

# RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

## THE POTENTIAL & THE PROSPECTS



### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business Development, Business Investment, Cooperative Development, Economic Development, RISE, RMA Programs



**PURPOSE of FUNDING:** The programs by USDA provide funding for rural projects through local utility organizations and offer grant assistance to create high wage jobs; provide loans and grants also to microenterprise development organizations; and help individual businesses start in rural areas; and help capital organizations to help meet the capital needs in rural communities.

### SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (SCACED)

#### Hoop House Grant Program

#### Community Impact Fund

- **PURPOSE:** SCACED partners with South Carolina Office of Rural Health to establish and expand hoop houses in low income, rural communities.
- **FUNDING:** The program grants up to \$10,000 for hoop house establishment.
- **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** June 24, 2022.



- **PURPOSE:** Helps fund affordable housing, commercial and residential property, and other projects in rural communities.
- **FUNDING:** The grant consists of (10) \$7,500 grants. The grant applicants must: 1) be a SCACED member, 2) be an established 501(c)3 organization, 3) provide adequate financial statements.
- **EXAMPLES of FUNDING PROJECTS:** Affordable housing development, commercial retail development and job training.
- **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** July 15, 2022

#### Community Economic Development (CED) Grant Program

- **PURPOSE:** This grant supports certified community development corporation and community development financial institution (CDFI) sponsored projects in the state of South Carolina, designed to enhance the economic opportunities of underserved and rural communities in SC.
- **EXAMPLES:** These economic opportunities include small business development, workforce training, commercial retail, historic preservation, financial empowerment, neighborhood revitalization, or affordable housing.
- **GRANTEES:** Habitat for Humanity, Southeastern Housing and Community Development, and others.

#### Community Garden Grant Program

- **PURPOSE:** To establish and expand community gardens in low-income and rural communities.
- **FUNDING:** Provides (20) single grant awards in the amount of \$3,000.
- **EXAMPLES of FUNDING PROJECTS:** Affordable housing development, commercial retail development and job training.
- **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** January 28, 2022

# THE COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## The Economic Development Set-Aside Program

**PURPOSE:** Assists companies in locating or expanding in SC through road or site improvements and other costs related to business location or expansion.

## The Governor's Closing Fund

**PURPOSE:** The grants are awarded to assist with the costs of real property improvements or other road or infrastructure improvements.

## Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF)

**PURPOSE:** The Rural Infrastructure Fund can be used for job creation and product development.



## SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### The Community Development Block Grant Program

- PURPOSE:** Provides grants to eligible governments (towns, cities, and counties) that do not directly receive funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- FUNDING:** Spring (April 18), Fall (September 16)

### Main Street South Carolina

**PURPOSE:** A technical assistance program that empowers communities with the resources to revitalize their downtowns and historic districts.

### ARC Area Development & Local Access Road Program

**PURPOSE:** To innovate, invest, and build community capacity in Appalachia to help region achieve socioeconomic parity & fund local access to roads that maximize investment in Appalachian highway system.

## SOUTH CAROLINA RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

### The Community Development Block Grant Program

**PURPOSE:** The Community Development Block Grant Program is designed to support water and sewer systems in planning for long-term viability through regional solutions.

## U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

### Funding Programs

**PURPOSE:** The U.S. Economic Development Administration's investment policy is designed to establish a foundation for sustainable job growth and the building of durable regional economies.

## SUCCESSFUL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS & GRANT PROPOSALS ?

### 1 EASTOVER COMMUNITY GARDEN, EASTOVER, SC

The USDA granted \$70,000 for the Eastover Community Garden. Historically, Eastover is a food desert with limited nutritious food. This grant allowed a garden expansion by 7,200 sq. ft., which will include perennials, annuals, native plants, collard greens, peppers, potatoes, and organic food. - February 2022

### 2 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, MONCK'S CORNER, SC

Berkeley County received \$200,000 in Community Development Block Grants for a new project in Monck's Corner. This project is building a complex that can house 5-7 families in Monck's Corner, will give them mortgages between \$500 and \$600, and alleviate some of the pressure experienced by Lowcountry rural areas in the 2022 housing crisis. - May 24, 2022

## THE OPPORTUNITY CENTER, NORTH CHARLESTON, SC

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The Opportunity Center houses four non-profits dedicated to creating economic development opportunities for the rural and low-income Lowcountry. U.S. Department of Commerce's EDA has granted \$711,000 for the Center's Minority Business Initiative, helping minority-owned businesses rebound from the pandemic and create new jobs. *The Opportunity Center opened on March 31, 2022.* Homes of Hope, a non-profit in Greenville that works to produce affordable housing, transformed a warehouse into the Opportunity Center's current facility.

## REFERENCES

USDA: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services>

SCACED: <https://www.scaced.org/>

Coordinating Council for Economic Development: <https://www.sccommerce.com/incentives/state-discretionary-incentives>

SC Commerce: <https://www.sccommerce.com/why-sc/community-development>

Rural Infrastructure Authority: <https://ria.sc.gov/>

Economic Development Administration: <https://www.eda.gov/>

