



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

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points of
interest:**

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Appalachian Council of Governments

Annual Report January-December 2014



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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 Chairperson Jane Hall



ACOG Board Chair
Jane Hall

"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 2014.

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 and challenges 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 our *InfoMentum* economic development support system, Entrepreneurial Friendly Community initiative, 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,

Jane Hall, Chair
Board of Directors

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

About ACOG

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 2014, approximately 75 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
over 9,000
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 (56%) and state (44%) dollars. Programs include:

- Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman Program: complaint resolution for residents of long-term care facilities
- Family Caregiver Support Program
- I-CARE Benefits Counseling
- Senior Farmer's Market Program
- Information / Referral and Assistance

A Glimpse Back at 2014

Ombudsman Program

The Ombudsman Program received 1,342 cases on behalf of long term care residents, resulting in 595 investigations of abuse, neglect, exploitation and other issues.

Family Caregiver Support Program

Provided:

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

52 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 7,000 Medicare beneficiaries and conducted outreach throughout the region.
- More than 695 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 client needs through "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 \$3.1 million in ARC and IRP loans were closed in 2014,



thereby leveraging more than \$4.6 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 Appalachian Regional Commission (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 2014 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, municipal court, organizational behavior, 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 and/or goal-setting and budget workshops for Williamston, Pendleton, Gaffney, Easley, Woodruff, Landrum, and Inman.
- Provided training in areas such as customer service and sexual harassment
- Served as a "roving administrator" for two Spartanburg County municipalities



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 2014 garnered more than \$5.5 million from EDA, CDBG, ARC, & State grant 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.



ACOG Grant Services routinely assists communities with grants related to infrastructure repair and improvement.

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 administration fees.

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



Appalachian Regional Commission

- Infrastructure improvement grants for economic development and tourism
- Grants for education and workforce training
- Grants for healthcare improvement



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

- Infrastructure improvement grants for economic development
- Residential water and sewer upgrades
- 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
- Archives and History - planning and preservation grants
- Coordinating Council for Economic Development - access road construction
- Permanent Improvement Program through the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging
- Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA)



Workforce Investment Board

The WorkLink Workforce Investment Board 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 2014, WorkLink also partnered with other area agencies and companies to offer events such as job fairs 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.



A multitude of job seekers attended the 2014 Job Fair and Training Expo hosted by Tri-County Tech and SC Works.

Quick Facts 2014

149,230 customers accessed job search services

12,067 customer visits to SCWorks Centers in Anderson, Clemson, Easley, Honea Path, and Seneca

1,995 job seekers were served through **32** hiring events; **757** job seekers found employment

312 workshops and other group activities were held

Several thousand eighth- and ninth-graders attended the Business and Industry showcase through transportation funding provided by the WorkLink Youth Council

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

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. 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.

2014 REGIONAL PLANNING INITIATIVES

Overview

State required planning education was provided to 186 staff, planning commission, and board of appeals members in communities throughout the region. We hosted 42 students in orientation classes and 144 students in continuing education classes during the course of the year at COG offices and in communities in the region.

Local transit providers were assisted with developing applications for funding the purchase of service and equipment for transit needs in the Region. Ten agencies submitted twelve applications requesting total funding of \$593,050. Each application received at least partial funding totaling just over \$360,000.

Staff coordinated the Federal Clean Water Act Section 208 Water Quality Management Plan activities and reviewed 162 Section 208 compliance applications in 2014.

Staff also served on a taskforce that is exploring potential improvements along the US 29 corridor between Greenville, Greer, and Spartanburg. This taskforce identified the development of park-and-ride lots to promote car pooling and improving coordination of signals along the corridor as projects to be funded and implemented with current funding. The taskforce has also worked to identify potential opportunities for transit expansion along the corridor.

Planning & Economic Development

Regional CEDS 2014 Progress Report

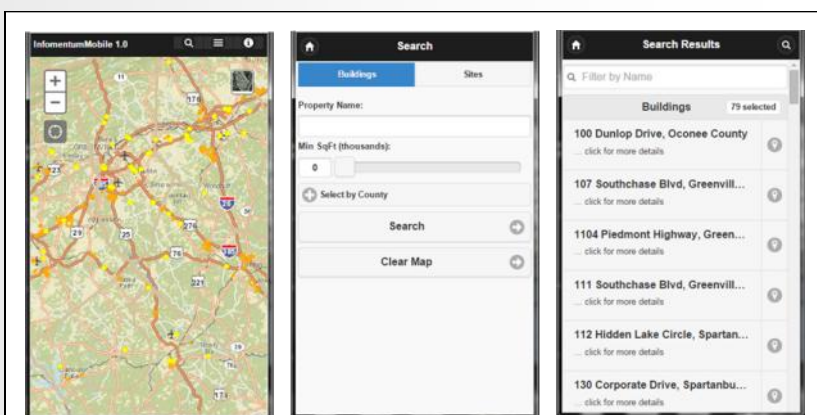
The progress report of the CEDS was prepared, helping to identify the region's economic development priorities and assists communities to be both eligible and competitive for federal grant funding. The CEDS added an additional focus to the original seven "areas of emphasis", which include (1) Clusters, 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. The newest area of emphasis is Global Competitiveness, which focuses on developing regional strategies to boost global trade and investment and forge more partnerships with other regions and international areas.

The Regional Entrepreneur Friendly Toolkit

Through grant funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission staff developed an "Entrepreneur Friendly Toolkit". As part of the development of the Toolkit, staff completed two pilot projects in Oconee County and the City of Pickens that took the communities through eight interactive planning steps to help them organize around the goal of becoming more supportive of entrepreneurs. The pilot projects helped each community develop a specialized "Entrepreneur Friendly Action Plan" that contains specific localized goals. The project will be completed in 2015 with completion of a third pilot project for the City of Simpsonville and the development of an online planning tool for local communities to attract and develop local entrepreneurs and encourage additional small business development in the region.

Completed Upgrades to InfoMentum Online Tools

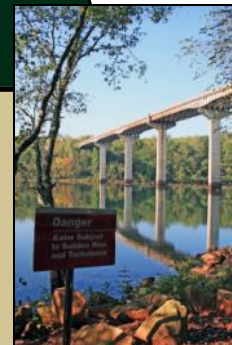
Through \$50,000 grant funding from both the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the Duke Energy Foundation, the ACOG completed two essential and exciting upgrades to the *InfoMentum* program: (1) the development of a mobile app, and (2) the synchronization of *InfoMentum* with the South Carolina 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 upgrades completed in 2014 ensure that *Infomentum* will provide essential mobile technology capability, while also ensuring that this region maintains the most cutting edge site selection tool in South Carolina.



A major component of *InfoMentum* is now accessible via mobile devices.

ANDERSON COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2014



- Approved \$163,000 in loans to support local, small, entrepreneurial, and expanding Anderson County businesses, thereby leveraging another \$244,500 in private capital investment and the retention of eight existing jobs
- Contracted for \$1,158,977 in services for older adults in Anderson County, thereby providing home-delivered meals, congregate meals, transportation, adult day care, health promotion, home care and legal assistance; the contractor provided 160,047 units of services to 1,000 older adults; also assisted 56 clients throughout Anderson, Pickens and Greenville Counties with minor home repairs totaling \$32,431.
- Maintained www.scupstateadrc.org, which provides valuable information and tools for aging and disabled citizens, their caregivers, and service providers in Anderson County
- Conducted seven-week basic management / supervisory training programs for lower-level and first-time supervisors with local governments and special purpose districts
- 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, which has now been closed; also worked with the county to submit an application to ARC for \$60,000 for the Gossett Mill Site Cleanup Project, which was approved
- 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
- Maintained *InfoMentum Online*, the online, interactive mapping and research tool utilized by the Anderson County Economic Development Division to assist with industry retention and recruitment and the SC Small Business Development Center to assist small business owners; upgrades/updates included: the synchronization of *InfoMentum* with the South Carolina Department of Commerce *LocateSC* industrial marketing tool; development of a mobile app; and development of a custom-branded, public-facing property search website for marketing Anderson County's available industrial properties
- Provided research and mapping assistance to the Upstate SC Alliance for economic development marketing activities in Anderson County; maintained selected socio-economic data tables 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 eighteen homes during 2014 with a total investment of \$422,768.
- Assisted Anderson County in establishing a partnership with SCDOT and Electric City Transit on the development of a new transit partnership for service between the county and Tri-County Technical College in Pendleton. These efforts helped the county secure funding through SCDOT to establish the new route that is being provided by Electric City Transit to ensure the continued availability of transit services to residents of Anderson County.
- Worked with county and SCDOT officials to secure funding for improvements to the Cherokee Road Bridge over US 29 near Williamston, which has been a hazard for trucks due to the low height of some sections of the bridge.
- WorkLink collaborated with multiple entities in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties to offer the Business and Industry Showcase and multiple job fairs to connect companies and employees and ensure that job seekers have the skills they need to find employment

***In 2014,
for every
dollar
invested
by
Anderson
County,
ACOG
programs
returned
\$69.***

ANDERSON COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

2014 Highlights

All Municipalities

- 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.
- Provided various technical assistance to Anderson County municipalities and special purpose districts in the areas of training, finance, management and personnel

Anderson

- Conducted a staffing level analysis for the municipal court system

Belton

- Reviewed the city's employee handbook and provided technical assistance related to zoning administration and planning issues

Honea Path

- provided technical assistance related to zoning administration and planning issues

Iva

- Administered grant activities for the Iva Sewer Upgrade Project, which is funded by CDBG; worked on the development of a CDBG application for the construction of a new water tank, which was approved in the amount of \$750,000

Pendleton

- Assisted with the development of a CDBG application for the Mechanics Street Streetscape Project, which was approved in the amount of \$500,000; also facilitated a goal setting retreat for the town

West Pelzer

- Worked on the administrative activities for the West Pelzer Water Upgrade Project, which is funded with CDBG funds; The project has now been completed.

Williamston

- Facilitated a retreat and goal setting budget workshop; began a staffing level analysis for the Administrative Services, Public Works, and Streets and Sanitation Departments; also prepared a Request for Proposal (RFP) for garbage collection
- Worked on the administrative activities for the CDBG-funded Williamston Sewer Upgrade Project, which has been completed and closed out; assisted with the development and submission of an ARC application for the renovation of the former depot for use as a farmers' market and community center, which was awarded in the amount of \$66,130; assisted with the development of a CDBG application in the amount of \$445,487 for the Pine Crest Sewer Upgrade Project, which was also approved.
- Provided technical assistance related to zoning administration and planning issues

Services to Seniors	\$ 1,158,977
Federal Direct Grants	\$ 1,821,617
Workforce Development	\$ 1,571,091
Small Business and Entrepreneurial Loan Program	\$ 163,000
Private Capital Resulting from Loans	\$ 244,500
Transit Services	\$ 220,395
Total Funding into Anderson County 2014	\$ 5,179,580
County's Annual Contribution to ACOG	\$ 74,948

CHEROKEE COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2014

- Contracted for \$578,982 in services for older adults in Cherokee County, thereby providing home-delivered meals, congregate meals, respite, transportation, health promotion, home care, and legal assistance; the contractor provided 76,213 units of service to 492 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
- Conducted a seven-week basic management / supervisory training program for lower-level and first-time supervisors with local governments and special purpose districts; also provided technical assistance to the County on a number of personnel issues
- Continued the administration of grant-funded projects, including the Bear Creek Water Project (now completed and closed out), as well as the River Drive Water Project (now completed)
- 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; upgrades/updates included: the synchronization of *InfoMentum* with the South Carolina Department of Commerce *LocateSC* industrial marketing tool; development of a mobile app; and development of a custom-branded, public-facing property search website for marketing Cherokee County's available industrial properties
- Provided research and mapping assistance to the Upstate SC Alliance for economic development marketing activities in Cherokee County; Maintained the socio-economic data tables 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
- 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. Assisted in development of application streamlining with the County's Building Department.



***In 2014,
for every
dollar
invested
by
Cherokee
County,
ACOG
programs
returned
\$54.***

CHEROKEE COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

2014 Highlights

All Municipalities

- Facilitated and hosted a live quarterly broadcast from the South Carolina Municipal Association on "Budgeting and Financial Issues for Elected Officials"

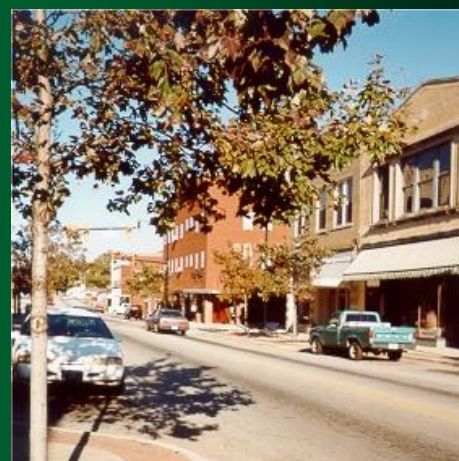
Blacksburg

- Continued administration of grant-funded projects, including the Oak Grove/ Highway 5 Water Project and the Youngs Grove Water Line Project, both of which have now been completed
- Assisted the town with the submission of a revised application to ARC for upgrading the Bruggs Street pump station to accommodate new growth and development; the project received a grant award increase of \$117,600, thereby increasing the total grant award to \$338,400
- Assisted the town in the submission of an application for Rural Infrastructure Authority funds to upgrade a sewer trunk line and make improvements to the wastewater treatment plant; this project has been funded

- Assisted the town in the development and submission of an ARC application in the amount of \$368,000 to extend sewer lines along Highway 5 to accommodate anticipated economic development projects
- 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; also facilitated a goal-setting retreat
- Continued the administration of the grant-funded Village Renaissance Phase 2 Project, in which all of the neighborhood improvements have been completed
- 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	\$ 578,982
Federal Direct Grants	\$ 688,400
Transit Services	\$37,293
Total Funding into Cherokee County 2014	\$ 1,304,675
County's Annual Contribution to ACOG	\$ 24,000

GREENVILLE COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2014

- Approved \$2,437,082 in loans to support local, small, entrepreneurial, and expanding businesses, thereby leveraging another \$3,655,623 in capital investment and the retention of 68 Greenville County jobs
- Contracted for \$1,133,337 in services for older adults in Greenville County, thereby providing home-delivered meals, congregate meals, home care, and health promotion; the contractor provided 121,179 units of service to 1,173 older adults; ACOG also worked with transportation providers to assist 255 clients with transportation, at a cost of \$120,713; also assisted 56 clients throughout Anderson, Pickens and Greenville Counties with minor home repairs totaling \$32,431
- Maintained www.scupstateadrc.org, which provides valuable information and tools for aging and disabled citizens, their caregivers, and service providers in Greenville County
- Conducted a seven-week basic management/supervisory training program for lower-level and first-time supervisors with local governments and special purpose districts; provided board training and sexual harassment training for the Glassy Mountain Fire District; prepared a bid proposal for the Greenville County Library; prepared an employee handbook for Lake Cunningham Fire District and developed board policies for the South Greenville and Boiling Springs Fire Departments
- 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 and the SC Small Business Development Center to assist small business owners; upgrades/updates included: the synchronization of *InfoMentum* with the South Carolina Department of Commerce *LocateSC* industrial marketing tool; development of a mobile app; and development of a custom-branded, public-facing property search website for marketing Greenville County's available industrial properties
- Provided research and mapping assistance to the Upstate SC Alliance for economic development marketing activities in Greenville County; maintained the socio-economic data tables 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 is used in-house for strategic planning and inventory
- Served on a taskforce that is exploring potential improvements along the US 29 corridor between Greenville, Greer, and Spartanburg; the taskforce identified development of park-and-ride lots to promote car pooling and improving coordination of signals along the corridor as projects to be funded and implemented with current funding; the taskforce has also worked to identify potential opportunities for transit expansion along the corridor
- 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

2014 Highlights

All Municipalities

- Facilitated and hosted a live quarterly broadcast from the South Carolina Municipal Association on "Budgeting and Financial Issues for Elected Officials"



Greer

- Served on a taskforce that is exploring potential improvements along the US 29 corridor between Greenville, Greer, and Spartanburg; the taskforce identified development of park-and-ride lots to promote car pooling and improving coordination of signals along the corridor as projects to be funded and implemented with current funding; the taskforce has also worked to identify potential opportunities for transit expansion along the corridor

Mauldin

- Provided training in the area of customer service

Simpsonville

- Began the process of developing an "Entrepreneur Friendly Toolkit" for prospective businesses; Staff worked with the City and a wide range of other stakeholders to identify several measures the City could take to make themselves more business friendly.

Taylors

- Worked with Taylors Town Square organization as they established themselves as an independent group promoting Taylors; provided the organization information on potential grant opportunities, organizational strategies, and technical assistance on building code issues

***For every
dollar
invested by
Greenville
County,
ACOG
programs
generated
\$66.***

ACOG Aging Services Program	\$1,133,337
Small Business & Entrepreneurial Loan Program	\$2,437,082
Private Capital Resulting from Loans	\$3,655,623
Rural Transportation Enhancement Program	\$ 2,831,250
Total Funding into Greenville County 2014	\$ 10,057,292
County's Annual Contribution to ACOG	\$151,759

OCONEE COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2014



- Contracted for \$587,176 in services for older adults in Oconee County, thereby providing home-delivered meals, congregate meals, adult day care, health promotion, legal assistance and home care; the contractor provided 70,795 units of service to 300 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 seven-week basic management/supervisory training programs for lower-level and first-time supervisors with local governments and special purpose districts
- Worked with the county on the Golden Corner Commerce Park Pump Station Project, which received ARC funding in the amount of \$500,000; in addition, a grant application was submitted to EPA requesting \$485,000.
- 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 assisted in the submission of an ARC application in the amount of \$500,000 to construct a new water treatment plant to serve existing customers and anticipated growth in parts of Oconee County and a portion of Anderson County
- 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
- 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 and the SC Small Business Development Center to assist small business owners; upgrades/updates included: the synchronization of *InfoMentum* with the South Carolina Department of Commerce *LocateSC* industrial marketing tool; development of a mobile app; and development of a custom-branded, public-facing property search website for marketing Oconee County's available industrial properties
- Provided research and mapping assistance to the Upstate SC Alliance for economic development marketing activities in Oconee County; maintained the socio-economic data tables for the UA website, highlighting Oconee County and the region
- Assisted Oconee County with the development on an "Entrepreneur Friendly Toolkit" for prospective businesses; Staff worked with a wide range of stakeholders to identify several measures the County could take to make themselves more business friendly.
- WorkLink collaborated with multiple entities in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties to offer the Business and Industry Showcase and multiple job fairs to connect companies and employees and ensure that job seekers have the skills they need to find employment

OCONEE COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES



2014 Highlights

All Municipalities

- Facilitated and hosted a live quarterly broadcast from the South Carolina Municipal Association on "Budgeting and Financial Issues for Elected Officials"

Walhalla

- Continued to work with the city in the administrative tasks for a CDBG grant for Phase 2 of the Chicopee Mill Water Project; also worked with the city on the administration of the ARC-funded Downtown Improvements/Streetscape Project



- Provided staffing to assist with the development of an update to the Comprehensive Plan

Westminster

- Assisted the town in submitting an ARC application for water system improvements in the Highway 76 portion of the service area

West Union

- Worked with the town to submit an ARC pre-application for water line improvements to serve the Highway 11 / Neville Street area

***For every
dollar
invested
by Oconee
County in
2014,
ACOG
programs
generated
\$47.***

Workforce Training	\$ 654,621
Services to Seniors	\$ 587,176
Transit Services	\$ 81,500
Total Funding into Oconee County 2014	\$ 1,323,297
County's Annual Contribution to ACOG	\$ 27,951

PICKENS COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2014



- Contracted for \$361,594 in services for older adults in Pickens County, thereby providing home-delivered meals, congregate meals, transportation, health promotion, legal assistance, and home care; the contractor provided 107,090 units of service to 250 older adults; ACOG also worked with transportation providers to assist 125 clients with transportation, at a cost of \$103,626; also assisted 56 clients throughout Anderson, Pickens and Greenville Counties with minor home repairs totaling \$32,431.
- Maintained www.scupstateadrc.org, which provides valuable information and tools for aging and disabled citizens, their caregivers, and service providers in Pickens County
- Conducted a seven-week basic management/supervisory training program for lower-level and first-time supervisors with local governments and special purpose districts
- Worked with the county and the Easley Central Water District on the development of a CDBG application to undertake water improvements in the Cateechee Village community; also assisted the Public Service Commission with submission of two pre-applications for ARC funds to undertake sewer system improvements, including the extension of sewer service to serve the Highway 123 / Ruhammah Road interchange and a project to close the stockade treatment plant and pump to the City of Pickens' treatment facility
- 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 and the SC Small Business Development Center to assist small business owners; upgrades/updates included: the synchronization of *InfoMentum* with the South Carolina Department of Commerce *LocateSC* industrial marketing tool; development of a mobile app; and development of a custom-branded, public-facing property search website for marketing Pickens County's available industrial properties
- WorkLink collaborated with multiple entities in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties to offer the Business and Industry Showcase and multiple job fairs to connect companies and employees and ensure that job seekers have the skills they need to find employment

Services to Seniors	\$ 361,594
Federal Direct Grants	\$ 1,062,175
Workforce Training	\$ 1,047,394
Transit Services	\$ 36,500
Total Funding into Pickens County 2014	\$ 2,507,663
County's Annual Contribution to ACOG	\$ 45,593

PICKENS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

2014 Highlights

All Municipalities

- Facilitated and hosted a live quarterly broadcast from the South Carolina Municipal Association on "Budgeting and Financial Issues for Elected Officials"

Central

- Provided technical assistance in general municipal administration, in the areas of training, finance, management and personnel
- Continued the administrative tasks for the CDBG-funded James Circle Water Project, which has been completed and closed out; also assisted with submission of an ARC application to improve Clayton Street and its intersection with Highway 93 at the entrance of Southern Wesleyan University

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 developed a "paid time off" (PTO) policy and began development of a revised personnel policy; also provided pay table assistance to the city's fire department
- Worked with the city and Easley Combined Utilities on the development of a CDBG application to upgrade sewer lines in the West End area of town; a grant award of \$719,475 has been issued, and the project is out to bid.

Liberty

- Continued the administration of the CDBG grant for the Woodside Sewer Project; also continued the administration of the \$500,000 CDBG grant for the streetscape project on Commerce Street

Norris

- Assisted with the submission of a CDBG application to purchase a new fire truck; a grant award of \$342,700 was issued in November.

Pickens

- Continued administration of grant-funded projects, including Phase 2 of a Village Renaissance Project and the Town Creek Park Project; also assisted the city with the submission of an ARC application to renovate the auditorium of the Haygood Community Center
- Provided technical assistance in general municipal administration, in the areas of training, finance, management and personnel; also conducted training in the area of customer service
- 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 the city with the development on an "Entrepreneur Friendly Toolkit" for prospective businesses; Staff worked with a wide range of stakeholders to identify several measures the city could take to make themselves more business friendly.

Six Mile

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

For every dollar that Pickens County invested in ACOG during 2014, \$55 were returned to the County.

SPARTANBURG COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2014



- Approved \$501,210 in loans to support local, small, entrepreneurial, and expanding businesses, thereby leveraging another \$751,815 in private capital investment
- Contracted for \$392,093 in services for older adults in Spartanburg County, thereby providing home-delivered meals, congregate meals, home care, minor home repair, health promotion, transportation, and legal assistance; the contractor provided 142,150 units of service to 506 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 with local governments and special purpose districts; also provided varied technical assistance to special purpose districts in the areas of training, computers, management and/or personnel; also assisted the Poplar Springs Fire Department with Fair Labor Standard Act (FLSA) issues
- Worked with SJWD Water District to submit an application to EDA for \$2 million to upgrade the water treatment plant; this project received approval, and a grant award for \$2 million was issued.
- 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 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 and the SC Small Business Development Center to assist small business owners; upgrades/updates included: the synchronization of *InfoMentum* with the South Carolina Department of Commerce *LocateSC* industrial marketing tool; development of a mobile app; and development of a custom-branded, public-facing property search website for marketing Spartanburg County's available industrial properties
- Worked with Spartanburg County to initiate a planning discussion within the Enoree and Tyger Basins to address wastewater treatment services and future regional sewer service areas; Efforts included collecting input from a wide range of stakeholders to establish future service area recommendations that will be considered by providers and County Council in the future.
- Served on a taskforce that is exploring potential improvements along the US 29 corridor between Greenville, Greer, and Spartanburg; the taskforce identified development of park-and-ride lots to promote car pooling and improving coordination of signals along the corridor as projects to be funded and implemented with current funding; the taskforce has also worked to identify potential opportunities for transit expansion along the corridor

Services to Seniors	\$ 392,093
Small Business and Entrepreneurial Loan Program	\$ 501,210
Private Capital Resulting from Loans	\$ 751,815
Federal Direct Grants	\$ 2,000,000
Transit Services	\$ 200,640
Total Funding into Spartanburg County 2014	\$ 3,845,758
Annual Contribution to ACOG	\$ 111,436

SPARTANBURG COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

2014 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

Campobello

- Provided training in the area of sexual harassment to the Inman/Campobello Fire Department

Duncan

- Served as a "roving administrator" for the town; also worked with Upstate Forever on a highway beautification / trailways project

Inman

- Provided training in the area of sexual harassment to the Inman/Campobello Fire Department; also served as a "roving administrator" for the city

Landrum

- Conducted a goal-setting retreat for the city

Lyman

- Continued the administration of the \$500,000 CDBG grant for the Lyman Mill Village Sewer Project

Pacolet

- Assisted with annexation issue and amendments to zoning ordinance; also assisted with a development agreement and amendment to the Comprehensive Plan; also revised the town's employee handbook and met with council to discuss changes
- Continued to assist the town with their ARC-funded Pacolet River Gateway Project; also worked with the town on the submission of an ARC application for the Main Street sewer project, which has received a grant award in the amount of \$31,736

Reidville

- Conducted board training for the Reidville Fire Department

Woodruff

- Completed a re-write of job descriptions, along with a "comp and class" study; also conducted a goal-setting retreat

For every dollar that Spartanburg County invested in ACOG during 2014, \$35 were returned to the County.

Meet the Board 2015

The Board and Staff of the Appalachian Council of Governments looks forward to a productive 2015. 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	Ted Mattison	Francis Crowder
Mack Durham	Mayor Terence Roberts	
Dennis Claramunt	Rick Laughridge	

Cherokee County

Rep. Dennis C. Moss	Rufus Foster, Jr.	David Cauthen
Ed Elliott	Dennis Stroupe	

Greenville County

Lottie Gibson	Lillian Brock Flemming	Butch Kirven
Joe Dill	Mayor Perry Eichor	Rev. Grady Butler
Gaye Sprague	Don Godbey	Willis Meadows

Oconee County

Sen. Thomas C. Alexander	Reg Dexter	Bill Brockington
Bob Winchester	Bennie Cunningham	

Pickens County

G. Neil Smith	Jeff Martin	Margaret Thompson
Mayor Larry Bagwell		

Spartanburg County

Rep. Mike Forrester	Roger Nutt	Justin Bradley
Jane Hall	Mayor Junie White	Jan Scalisi
Charles "Chet" Morris, Jr.	Elbert S. Tillerson, Sr.	Loretta Smith
Mayor Elaine Harris		

Regional Members

Mayor Henry Jolly	Ernest Riley
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