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 2015

30 Century Circle

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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 2015.

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

Jane Hall, Chair

Appalachian Council of Governments

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 2015, 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 2015

Ombudsman Program

The Ombudsman Program received 1,079 cases on behalf of residents living in long term care facilities, resulting in 971 investigations of abuse, neglect, exploitation and other issues.

Family Caregiver Support Program

The Family Caregiver Support Program provided $321,430 in supplies, in-home respite, educational tutoring, clothes, shoes and school supplies.

Medicare Guidance

- Certified Insurance Counselors provided on-site awareness, education and enrollment assistance to 4,286 Medicare beneficiaries and conducted outreach throughout the region.
- More than 970 applications were completed for the Medicare Savings Program, and over 463 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.

Just under $1 million in ARC and IRP loans were closed in 2015, thereby leveraging more than $3.7 million in additional private capital.

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.

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 2015 Services

- Provided technical assistance to local governments and SPDs in the six-county region in the areas of personnel, municipal court admnistration, organizational behavior, retirement and health insurance, finance and taxation, and other local government issues
- Facilitated 3 HomeTown Connection meetings at ACOG on behalf of South Carolina Municipal Association to Upstate
- Provided seven-week basic management/supervisory training programs for lower-level and first-time supervisors; also provided training in the areas of customer service and sexual harrassment
- Provided regular assistance to small jurisdictions on budget matters and handling of tax and fee administration; many issues involved the use of Accommodation Tax and Hospitality Tax monies; gave considerable advice and assistance to jurisdictions on Freedom of Information and public communication issues; provided on-call assistance to small town staff on many routine public administration questions
- Provided individual orientations to a number of newly elected officials on matters of finance, public information and South Carolina local government law, during the year, routinely fielded questions from elected officials on a very wide range of problems; provided a no-cost source of experience and information to these individuals.
- Served as a “roving administrator” for communities of Inman and Duncan

The ACOG Government Services Department provided training in areas such as customer service.

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 applications submitted by ACOG in 2015 garnered more than $4.8 million from CDBG and ARC grant programs.

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
- Permanent Improvement Program through the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging
- Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA)

SC WORKS | BRINGING EMPLOYERS AND JOB SEEKERS TOGETHER
WORKLINK
ANDERSON·OCONEE·PICKENS

Workforce Investment Board

WorkLink Workforce Development Board (WDB) 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 Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 in partnership with local service providers and through a comprehensive SC Works system that provides access points for employment and training services.

More than 3,500 job seekers were served by 104 hiring events in 2015

WorkLink funds programs for adults, dislocated workers and youth ages 17 -24, along with supporting employers and businesses through the On-the-Job Training and Incumbent-Worker Training programs. In 2015, WorkLink partnered with SCDEW and other partner agencies in their three-county service region to offer a variety of hiring events, workshops and job fairs, as well as the Business & Industry Showcase, to connect companies with jobseekers and ensure those jobseekers have the skills needed to find employment.

Quick Facts 2015

101,719 customers accessed job search services

24,217 customer visits to SC Works Centers in Anderson, Clemson, Easley and Seneca

3,537 job seekers were served through **104** hiring events; **702** job seekers found employment

221 workshops and other group activities were held

5,000+ eighth–graders and 150 top seniors attended the Anderson/Oconee/Pickens Business & Industry Showcase through assistance with transportation funding provided by WorkLink

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 Department of Planning and Economic Development works to create a regional environment that is conducive to economic growth and community development. The role of the department is broad, ranging from transportation and land use planning to regional sewer coordination and support of regional economic development efforts through its delivery of the national-award-winning *InfoMentum* suite of GIS-based economic development services.

2015 REGIONAL PLANNING INITIATIVES

The Regional Entrepreneur Friendly Toolkit

August of 2015 saw the launch of the ACOG "Entrepreneur Friendly Toolkit" planning program and website (www.EFToolkit.com). The EF Toolkit is an online planning tool for local communities to develop a specialized "Entrepreneur Friendly Action Plan" to attract and assist local entrepreneurs and encourage additional small business development. After winning an Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations in 2015, Economic Development Services looks forward to bringing the EF Toolkit to more communities.

ACOG's EF Toolkit helps local communities develop a plan for encouraging small business development.

InfoMentum Online Program

- Four new investors were brought on: Upper Savannah COG, Catawba COG, the City of Anderson Economic Development Department, and the Greenwood Partnership Alliance.
- Individual mobile websites were developed for each county in the region, allowing economic developers to share available site and building information from their phones and tablets.
- InfoMentum site and building database was integrated with the national "NEXCAP" database, providing increased national visibility of our industrial properties.

Planning & Economic Development

Planning Assistance

- Assisted Walhalla, Belton, and Pendleton with updates to their Comprehensive Plans.
- Worked with Easley, Pickens, and Cherokee Counties on updating parts of their zoning and Land development ordinances.
- Staff provided state required planning education to 98 staff, planning commission, and board of appeals members in communities throughout the region.
- Coordinated the Federal Clean Water Act Section 208 Water Quality Management Plan activities and reviewed 163 Section 208 compliance applications. In addition, staff facilitated discussions to update the plan for the Enoree Basin.
- The 2015 Regional CEDS progress report was prepared, helping to identify the region's economic development priorities and assisting communities to be both eligible and competitive for federal grant funding.

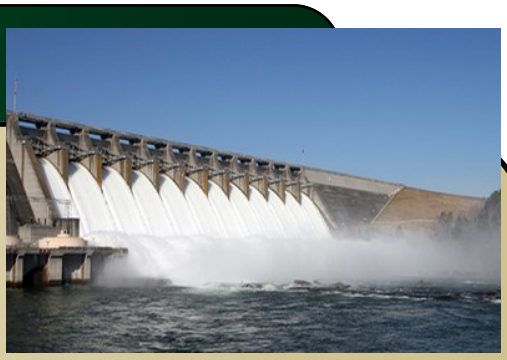
Transportation

Served on Piedmont Health Foundation taskforce that developed a comprehensive study of transit and human services transportation assets in Greenville County and identified solutions to improve transportation options for Greenville residents

ACOG Planning staff served on a task force that developed a comprehensive study of transit and human services transportation assets and identified solutions for improving options for Greenville County residents.

Assisted local transit providers in developing applications for funding the purchase of services and vehicles for transit needs in the Region. Seven agencies submitted ten applications requesting total funding of $544,071. Each application received at least partial funding totaling $336,711.

ANDERSON COUNTY



A Glimpse at 2015

- Approved $75,000 in loans to support local, small, entrepreneurial, and expanding Anderson County businesses, thereby leveraging another $200,000 in private capital investment and the retention of three existing jobs
- Provided $647,683 in services to seniors in Anderson County which included home-delivered meals, congregate meals, transportation, health promotion, home care, legal assistance, minor home repair and family caregiver support
- Maintained www.scupstateadrc.org, which provides valuable information and tools for aging and disabled citizens, their caregivers, and service providers in Anderson County
- Conducted a seven-week basic management/supervisory training program for lower-level and first-time supervisors with local governments; conducted training in the areas of Sexual and Work Place Harassment and Diversity for Anderson County and WorkLink staff; provided human resources (personnel) assistance to the county; conducted presentations in the areas of ethics, diversity, sexual harassment, and public speaking at various professional association meetings
- Worked with Anderson County on the Gossett Mill Cleanup Project funded with ARC funds. The Environmental Review and Startup has been approved by DOC. Anderson County is looking into a Brownfields RLF loan to meet the ARC match and to cap the site; also worked with the county and Sandy Springs Water District on the development and submission of a CDBG application to upgrade water lines in the LaFrance area. This project was approved, and the environmental review and start up activities are underway; continued to assist with the administration of the HOME Program
- Worked with staff at the Anderson County 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; specific activities included: ongoing addition and update of map layers; ongoing maintenance of information on available industrial properties through synchronization of the *InfoMentum* database with the SC Dept. of Commerce's *LocateSC* database; ongoing delivery of property information through maintenance of an Anderson County-branded website and property flyers
- 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 updating the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, and CAPER, as well as day to day administrative oversight and coordination of housing rehabilitation projects. The Consortium completed rehabilitation of ten homes in the county and Belton during 2015 with a total investment of $260,669
- Assisted county and SCDOT officials with securing an additional $3 million in funding for improvements to the Cherokee Road Bridge over US 29 near Williamston
- WorkLink partnered with SCDEW and multiple partner agencies in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties to offer a variety of hiring events, workshops and job fairs, as well as the Business and Industry Showcase, to connect companies with job seekers and to ensure that those job seekers have the skills they need to find employment; ACOG staff facilitated meetings to assist WorkLink in updating its Strategic Plan

In 2015, for every dollar invested by Anderson County, ACOG programs returned $52.

ANDERSON COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

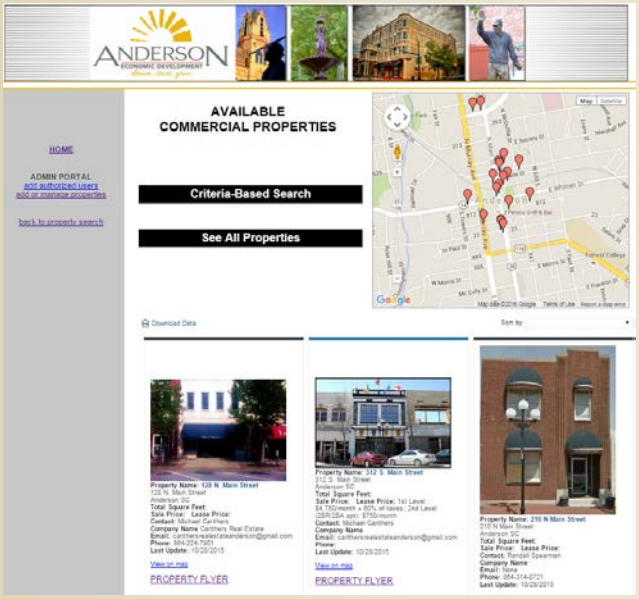
2015 Highlights

All Municipalities

- Facilitated 3 HomeTown connection meetings at ACOG on behalf of South Carolina Municipal Association.

Anderson

- Acted as court administrator; completed a staffing level analysis for the municipal court system
- Completed a management analysis of the City's Neighborhood and Transit Division.
- Developed a city-branded website and property flyers to assist in the marketing of available retail, office and restaurant properties.



Belton

- Assisted the city with administrative questions; also assisted with the development and submission of a CDBG application for the Belton Mill Village Sewer Project; This project was approved, and the environmental review and start up activities are underway.

Honea Path

- Provided technical assistance related to zoning administration and planning issues

Iva

- Worked on the administrative activities for the Iva Water Tank Project, funded with CDBG funds. The environmental review and start up activities have been approved; also worked to develop and submit a CDBG application to undertake a streetscape project in the downtown area; however, this project was not approved

Pendleton

- Assisted with the development and submission of a CDBG application for the Westinghouse Sewer Upgrade Project; this project was approved, and the environmental review and start up activities are underway; continued to work on the administrative activities for the CDBG-funded Pendleton Streetscape Project
- Completed update of the Pendleton Comprehensive Plan

Williamston

- Provided regular assistance on budget matters and handling of tax and fee administration; also provided human resource (personnel) assistance
- Continued to work on the administrative activities for the Pine Crest Sewer Upgrade Project, funded with CDBG funds; also worked on the administrative activities for the renovation of the former depot for use as a farmers market / community center, funded with ARC funds

Services to Seniors	$ 647,683
Federal Direct Grants	$ 1,638,508
Workforce Development	$ 1,207,289
Small Business and Entrepreneurial Loan Program	$ 75,000
Private Capital Resulting from Loans	$ 200,000
Transit Services	$ 147,571
Total Funding into Anderson County 2015	**$ 3,916,051**
County's Annual Contribution to ACOG	**$ 74,948**

CHEROKEE COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2015

- Provided $378,680 in services to seniors in Cherokee County, which included home-delivered meals, congregate meals, transportation, health promotion, home care, legal assistance and family caregiver support
- 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; provided human resources (personnel) assistance to the county; conducted presentations in the areas of ethics, diversity, sexual harassment, and public speaking at various professional association meetings
- 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 with industry retention and recruitment; specific activities included: ongoing addition and update of map layers; ongoing maintenance of information on available industrial properties through synchronization of the *InfoMentum* database with the SC Dept. of Commerce's *LocateSC* database; ongoing delivery of property information through maintenance of a Cherokee-branded website and property flyers
- 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
- Created and implemented a new upgraded version of the Cherokee Public Access GIS Web Application; 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

CHEROKEE COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

In 2015, for every dollar invested by Cherokee County, ACOG programs returned $41.

2015 Highlights

All Municipalities

- Facilitated 3 HomeTown connection meetings at ACOG on behalf of South Carolina Municipal Association

Blacksburg

- Provided regular assistance to the town on budget matters and handling of tax and fee administration
- Continued administration of an ARC-funded project to upgrade the Bruggs Street pump station to accommodate new growth and development; also worked on the development and submission of an ARC application to construct sewer lines along Highway 5; this project was subsequently approved
- Continued to provide technical assistance related to community development, planning, and zoning issues

ACOG worked on the submission of an ARC grant application to construct sewer lines along Highwy 5; the project has been approved for funding.

Gaffney

- Provided assistance with matters related to human resources (personnel)
- Worked with the city and the Gaffney LDC to submit a grant application to ARC to establish an incubator facility, which has been approved; also closed out the Big Mill Village Renaissance Project
- Continued to provide technical assistance related to community development, planning, and zoning issues
- Provided continuing education session for the City's Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals

Services to Seniors	$ 378,680
Federal Direct Grants	$ 557,080
Transit Services	$ 56,000
Total Funding into Cherokee County 2015	**$ 991,760**
County's Annual Contribution to ACOG	**$ 24,000**

GREENVILLE COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2015

- Approved $703,500 in loans to support local, small, entrepreneurial, and expanding businesses, thereby leveraging another $2,114,000 in capital investment and the retention of 35 Greenville County jobs
- Provided $1,656,548 in services to seniors in Greenville County, which included home-delivered meals, congregate meals, transportation, health promotion, home care, legal assistance, minor home repair and family caregiver support.
- 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; assisted Clear Springs and Parker Fire Districts with matters related to personnel and FLSA; began the task of writing an employee handbook for the Boiling Springs Fire District; conducted board training for all Greenville County fire districts; conducted presentations in the areas of ethics, diversity, sexual harrassment, and public speaking at various professional association meetings
- 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 with industry retention and recruitment; specific activities included: ongoing addition and update of map layers; ongoing maintenance of information on available industrial properties through synchronization of the *InfoMentum* database with the SC Dept. of Commerce's *LocateSC* database; ongoing delivery of property information through maintenance of a Greenville County-branded website and property flyers
- 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 the Piedmont Health Foundation taskforce that explored transportation needs in Greenville County, focusing on those who experience barriers to accessing health care, jobs, education, recreation and more due to the lack of transportation; the effort resulted in a report that examined current ridership of all transportation services, needs and desires of area residents, and existing transit assets, and identified potential solutions that will help Greenville County residents get where they need to go
- As part of the Appalachian Section of the SCDOT State Transportation Improvement Program construction was completed on the US 25 @ SC 11 interchange improvements in Greenville County. Total cost for the project was $6 million and improved the safety of the interchange for residents and travelers

GREENVILLE COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

2015 Highlights

All Municipalities

- Facilitated 3 HomeTown connection meetings at ACOG on behalf of South Carolina Municipal Association.

- Provided State mandated Planning Education Training sessions for Planning Commission, Board of Appeals, and staff members.

For every dollar invested by Greenville County, ACOG programs generated $48.

Fountain Inn

- Issued $500,000 in Permanent Improvement Project (PIP) grant funding for the city; provided assistance to the city in the area of human resources

Greer

- Worked with taskforce exploring improvements along the US 29 corridor between Greenville, Greer, and Spartanburg; and 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.

Simpsonville

- Assisted the city with the development on an "Entreprenuer 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

Taylors

- Worked with Taylors Town Square organization to identify potential grant opportunities, organizational strategies, and provide technical assistance on building code issues

ACOG Aging Services Program	$1,656,548
Small Business & Entrepreneurial Loan Program	$703,500
Private Capital Resulting from Loans	$2,114,000
Rural Transportation Enhancement Program	$ 2,831,250
Total Funding into Greenville County 2015	**$ 7,305,298**
County's Annual Contribution to ACOG	**$151,759**

OCONEE COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2015

- Provided $402,988 in services to seniors in Oconee County, which included home-delivered meals, congregate meals, transportation, health promotion, home care, legal assistance and family caregiver support
- 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; conducted training in the areas of Sexual and Work Place Harassment and Diversity for Oconee County and WorkLink staff
- 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; the construction was completed, and the project has been closed out
- Worked with staff at the Oconee Economic Alliance 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 Economic Alliance to assist with industry retention and recruitment; specific activities included: ongoing addition and update of map layers; ongoing maintenance of information on available industrial properties through synchronization of the *InfoMentum* database with the SC Dept. of Commerce's *LocateSC* database; ongoing delivery of property information through maintenance of an Oconee-branded website and property flyers.
- 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 of an "Entrepreneur Friendly Action Plan", which is a seven-step strategic plan developed by ACOG which focuses on supporting and attracting local entrepreneurs. Part of the Entrepreneur Friendly Toolkit program, ACOG staff works with a variety of stakeholders to make their communities more business friendly.
- WorkLink partnered with SCDEW and multiple partner agencies in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties to offer a variety of hiring events, workshops and job fairs, as well as the Business and Industry Showcase, to connect companies with job seekers and to ensure that those job seekers have the skills they need to find employment; ACOG staff facilitated meetings to assist WorkLink in updating its Strategic Plan

OCONEE COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

2015 Highlights

All Municipalities

- Facilitated 3 HomeTown connection meetings at ACOG on behalf of South Carolina Municipal Association
- Provided State mandated Planning Education Training sessions for Planning Commission, Board of Appeals, and staff members

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, on which construction is underway
- Completed development of the Walhalla Comprehensive Plan

For every dollar invested by Oconee County in 2015, ACOG programs generated $48.

Westminster

- Assisted with the development and submission of a CDBG application for the Hampton Street Sewer Upgrade project; this project was approved, and the environmental review and startup activities are underway
- Worked with Westminster to submit an application for CDBG funds to assist in upgrading electric system transformers;this project was also approved

Federal Direct Grants	$ 382,408
Workforce Training	$ 458,770
Services to Seniors	$ 402,988
Transit Services	$ 96,000
Total Funding into Oconee County 2015	**$ 1,340,166**
County's Annual Contribution to ACOG	**$ 27,951**

PICKENS COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2015

- Approved $100,000 in loans to support local, small, entrepreneurial, and expanding businesses, thereby leveraging another $1,000,000 in private capital investment
- Provided $508,423 in services to seniors in Pickens County which included home-delivered meals, congregate meals, transportation, health promotion, home care, legal assistance, minor home repair and family caregiver support; also issued $500,000 in Permanent Improvement Project (PIP) grant funding for the McKissick Center for Senior Wellness
- Maintained www.scupstateadrc.org, which provides valuable information and tools for aging and disabled citizens, their caregivers, and service providers in Pickens County
- Conducted seven-week basic management/supervisory training programs for lower-level and first-time supervisors with local governments and special purpose districts; conducted training in the area of Sexual and Work Place Harassment for WorkLink staff; assisted in the search for a new county administrator
- Worked with the county and the Easley Central Water District on the development and submission of a CDBG application to undertake water improvements in the Cateechee Village community; this project was approved, and the environmental review and start up acitivites are underway
- 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 the Alliance Pickens to assist with industry retention and recruitment; specific activities included: ongoing addition and update of map layers; ongoing maintenance of information on available industrial properties through synchronization of the *InfoMentum* database with the SC Dept. of Commerce's *LocateSC* database; ongoing delivery of property information through maintenance of a Alliance Pickens-branded website and property flyers
- WorkLink partnered with SCDEW and multiple partner agencies in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties to offer a variety of hiring events, workshops and job fairs, as well as the Business and Industry Showcase, to connect companies with job seekers and to ensure that those job seekers have the skills they need to find employment; ACOG staff facilitated meetings to assist WorkLink in updating its Strategic Plan

Services to Seniors	$ 508,423
Federal Direct Grants	$ 1,442,920
Workforce Training	$748,519
Small Business & Entrepreneurial Loan Program	$ 100,000
Private Capital Resulting from Loans	$ 1,000,000
Transit Services	$ 56,000
Total Funding into Pickens County 2015	**$ 3,855,862**
County's Annual Contribution to ACOG	**$ 45,593**

PICKENS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

2015 Highlights

All Municipalities

- Facilitated 3 HomeTown connection meetings at ACOG on behalf of South Carolina Municipal Association.
- Provided State mandated Planning Education Training sessions for Planning Commission, Board of Appeals, and staff members.

For every dollar that Pickens County invested in ACOG during 2015, $85 were returned to the County.

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 revised personnel policy and a Paid Time Off (PTO) policy; assisted city council with hiring of a new city administrator; and assisted with completion of updates to the City Zoning Ordinance;
- Worked with Easley and the Easley Combined Utilities on the development and submission of a CDBG application for Phase 2 of a project to upgrade sewer lines in the West End area of town. This project was approved and the bids have been received.
- Continued the administration of the CDBG grant for Phase 1 of the West End Sewer Project.
- Undertook administration activities for the ARC-funded Doodle Trail Trailhead project; the Environmental Review is underway.

Liberty

- Continued the administration of the CDBG grant for the $500,000 grant for the streetscape project on Commerce Street

Norris

- Continued the administration of the CDBG-funded purchase of a new fire truck

Pickens

- Worked with Pickens on the development and submission of a CDBG application to undertake water and sewer improvements along Ann Street; this project was approved and the environmental review and start up activities are underway; also continued to assist the with the ARC-funded project to renovate the auditorium of the Haygood Community Center; continued the administration of the Town Creek Park Project
- 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 "Entreprenuer 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

SPARTANBURG COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2015

- Approved $100,000 in loans to support local, small, entrepreneurial, and expanding businesses, thereby leveraging another $660,000 in private capital investment
- Provided $663,845 in services to seniors in Spartanburg County, which included home-delivered meals, congregate meals, transportation, health promotion, home care, legal assistance, minor home repair and family caregiver support
- 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 in hiring a new fire chief
- Worked on a routine basis with Spartanburg Economic Futures Group (EFG) staff 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 Spartanburg EFG to assist with industry retention and recruitment; specific activities included: ongoing addition and update of map layers; ongoing maintenance of information on available industrial properties through synchronization of the *InfoMentum* database with the SC Dept. of Commerce's *LocateSC* database; ongoing delivery of property information through maintenance of an EFG-branded website and property flyers.
- 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
- Worked with Spartanburg County's Water and Sewer Committee to begin updates to the Enoree plan 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
- Assisted County Planning Department with update of the Population Section as part of their Comprehensive Plan update process.

Services to Seniors	$ 663,845
Small Business and Entrepreneurial Loan Program	$ 100,000
Private Capital Resulting from Loans	$ 660,000
Federal Direct Grants	$ 786,250
Transit Services	$ 166,000
Total Funding into Spartanburg County 2015	**$ 2,376,095**
Annual Contribution to ACOG	**$ 111,436**

SPARTANBURG COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

2015 Highlights

All Municipalities

- Facilitated 3 HomeTown connection meetings at ACOG on behalf of South Carolina Municipal Association
- Provided State mandated Planning Education Training sessions for Planning Commission, Board of Appeals, and staff members

Campobello

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

Chesnee

- Worked with the City of Chesnee and the LCF Water District on the development and submission of a CDBG application for the Georgia Avenue Water Project; this project was approved and bids have been received
- Assisted the town council in the hiring of a new administrator

Duncan

- Served as a "roving administrator" for the town, providing day-to-day administrative services on a part-time basis, providing budget oversight, guidance, drafting of policies and procedures, supervision of staff, oversight of personnel issues, etc.

Inman

- Worked to develop and submit a CDBG application to undertake a streetscape project along Main Street and Mill Street in downtown Inman; this project was approved and the environmental review is underway
- Served as a "roving administrator" for the town, providing day-to-day administrative services on a part-time basis, providing budget oversight, guidance, drafting of policies and procedures, supervision of staff, oversight of personnel issues, etc.

For every dollar that Spartanburg County invested in ACOG during 2015, $21 were returned to the County.

Landrum

- Provided regular assistance to the city on budget matters and handling of tax and fee administration; also provided assistance related to PEBA retirement and health insurance concerns
- Assisted Landrum Fire District in establishing a new district and hiring a fire chief

Lyman

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

Pacolet

- Issued $35,829 in Permanent Improvement Project (PIP) grant funding for the town

Reidville

- Wrote an employee handbook and commission by-laws and also conducted supervision training for the Reidville Fire District

Spartanburg

- Provided assistance in the area of human resources (personnel)

Woodruff

- Assisted in the development and submission of a CDBG application to demolish a city-owned building and to clear and improve the site for greenspace; this project was approved and the environmental review is underway.

Meet the Board 2016

The Board and Staff of the Appalachian Council of Governments looks forward to a productive 2016. These are challenging times for many local governments and other public agencies. Please contact us if we can help in any way.

Anderson County

Ted Mattison	Francis Crowder	Cindy Wilson
Mack Durham	Mayor Terence Roberts	
Dennis Claramunt	Rick Laughridge	

Cherokee County

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Mayor Henry Jolly	Ernest Riley

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