safety, and other community needs in the area.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Santee-Lynches implements a wide variety of initiatives designed to further the organization's mission, which is to "improve the quality of life for the citizens of the four-county region." We work for, with, and through local governments to plan for the future, improve services, eliminate barriers to participation, and develop strong communities. A growing area of focus for this work is on strategic planning.

Projects completed in this area during the 2021-2022 year include:

- PDCOG additional planning technical assistance.
- Manning zoning ordinance.
- Chesterfield County subdivision ordinance.





SANTEE LYNCHES

Regional Council *of* Governments

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