

Information Services



ACOG Information Services provides products and services to facilitate the competitive growth and development of the Upstate by providing timely, easily accessible information about the region. The department serves Upstate residents, local governments, and the business community as well as providing support for information and technical resources within the ACOG.



InfoMentum, a customized web-based tool, serves as a core research resource in each economic development office of the six-county region and for the Upstate SC Alliance. Economic developers use **InfoMentum** to market industrial properties, report socio-economic data, and access maps for traffic counts, census tracts, and aerial photos. Through **InfoMentum's** extensive demographic and economic database, public, business, and private users get instant access to data describing population, labor market, income, quality of life, and more.

Information Services produces economic profiles, apartment community surveys, and customized demographic reports. Staff answers statistical requests, conducts ESRI training, and provides GIS application support. Within the ACOG, IS staff provides network and PC support, as well as design and maintenance of ACOG web sites. The department is funded primarily by the public / private investors in **InfoMentum** and by contracts with local entities for specific projects.

InfoMentum

supported economic development efforts in 2011 that resulted in the announcement of almost \$740 million in capital investments and 5,000 new jobs.

- Maintained and upgraded **InfoMentum Online**; Innovations in 2011 included:
 - Modification of the format and delivery method of online industrial property flyers
 - Upgrades to the underlying software (Flex API, Business Analyst API, ArcGIS10), access to new data (2011 and 2016 projections), and improvements in functionality
 - Implementation of an online version of the Fact Finder database
- Generated an EDA Technical Assistance grant to implement **InfoMentum Online** throughout the region; each county received benefits from this grant in the amount of \$6250, for a regional total of \$37,500
- Provided planning assistance, custom mapping, and detailed research to the Upstate Alliance for county economic development marketing activities; also maintained socio-economic and property information on the UA web site and continued data and application updates for the Property Navigator application
- Coordinated with ACOG Aging Services staff to maintain and improve www.scupstateadrc.org, which provides valuable information and tools for aging and disabled citizens, their caregivers, and services providers
- Responded to over 600 requests for statistical information and mapping services for ACOG counties and municipalities; One example included the compilation of detailed socio-economic data for the region to support the Minority Economic Development Institute, which serves as a statewide resource to increase the economic assets of minority individuals and minority-owned businesses
- Maintained **PLAN-A-BIZ**, the on-line mapping and demographic analysis tools to support small business development (www.planabiz.org)
- Provided technical assistance to Ten At The Top (TATT), the regional consortium working to create a common vision for future development and quality of life in the Upstate; Activities included assistance with development of the regional vision statement and collateral material, and meeting facilitation, including the Upstate Elected Officials Meeting on 3/31/11.