



Appalachian Council of Governments

An investment in
ACOG is an
investment in
your county, city
or town.

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Annual Report January-December 2013



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Serving six counties and forty-two municipalities since 1965

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A special thanks to ACOG staff and service providers who contributed!

Letter from Chairman Ernest Riley



ACOG Board Chairman
Ernest M. Riley

"Our purpose is to enhance the lives of people living in the six-county region."



We are pleased to provide this Annual Report for the Appalachian Council of Governments, covering activities and accomplishments in 2013.

When people ask "what is the Appalachian Council of Governments?", it is sometimes challenging to come up with a concise response. To put it in one sentence, our purpose is to enhance the lives of people living in the six-county South Carolina Appalachian Region. While our programs are broad and widely varied, they all come back to serving the people of the Upstate.

Since our establishment in 1965, we have maintained a commitment to providing quality services to local government. In this current time, as local entities see increasing responsibilities in the face of shrinking dollars, this mission is more critical than ever. Whether it is general administration, assistance with grants, planning, or data services, we want to be a key resource for getting the job done.

Our involvement with human services has grown tremendously in recent years. Programs for the elderly, such as home-delivered meals, congregate dining, transportation, and counseling, benefit seniors across our region every day. Likewise, work skills development is another area with increased activities in recent years, as we strive to ensure that people in our region are able to keep up with the ever changing skill sets that are required by business and industry.

Economic development is another focus area for us. Through the administration of our *InfoMentum* economic development support system, assistance with grant funding for infrastructure, workforce development programs, and transportation planning, our purpose is to provide the resources that are needed for the region to compete in a global economy.

Thank you for your support of the Appalachian Council of Governments. I hope that you will find this Annual Report to be informative.

Respectfully,

Ernest M. Riley, Chair
Board of Directors

About ACOG

In the years since 1971, the Council has evolved into a multi-faceted service organization for area local governments.

The Appalachian Council of Governments is a voluntary organization of local governments in Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg Counties of Upstate South Carolina.

The organization began in 1965 as the Appalachian Advisory Commission, a 12-member board created to advise the Governor on the use of Appalachian Regional Commission funds.

Authorized by referendum, the Council of Governments system emerged in 1971. ACOG has become a valuable resource for area local governments in the areas of public administration, planning, information systems and technology, grants, workforce development and services to the elderly population. Encouraged and facilitated through the Council of Governments, this marriage of intergovernmental and private sector cooperation continues as a critical element in the region's economy and quality of life.

In 2013, approximately 76 percent of ACOG revenue came from federal funding. We encourage all the entities in our region to utilize this funding. Because of these federal dollars, we provide many services at no charge.

Policy, Management & Operations

A 44-member Board of Directors sets policy for the Council of Governments. Two-thirds of the members are local elected officials, including state legislators, county council members, and mayors or city council members. County councils appoint the remaining citizen and minority members.

The Executive Director is responsible for the overall management of the Council of Governments. The director runs the day-to-day operations, and delegates specific responsibilities to department directors and staff.



Members of the ACOG Board of Directors and director, Steve Pelissier, listen during a board meeting.



Regionally, the Information, Referral and Assistance Specialist provided information and assistance to 6,445 seniors and caregivers.

ACOG's Area Agency on Aging

The S. C. Appalachian Council of Governments' Area Agency on Aging is designated by the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging as the coordinating and planning body for services for older persons in Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg Counties. The principal goal of the Area Agency is to develop and promote a comprehensive, coordinated community-based service delivery system with simple access that will improve the quality of life for all older adults in the region and enable them to lead independent lives with dignity in their own homes for as long as possible. Aging programs are funded by federal (79 %) and state (21 %) dollars. Programs include:

- Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman Program: complaint resolution for residents of long-term care facilities
- Family Caregiver Support Program
- I-CARE and Senior Medicare Fraud Prevention programs
- Senior Farmer's Market Program

The Aging Services Department welcomed a new director - Karen Carter - in May 2013.

A Glimpse Back at 2013

Ombudsman Program

The Ombudsman Program received 1,229 cases on behalf of long term care residents, resulting 990 investigations of abuse, neglect, exploitation and other issues.

Family Caregiver Support Program

Provided:

689 caregivers with in-home respite, supplies, information, referral and assistance.

58 grandparents raising grandchildren or related kin with in-home respite, educational tutoring, clothes, shoes, & school supplies.

Medicare Guidance

- Certified Insurance Counselors provided on-site awareness, education and enrollment assistance to 6,000 Medicare beneficiaries and conducted outreach throughout the region.
- More than 524 applications were completed for the Medicare Savings Program, and over 500 applications were completed for extra help with the Medicare Drug Program.



Appalachian Development Corporation

The ADC is a non-profit economic development lending corporation offering multiple financing options that can be structured to meet your needs using our "gap-financing" loans. The ADC works in conjunction with local lending institutions to provide a structure that works by including long-term, fixed-rate, funding sources that lower the overall debt service requirements and allows for the maximum leverage of the applicant's resources. The funding comes primarily from public funds, thus the ADC's thrust is to create jobs for our area.

Among the ADC programs is the Appalachian Loan Fund (ALF). The ALF is a locally controlled source of low-cost, long-term; fixed-rate financing for businesses whose projects will result in the creation of permanent full time jobs and leverage private sector investment.

The ALF is a loan pool capitalized by grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission, the State of South Carolina, and from borrowings from the USDA.

More than \$2.1 million in ARC and IRP loans were closed in 2013,



thereby leveraging more than \$3.2 million in additional private capital.



Finance Department

The Finance Department is responsible for the financial functions and activities of the Council and for the administration of the Council's fiscal policy.

- Budget preparation & administration
- Cost allocation
- Accounts payable
- Payroll and Fringe Benefits
- Grants administration
- Monitoring service Providers
- Contract administration
- Tax reports
- General accounting records
- Fixed assets records
- Custody of funds
- Distribution of pass-through funds
- Debt administration
- Investments
- Risk Management
- Internal & External Financial reports

The mission of the Government Services Department is very simple: to help the governmental entities in this region in any way possible.

Government Services

The Government Services Department works very closely with the towns, cities and counties in the six-county region of the Upstate, providing a variety of technical and professional support. The division serves as a one-stop resource for problem resolution and information by providing hands-on expertise, cost-effective consulting services and general information.

The vast majority of funding for the Government Services Department comes from federal monies. An ARC grant provides staff with the necessary resources to give free services to our local governments. Please contact a staff member for additional information.

Examples of 2013 Services

- Provided various types of technical assistance to local governments in the six-county region. Technical support is available in the areas of paralegal research, finance and taxation, utility rate studies, information technology, community planning, sanitation, personnel, economic development, municipal court, organizational behavior, transportation, planning and other local government issues.
- Facilitated a live quarterly broadcast from the South Carolina Municipal Association to Upstate municipal officials on budgeting and financial issues for elected officials; The broadcast is hosted at ACOG facilities.
- Continued to arrange and facilitate seven-week basic management/supervisory training programs for lower -level and first-time supervisors
- Facilitated retreats for Williamston and Easley, as well as a goal-setting and budget workshop for Greenville County
- Provided training in areas such as customer service and sexual harassment



Government Services facilitated a live quarterly broadcast from the South Carolina Municipal Association on budgeting and financial issues for elected officials.

Grant applications submitted by ACOG in 2013 garnered almost \$5.0 million from EDA, CDBG, ARC, & USDA-RD programs.

Grant Services

The primary function of the Grant Services Department is to assist local governments in identifying, securing, and administering funds for a wide range of community and economic development activities, including water and sewer facilities, road improvements, housing rehabilitation, community centers, and senior centers, downtown revitalization and streetscaping.

Services include application preparation and packaging, and all aspects of grants administration.

The Grant Services Department is funded by federal and local dollars. Most of the department's revenue is associated with grants



ACOG Grant Services routinely assists communities with grants related to downtown revitalization and streetscaping.

Grant Services can assist with application preparation and grants administration for the following programs:



Appalachian Regional Commission

- Infrastructure improvement grants for economic development
- Education grants for technical education



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

- Infrastructure improvement grants for economic development
- Residential water and sewer upgrades
- Housing rehabilitation
- Community facilities improvements / construction



Economic Development Administration

- Infrastructure improvement grants for economic development



USDA - Rural Development

- Infrastructure improvement grants for economic development
- Community facilities improvements
- Residential water and sewer upgrades

State Grant Programs including:

- Parks, Recreation, and Tourism (PRT) grants
- DHEC - recycling grants
- Archives and History - planning and preservation grants
- Coordinating Council for Economic Development - access road construction
- Budget and Control Board
- Permanent Improvement Program through the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging



Workforce Investment Board

WorkLink Workforce Investment Corporation develops the link between employers and employees in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties. The volunteer board of directors ensures that the local workforce development system is market-driven and responsible in meeting the employment and training needs of businesses and job seekers. The board implements the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 in partnership with local service providers and through a comprehensive workforce development system that provides access points for employment and training services.

WorkLink funds programs for adults, dislocated workers, and youth, and supports employers through on-the-job and incumbent worker training programs. In 2013, WorkLink also offered annual events such as the WorkLink Job Fair and the Business and Industry Showcase to connect companies and employees and to ensure that job seekers have the skills they need to find employment.

Quick Facts 2013

336,857 customers accessed job search services

131,566 customer visits to SCWorks Centers in Anderson, Liberty, and Seneca

1,345 job seekers found employment

538 workshops and other group activities were held

4,785 eighth- and ninth-graders attended the Business and Industry showcase through transportation funding provided by the WorkLink Youth Council



The 2013 Business & Industry Showcase helped students better answer the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?"



A multitude of job seekers attended the 2013 WorkLink Job Fair.

Our goal is to have a fully employed, skilled workforce, and to that end, we help job seekers find the tools to build their careers, and we work with businesses to hire quality employees.

Planning & Economic Development

Planning and Information Services Merge in 2013 to become the Department of Planning and Economic Development!

The ACOG Planning and Information Services Department's have historically played important roles in regional economic development. While fulfilling separate but related tasks, each division has worked to create a regional environment that is conducive to economic growth and community development. While the role of the Planning Division has always been broad, - ranging from transportation and land use planning to regional sewer coordination - Planning has also supported regional economic development efforts through the region's annual *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy* (CEDS), which identifies regional priorities for economic development, thus paving the way for federal and state grant projects. Information Services has played an equally important role in supporting economic development through its delivery of the national award-winning *InfoMentum* suite of GIS-based economic development services. Personnel from each division have worked hand-in-hand for many years with local, state, and federal economic developers on efforts to attract projects to the SC Appalachian Region.

In late 2013, these two closely aligned divisions were merged in order to create new efficiencies. Directing the broad range of services in this new *Department of Planning and Economic Development (PLED)* is the COG's long-time Planning Director, Chip Bentley. Reporting directly to Mr. Bentley is David Shellhorse, who will continue to execute economic development planning initiatives while he also takes on a new role of managing the *InfoMentum* program and staff. With the merger now in place, the Department of Planning and Economic Development will continue to work to improve the quality of life and economic conditions of the region.

2013 REGIONAL PLANNING INITIATIVES

Planning Education

Provided state required planning education to 171 staff, planning commission, and board of appeals members in communities throughout the region. We hosted 35 students in orientation classes and 136 students in continuing education classes during the course of the year at COG offices and in communities in the region.

Regional Transit Coordination Plan

Assisted local transit providers in the rural portions of the region in the transition to new federal requirements outlined in MAP 21 as part of continuing efforts to implement the Regional Transit Coordination Plan. Provided guidance to agencies as they worked to meet the Federal Transit Administration's requirements to receive transit funding. Also assisted with developing applications for projects and equipment for funding totaling over \$202,834 for the region.

Water Quality Management

Coordinated the Federal Clean Water Act Section 208 Water Quality Management Plan activities. COG staff reviewed **136** Section 208 compliance applications in 2013.

Planning & Economic Development

2013 REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Regional CEDS 2013 Progress Report

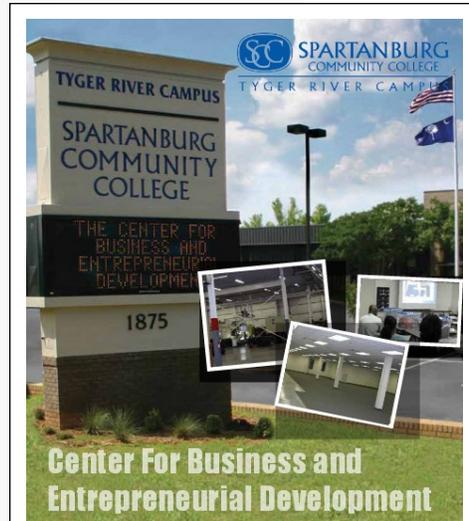
After completely re-writing the five-year regional *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy* (CEDS) in 2012, a progress report of the CEDS was prepared for 2013. Maintaining the CEDS is an important function of ACOG by identifying the region's economic development priorities and assisting communities to be both eligible and competitive for federal grant funding. Guided by a steering committee with representation from our six counties plus the Upstate Alliance, the CEDS focuses on seven "areas of emphasis", which include (1) Clusters, Target Industries and Innovation Capacities, (2) Infrastructure, (3) Available Sites and Buildings, (4) Workforce Development, (5) Entrepreneurship, (6) Access to Capital, and (7) Local Asset-Based Economic Development. Major developments in the region are identified in this report, including construction of the transformative Inland Port in Greer and regional industry announcements totaling nearly \$646 million in capital investment and 2,067 new jobs.

Regional Entrepreneur Friendly Toolkit

PLED secured grant funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission to construct an on-line tool for increasing entrepreneurship and small business development in the region. Presently under development, the on-line "Entrepreneur Friendly Toolkit" will take communities through eight interactive planning steps that will help them organize around the goal of becoming more supportive of entrepreneurs. Completion of the steps will result in the ability to print a customized "Entrepreneur Friendly Action Plan" that contains specific local information. Special thanks to the City of Pickens and Oconee County for serving as the initial pilot communities during the development process.

Taking *InfoMentum* to the Next Level

PLED also secured grant funding from both the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the Duke Energy Foundation to complete two essential and exciting upgrades for the *InfoMentum* program: (1) the development of a Mobile App, and (2) the synchronization of *InfoMentum* with the South Carolina Department of Commerce *LocateSC* industrial marketing tool. Over the last 17 years, the *InfoMentum* suite of GIS-based economic development services has won several state and national awards for its ability to help economic developers win projects for the region. The grant dollars secured in 2013 will not only provide essential mobile technology capability, but also ensure that this region maintains the most cutting edge site selection tool in South Carolina.



In addition to spearheading development of the Regional Entrepreneur-Friendly Toolkit, PLED also worked with the ACOG Grants Department to help secure almost \$1.3 million in federal grant funding for expansion of Spartanburg Community College's Center for Business & Entrepreneurial Development.

ANDERSON COUNTY



A Glimpse at 2013

- Approved \$254,000 in loans to support local, small, entrepreneurial, and expanding Anderson County businesses, thereby leveraging another \$381,750 in private capital investment and the retention of eleven existing jobs
- Contracted for \$379,758 in services for older adults in Anderson County, thereby providing home-delivered meals, congregate meals, transportation, adult day care, health promotion, home care and care management; the contractor provided 134,877 units of services to 712 older adults; another contractor provided 174 units of legal services to 24 older adults
- Maintained www.scupstateadrc.org, which provides valuable information and tools for aging and disabled citizens, their caregivers, and service providers in Anderson County
- Conducted training for Anderson County staff in the areas of sexual harassment and customer service; also provided varied technical assistance to Anderson County municipalities and special purpose districts in the areas of training, finance, management and personnel
- Worked on the administrative activities for several grant-funded projects in Anderson County, including the QuickJobs Development Center Project and the Homeland Park Water Project; also continued to assist with the administration of the HOME Program
- Worked with Anderson County to submit an application to ARC for a spec building to aid in industry recruitment efforts; also worked with Tri-County Tech to develop an ARC application to upgrade and expand the welding program in order to meet current industry needs, which received funding in the amount of \$250,000
- Worked with staff at the Anderson Office of Economic Development on a routine basis to provide customized research and mapping services in response to RFIs from industry prospects; assistance with prospect RFIs included: data compilation on local German population, manufacturing wages and labor force; detailed wage data for specific occupations; clarification regarding median household income data; and technical GIS support by phone
- Maintained *InfoMentum Online*, the online, interactive mapping and research tool utilized by the Anderson County Economic Development Division to assist in industry retention and recruitment; innovations included upgrades to the underlying software, access to new data, improvements in functionality and addition of new map layers and redesigned fact sheets; the *InfoMentum Fact Finder* tool won a NADO Innovation Award in 2013
- Provided research and mapping assistance to the Upstate SC Alliance for economic development marketing activities in Anderson County; maintained the socio-economic data tables and the industrial properties information for the UA website, highlighting Anderson County and the region
- Administered the Anderson HOME Consortium including development of the Annual Action Plan, CAPER, and day to day administrative oversight as well as coordination of housing rehabilitation projects in support of the partnership between the City of Anderson, Anderson County, and City of Belton; the Consortium completed rehabilitation of 20 homes during 2013 with a total investment of \$468,186
- WorkLink collaborated with multiple entities in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties to offer the Business and Industry Showcase and WorkLink Job Fair to connect companies and employees and ensure that job seekers have the skills they need to find employment

***In 2013,
for every
dollar
invested
by
Anderson
County,
ACOG
programs
returned
\$36.***

ANDERSON COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

2013 Highlights

All Municipalities

- Facilitated and hosted a live quarterly broadcast from the South Carolina Municipal Association on "Budgeting and Financial Issues for Elected Officials"
- Redesigned the *InfoMentum* Fact Sheets for Anderson County municipalities and updated the statistical figures to reflect the most current forecasts from ESRI Business Analyst.

Anderson

- Assisted the city on submission of an ARC pre-application for the Highway 28 Bypass Water Project; also continued to assist with the administration of the HOME Program

Belton

- Assisted the city's interim administrator with local government questions
- Continued to assist with the administration of the HOME Program; also provided technical assistance on land use planning and zoning matters

Honea Path

- Updated the personnel handbook; also provided technical assistance on land use planning and zoning matters

Iva

- Administered grant activities for the Iva Sewer Upgrade Project, which is funded by CDBG

Pendleton

- Provided technical assistance on land use planning and zoning matters

West Pelzer

- Administered grant activities for the West Pelzer Water Upgrade Project, which is funded by CDBG

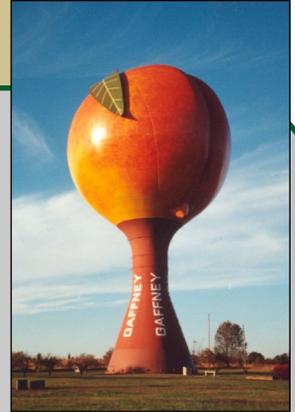
Williamston

- Facilitated a retreat and goal setting budget workshop; also assisted the town with the status of its current budget, related to projected revenues and expenditures; prepared a three-year analysis of revenues and expenditures
- Began a staffing level analysis for the Administrative Services Department; also developed and administered a garbage collection RFP
- Administered grant activities for the Williamston Sewer Upgrade Project, which is funded by CDBG; also provided technical assistance on land use planning and zoning matters

Services to Seniors	\$ 379,758
Federal Direct Grants	\$ 250,000
Workforce Development	\$ 1,396,130
Small Business and Entrepreneurial Loan Program	\$ 254,500
Private Capital Resulting from Loans	\$ 381,750
Transit Services	\$ 37,420
Total Funding into Anderson County 2013	\$ 2,699,558
County's Annual Contribution to ACOG	\$ 74,948

CHEROKEE COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2013



- Contracted for \$332,468 in services for older adults in Cherokee County, thereby providing home-delivered meals, congregate meals, respite, transportation, health promotion, home care, minor home repair and care management; the contractor provided 151,139 units of service to 523 older adults; another contractor provided eleven units of legal services to eight older adults
- Maintained www.scupstateadrc.org, which provides valuable information and tools for aging and disabled citizens, their caregivers, and service providers in Cherokee County
- Provided technical assistance to Cherokee County on a number of personnel issues; also wrote job descriptions for the positions of Building Official and Inspector
- Continued the administration of grant-funded projects, including the Bear Creek Water Project and the River Drive Water Project; also worked with Cherokee County and Spartanburg Community College on the submission of a CDBG application for \$500,000 to assist with the construction of a QuickJobs facility on the Cherokee County campus
- Worked with staff at the Cherokee County Development Board on a routine basis to provide technical GIS support by phone and customized research and mapping services in response to RFIs from industry prospects
- Maintained *InfoMentum Online*, the online, interactive mapping and research tool utilized by the Cherokee County Development Board to assist in industry retention and recruitment; innovations included upgrades to the underlying software, access to new data, improvements in functionality and addition of new map layers and redesigned fact sheets; the *InfoMentum Fact Finder* tool won a NADO Innovation Award in 2013
- Provided research and mapping assistance to the Upstate SC Alliance for economic development marketing activities in Cherokee County; Maintained the socio-economic data tables and the industrial properties information for the UA website, highlighting Cherokee County and the region
- Maintained and updated the Cherokee Public Access GIS Website; parcel and ownership data updates were processed and made available online when data was received from Cherokee County
- Worked with the County Development Board, the County Chamber of Commerce, and the citizen volunteer group, Cherokee 2020, to complete a "Business Retention and Expansion Study" on the local industrial climate; conducting 40 on-site manufacturer visits with the use of a comprehensive questionnaire, the study explores the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats faced by Cherokee County as a place for manufacturers to do business; feedback on topics ranging from infrastructure to regulations to workforce will help inform local economic development strategy for years to come
- Provided staffing to the Cherokee County Planning Commission and Compliance Board of Appeals to support the administration of the County's Unified Development Standards Ordinance

CHEROKEE COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

***In 2013,
for every
dollar
invested
by
Cherokee
County,
ACOG
programs
returned
\$23.***

2013 Highlights

All Municipalities

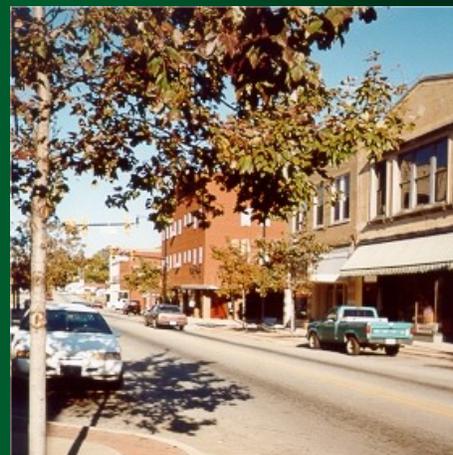
- Facilitated and hosted a live quarterly broadcast from the South Carolina Municipal Association on "Budgeting and Financial Issues for Elected Officials"
- Redesigned the *InfoMentum* Fact Sheets for Cherokee County municipalities and updated the statistical figures to reflect the most current forecasts from ESRI Business Analyst

Blacksburg

- Continued administration of grant-funded projects, including the Oak Grove/ Highway 5 Water Project and the Youngs Grove Water Line Project
- Assisted the town with the submission of an application to ARC to upgrade the Bruggs Street pump station to accommodate new growth and development; the project subsequently received a grant of \$220,800
- Assisted the town in the submission of an application for Rural Infrastructure Authority funds to construct a sewer line along Highway 5
- Continued to provide technical assistance related to community development, planning, and zoning issues

Gaffney

- Provided technical assistance to the City on a number of personnel issues.
- Continued the administration of the grant-funded Village Renaissance Phase 2 project
- Continued to provide technical assistance related to community development, planning, and zoning issues



ACOG provides technical assistance to Gaffney and other municipalities on matters related to community development, planning and zoning

Services to Seniors	\$ 332,468
Federal Direct Grants	\$ 220,800
Total Funding into Cherokee County 2013	\$ 553,268
County's Annual Contribution to ACOG	\$ 24,000

GREENVILLE COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2013



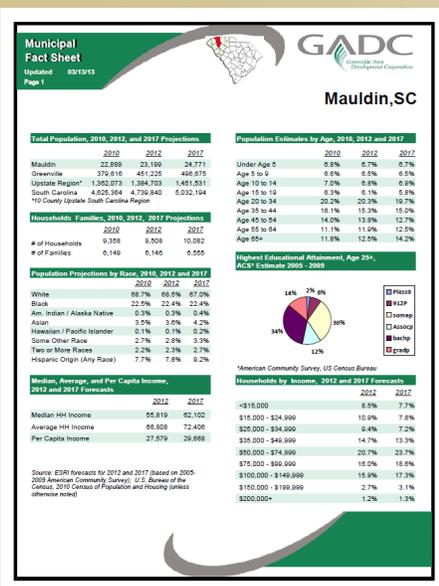
- Approved \$925,200 in loans to support local, small, entrepreneurial, and expanding businesses, thereby leveraging another \$1,387,800 in capital investment and the retention of 35 Greenville County jobs
- Contracted for \$403,164 in services for older adults in Greenville County, thereby providing home-delivered meals, congregate meals, transportation, home care, and health promotion; the contractor provided 214,112 units of service to 957 older adults; another contractor provided 1,013 units of legal services to 250 clients; the ACOG/AAA worked with two contractors to provide 89,431 units of transportation to 216 older adults
- Maintained www.scupstateadrc.org, which provides valuable information and tools for aging and disabled citizens, their caregivers, and service providers in Greenville County
- Facilitated a goal setting and budget workshop for Greenville County; also conducted background/reference checks on candidates for the Glassy Mountain Fire District search for a Fire Chief; revised employee handbooks for the Piedmont Park and Lake Cunningham Fire Districts and conducted board and sexual harassment training for the Boiling Springs Fire District
- Worked with staff at the Greenville Area Development Corporation on a routine basis to provide technical GIS support by phone and customized research and mapping services in response to RFIs from industry prospects; also coordinated the collection of consumer data for the quarterly *ACCRA Cost of Living Index*, in cooperation with the Greenville Area Development Corporation and the Greenville Chamber of Commerce
- Maintained *InfoMentum Online*, the online, interactive mapping and research tool utilized by the Greenville Area Development Corporation to assist in industry retention and recruitment; innovations included upgrades to the underlying software, access to new data, improvements in functionality and addition of new map layers and redesigned fact sheets; the *InfoMentum Fact Finder* tool won a NADO Innovation Award in 2013
- Provided research and mapping assistance to the Upstate SC Alliance for economic development marketing activities in Greenville County; maintained the socio-economic data tables and the industrial properties information for the UA website, highlighting Greenville County and the region
- Maintained a web mapping tool for Blue Ridge Rural Water to show service area, system components, and infrastructure; this site will be used in-house for strategic planning and inventory
- Served on the Greenville County Hazard Mitigation Task Force, which is responsible for developing and implementing a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan that meets FEMA requirements for local governments to become eligible for certain disaster mitigation and relief funding programs
- Worked with GPATS, SPATS, City of Greer, and Greenlink to explore corridor improvements along the US 29 corridor between Greenville, Greer, and Spartanburg; explored possibility for transit expansion to include Greer and the GSP International Airport; also identified an improved coordinated signalization project for US 29 corridor between SC 129 and I-185 that will be funded and implemented in FY14/15
- As part of the Appalachian Rural Component of the SCDOT State Transportation Improvement Program construction began on the US 25 @ SC 11 interchange improvements in Greenville County during the last year. The project was identified by the Appalachian Council of Governments and will add an additional access ramp to the interchange and improve the current intersection along SC 11. Completion is expected in spring of 2015 with a total project cost of \$6 million.

GREENVILLE COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

2013 Highlights

All Municipalities

- Facilitated and hosted a live quarterly broadcast from the South Carolina Municipal Association on "Budgeting and Financial Issues for Elected Officials"
- Redesigned the *InfoMentum* Fact Sheets for all Greenville County municipalities and updated the statistical figures to reflect the most current forecasts from ESRI Business Analyst



Greenville

- Worked with the City of Greenville and the Greenville Tourism Council on the submission of an ARC pre-application for the Reedy Square Project

Greer

- Worked with the City of Greer, SPATS, GPATS, and Greenlink to explore corridor improvements along the US 29 corridor between Greenville, Greer, and Spartanburg. Explored possibility for transit expansion to include Greer and the GSP International Airport. Also identified an improved coordinated signalization project for US 29 corridor between SC 129 and I-185 that will be funded and implements in FY14/15

For every dollar invested by Greenville County, ACOG programs generated \$31.

Travelers Rest

- Monitored on-site progress of an ARC grant funded project to construct a new Performing and Cultural Arts Center

ACOG Aging Services Program	\$403,164
Small Business & Entrepreneurial Loan Program	\$925,000
Private Capital Resulting from Loans	\$1,387,800
Transit Services	\$ 46,774
Rural Transportation Enhancement Program	\$ 1,980,850
Total Funding into Greenville County 2013	\$ 4,743,588
County's Annual Contribution to ACOG	\$151,759

OCONEE COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2013



- Approved \$360,000 in loans to support local, small, entrepreneurial, and expanding businesses, thereby leveraging another \$540,000 in private capital investment and the creation or retention of fourteen new jobs in Oconee County
- Contracted for \$283,976 in services for older adults in Oconee County, thereby providing home-delivered meals, congregate meals, adult day care, health promotion, care management and home care; the contractor provided 93,952 units of service to 494 older adults; another contractor provided 91 units of legal services to 13 older adults
- Maintained www.scupstateadrc.org, which provides valuable information and tools for aging and disabled citizens, their caregivers, and service providers in Oconee County
- Conducted three seven-week basic management/supervisory training programs for lower level and first time supervisors
- Assisted Oconee County on the submission of an ARC application for the Golden Corner Commerce Park Pump Station Project, which received funding in the amount of \$500,000; in addition, a grant application was submitted to EPA requesting \$485,000 in funding for this project
- Assisted Oconee County, in cooperation with the City of Walhalla and the School District of Oconee County, in the administration of the ARC-funded Highway 11 Sewer Line Project; also worked with the Pioneer Rural Water District on the submission of an ARC pre-application for their new water treatment plant project
- Worked with staff at the Oconee County Economic Development Commission (OCEDC) on a routine basis to provide technical GIS support by phone and customized research and mapping services in response to RFIs from industry prospects; also assisted the OCEDC with research on the South Carolina hospitality tax and accommodation tax
- Maintained *InfoMentum Online*, the online, interactive mapping and research tool utilized by the Oconee County Economic Development Commission to assist in industry retention and recruitment; innovations included upgrades to the underlying software, access to new data, improvements in functionality and addition of new map layers and redesigned fact sheets; the *InfoMentum Fact Finder* tool won a NADO Innovation Award in 2013
- Provided research and mapping assistance to the Upstate SC Alliance for economic development marketing activities in Oconee County; maintained the socio-economic data tables and the industrial properties information for the UA website, highlighting Oconee County and the region
- Provided extensive GIS Technical support and expertise for GIS and GIS related projects throughout Oconee County; provided GIS system support and routine maintenance/patches, ESRI software license management and SQL Server backups; Provided individual GIS user support as needed
- WorkLink collaborated with multiple entities in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties to offer the Business and Industry Showcase and WorkLink Job Fair to connect companies and employees and ensure that job seekers have the skills they need to find employment



OCONEE COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

2013 Highlights

All Municipalities

- Facilitated and hosted a live quarterly broadcast from the South Carolina Municipal Association on "Budgeting and Financial Issues for Elected Officials"
- Redesigned the *InfoMentum* Fact Sheets for all Oconee County municipalities and updated the statistical figures to reflect the most current forecasts from ESRI Business Analyst

Seneca

- Assisted Seneca in the administration of a \$500,000 CDBG grant for Phase 4 of the Utica Mill Village Sewer Upgrade Project

Walhalla

- Worked with the city in the development and submission of a CDBG application for Phase 2 of the Chicopee Mill Water Project, which was approved in the amount of \$387,747; also assisted with the submission of an ARC pre-application and application for the Downtown Improvements / Streetscape Project, which was awarded a grant in the amount of \$500,000
- Provided technical assistance on planning matters

Westminster

- Continued to assist Westminster in the administration of a \$500,000 ARC grant for the Northern Loop Waterline Project
- Conducted sexual harassment training
- Worked with the city on the update of their Comprehensive Plan and provided technical assistance on planning matters

West Union

- Continued to work with the town on a \$110,000 CDBG-grant-funded project to demolish the former West Union school building; also assisted with the submission of an ARC pre-application for their Community Center / Farmers Market Project

For every dollar invested by Oconee County in 2013, ACOG programs generated \$115.

Federal Direct Grants	\$ 1,387,747
Workforce Training	\$ 578,725
ACOG Small Business and Entrepreneurial Loan Program	\$ 360,000
Private Capital Resulting from Loans	\$ 540,000
Services to Seniors	\$ 283,976
Transit Services	\$ 50,000
Total Funding into Oconee County 2013	\$ 3,200,448
County's Annual Contribution to ACOG	\$ 27,951

PICKENS COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2013



- Approved \$47,500 in loans to support local, small, entrepreneurial, and expanding businesses, thereby leveraging another \$71,250 in private capital investment and the creation or retention of four Pickens County jobs
- Contracted for \$331,419 in services for older adults in Pickens County, thereby providing home-delivered meals, congregate meals, transportation, health promotion and home care; the contractor provided 140,516 units of service to 409 older adults; another contractor provided 73 units of legal services to 21 older adults
- Maintained www.scupstateadrc.org, which provides valuable information and tools for aging and disabled citizens, their caregivers, and service providers in Pickens County
- Conducted three seven-week basic management/supervisory training programs for lower level and first time supervisors
- Worked with Alliance Pickens staff on a routine basis to provide technical GIS support by phone and customized research and mapping services in response to RFIs from industry prospects
- Maintained *InfoMentum Online*, the online, interactive mapping and research tool utilized by Alliance Pickens to assist in industry retention and recruitment; innovations included upgrades to the underlying software, access to new data, improvements in functionality and addition of new map layers and redesigned fact sheets; the *InfoMentum Fact Finder* tool won a NADO Innovation Award in 2013
- Provided research and mapping assistance to the Upstate SC Alliance for economic development marketing activities in Pickens County; maintained the socio-economic data tables and the industrial properties information for the UA website, highlighting Pickens County and the region
- WorkLink collaborated with multiple entities in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties to offer the Business and Industry Showcase and WorkLink Job Fair to connect companies and employees and ensure that job seekers have the skills they need to find employment

Services to Seniors	\$ 331,419
Federal Direct Grants	\$ 579,000
Workforce Training	\$ 929,601
Small Business and Entrepreneurial Loan Program	\$ 47,500
Private Capital Resulting from Loans	\$ 71,250
Transit Services	\$ 27,293
Rural Transportation Enhancement Program	\$ 2,294,000
Total Funding into Pickens County 2013	\$ 4,280,063
County's Annual Contribution to ACOG	\$ 45,593

PICKENS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

2013 Highlights

All Municipalities

- Facilitated and hosted a live quarterly broadcast from the South Carolina Municipal Association on "Budgeting and Financial Issues for Elected Officials"
- Redesigned the *InfoMentum* Fact Sheets for all Pickens County municipalities and updated the statistical figures to reflect the most current forecasts from ESRI Business Analyst

Central

- Provided technical assistance in general municipal administration, in the areas of training, finance, management and personnel and land use planning matters
- Continued the administration of the CDBG grant to purchase a new fire truck; also assisted the town in the development of a CDBG application for the James Circle Water Project, which was approved for \$79,000

Clemson

- Implementation of the Appalachian Rural Component of the SCDOT State Transportation Improvement Program continued with improvements to the SC 133 College Avenue project in Clemson. Following a delay in 2012, the project was resumed in 2013, and completion is anticipated in the spring of 2016. The project will add an additional left turn lane for the southbound lane and includes removal of the interior railroad bridge support located in the College Avenue median. The total project cost for road improvements and bridge replacement is \$17.5 million that is funded through ARRA funds, ACOG Rural Guideshares, Norfolk Southern and Amtrack.

Easley

- Facilitated a council planning retreat for the city. Provided a forum for council to review goals and establish budget objectives for the new fiscal year; also conducted a municipal court study

Liberty

- Continued the administration of the CDBG grant for the Woodside Sewer Project; also worked with the city on the submission of a CDBG application to undertake a streetscape project on Commerce Street, which was awarded a grant for \$500,000
- Provided technical assistance on land use planning matters

Pickens

- Continued administration of grant-funded projects, including Phase 2 of a Village Renaissance Project in Pickens and the Town Creek Park Project; also worked with the city on a CDBG application for streetscape improvements on Catherine and Court Streets
- Provided technical assistance in general municipal administration, in the areas of training, finance, management and personnel
- Provided staffing to the city's Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Board of Architectural Review along with staff support in the administration of the City's Zoning Ordinance; assisted with updates to the sign ordinance and design regulations; also initiated a planning project that will help the city organize around the goal of becoming more supportive of entrepreneurs

Six Mile

- Provided technical assistance to the town in general municipal administration, in the areas of training, finance, management and personnel, and land use planning

For every dollar that Pickens County invested in ACOG during 2013, \$94 were returned to the County.

SPARTANBURG COUNTY



A Glimpse at 2013

- Approved \$200,000 in loans to support local, small, entrepreneurial, and expanding businesses, thereby leveraging another \$300,000 in private capital investment and the creation or retention of two Spartanburg County jobs
- Contracted for \$457,343 in services for older adults in Spartanburg County, thereby providing home-delivered meals, congregate meals, home care, minor home repair, health promotion, and transportation; the contractor provided 362,165 units of service to 643 older adults; another contractor provided 192 units of legal services to 56 older adults; also maintained www.scupstateadrc.org, which provides valuable information and tools for aging and disabled citizens, their caregivers, and service providers in Spartanburg County
- Conducted a seven-week basic management/supervisory training program for lower-level and first-time supervisors; also provided varied technical assistance in the areas of training, computers, management and/or personnel, including sexual harassment training for the Boiling Springs and Inman/Campobello Fire Districts
- Assisted Spartanburg Community College on the submission of ARC and EDA applications for the renovation of the Center for Business and Entrepreneurial Development at the Tyger River Campus; an ARC grant was approved for \$500,000 and an EDA grant was also approved for \$782,445
- Worked with staff of the Spartanburg Economic Futures Group on a routine basis to provide technical GIS support by phone and customized research and mapping services in response to RFIs from industry prospects; also provided research and mapping assistance to the Upstate SC Alliance for economic development marketing activities in Spartanburg County; maintained the socio-economic data tables and the industrial properties information for the UA website, highlighting Spartanburg County and the region
- Maintained *InfoMentum Online*, the online, interactive mapping and research tool utilized by the Spartanburg Economic Futures Group to assist in industry retention and recruitment; innovations included upgrades to the underlying software, access to new data, improvements in functionality and addition of new map layers and redesigned fact sheets; the *InfoMentum Fact Finder* tool won a NADO Innovation Award in 2013
- Facilitated a resolution to sewer expansion conflict in the Tyger River Basin to serve the Lyman/Wellford/Duncan area so that industrial development and expansions will be supported moving forward; additional studies were also initiated to identify sewer solutions and develop a longterm plan for the future of the Tyger Basin.
- Worked with SPATS, GPATS, City of Greer, and Greenlink to explore corridor improvements along the US 29 corridor between Greenville, Greer, and Spartanburg. Explored possibility for transit expansion to include Greer and the GSP International Airport

Services to Seniors	\$ 457,343
Small Business and Entrepreneurial Loan Program	\$ 200,000
Private Capital Resulting from Loans	\$ 300,000
Federal Direct Grants	\$ 2,482,445
Transit Services	\$ 91,702
Total Funding into Spartanburg County 2013	\$ 3,531,490
Annual Contribution to ACOG	\$ 111,436

SPARTANBURG COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

2013 Highlights

All Municipalities

- Facilitated and hosted a live quarterly broadcast from the South Carolina Municipal Association on "Budgeting and Financial Issues for Elected Officials"; also provided varied technical assistance in the areas of training, computers, management and/or personnel
- Redesigned the *InfoMentum* Fact Sheets for all Spartanburg County municipalities and updated the statistical figures to reflect the most current forecasts from ESRI Business Analyst.

Chesnee

- Administered a \$500,000 CDBG project to undertake Phase 3 of the City's streetscape efforts

Cowpens

- Assisted in the submission of a PIP grant application, which was approved for \$350,000; the funds will be used to construct a new senior center/community center

Duncan

- Assisted with the submission of a CDBG grant application to fund a proposed streetscape project; also participated in the Duncan Downtown Redevelopment charrette process

Inman & Landrum

- Provided technical assistance with planning matters

Lyman

- Assisted with the development and submission of a CDBG application for the Lyman Mill Village Sewer Project, which was approved in the amount of \$500,000; also assisted with the submission of an ARC pre-application for the Lyman Community Center Renovation Project

Pacolet

- Assisted with an update to the zoning ordinance as part of an effort to annex a large property through a development agreement and to prepare for future annexations; also provided other technical assistance
- Continued to assist with the ARC-funded Pacolet River Gateway Project; also assisted with the submission of a PIP grant application through the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging to renovate the former Milliken facility's cloth room into a senior center / community center (a \$350,000 grant was awarded); worked on the submission of an ARC pre-application for the Amphitheatre Renovation Project

Reidville

- Began the process of updating the personnel policy for the Reidville Fire District; also conducted board training for commissioners

Spartanburg

- Assisted with amendments to the city's Annual Action Plan as part of its CDBG and HOME Program activities

Woodruff

- Continued to assist with the administration of a CDBG grant for the Cavins Road Pump Station Project; also assisted with the development of a CDBG application for the McEdco Pump Station Project
- Completed a re-write of job descriptions, along with a "comp and class" study; also provided technical assistance with planning matters

For every dollar that Spartanburg County invested in ACOG during 2013, \$32 were returned to the County.

Meet the Board 2014

The Board and Staff of the Appalachian Council of Governments looks forward to a productive 2014. These are challenging times for many local governments and other public agencies.

Please contact us if we can help in any way.

Anderson County

Sen. William "Billy" O'Dell
Mack Durham
Dennis Claramunt

Eddie Moore
Mayor Terence Roberts
Rick Laughridge

Francis Crowder
Ted Mattison

Cherokee County

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