



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

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Appalachian Council of Governments

Annual Report January-December 2016



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Serving six counties and forty-two municipalities since 1965

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Publication Information

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



ACOG Board Chair
Dennis Claramunt

"Our purpose is to enhance the lives of people living in the six-county South Carolina Appalachian Region."



Letter from Chairman Dennis Claramunt

We are pleased to provide this Annual Report for the Appalachian Council of Governments, covering activities and accomplishments in 2016.

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 provide 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 economic development support, 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis Claramunt".

Dennis Claramunt, Chair
Board of Directors

About ACOG

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

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

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

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

In 2016, 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 12,000 seniors and caregivers. This was a 35% increase from 2015.

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
- Veteran Directed Home and Community Based Services Program

A Glimpse Back at 2016

Ombudsman Program

The Ombudsman Program received 1,572 cases, 45% increase from 2015, on behalf of residents living in long term care facilities. 698 of those consults led to investigations of abuse, neglect, exploitation and other issues. In addition, the Volunteer Ombudsman Program helped with 985 "friendly" visits to facilities.

Family Caregiver Support Program

The Family Caregiver Support Program provided \$360,149 in supplies, in-home respite, educational tutoring, clothes, shoes and school supplies. Funding provided to caregivers increased by 12% during 2016.

Medicare Guidance

- Certified Insurance Counselors provided on-site awareness, education and enrollment assistance to 20% more Medicare beneficiaries in 2016 with 5,132 served. Increased outreach throughout the region was the main driver of the increase.
- More than 900 applications were completed for the Medicare Savings Program, and over 726 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.



Just over \$1 million in ARC and IRP loans were closed in 2016, thereby leveraging more than \$6.4 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 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 2016 Services

- Provided technical assistance to local governments and SPDs in the six-county region in the areas of personnel, municipal court administration, organizational behavior, retirement and health insurance, finance and taxation, and other local government issues
- Facilitated four 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 harassment
 - Provided assistance to small jurisdictions on budget matters and handling of tax and fee administration; advised on permitted uses of Accommodation and Hospitality Taxes; counseled jurisdictions on Freedom of Information and public communication issues; provided on-call assistance to town staff on public administration questions
 - Provided individual orientations to newly elected officials on matters of finance, public information and South Carolina local government law; routinely fielded questions from elected officials on a 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
 - Delivered interim staffing to the City of Anderson's Human Resources Department during transition following departure of long time HR Director.
 - Assisted communities with staffing searches including directly facilitating the recruitment, background check, and interview processes.



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.

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.



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

Grant applications submitted by ACOG in 2016 garnered more than \$2.7 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



Building Better Neighborhoods 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)



WorkLink 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 1,900 job seekers were served through 79 hiring events in 2016.

WorkLink funds programs for adults, dislocated workers and youth ages 17 to 24, along with supporting employers and businesses through the On-the-Job Training and Incumbent-Worker Training programs. In 2016, 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 2016

77,188 customers accessed job search services

18,379 customer visits to SC Works Centers in Anderson, Clemson, Easley and Seneca

1,919 job seekers were served through **79** hiring events; **739** job seekers found employment

1,133 workshops and other group activities were held

4,000+ eighth-graders 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.

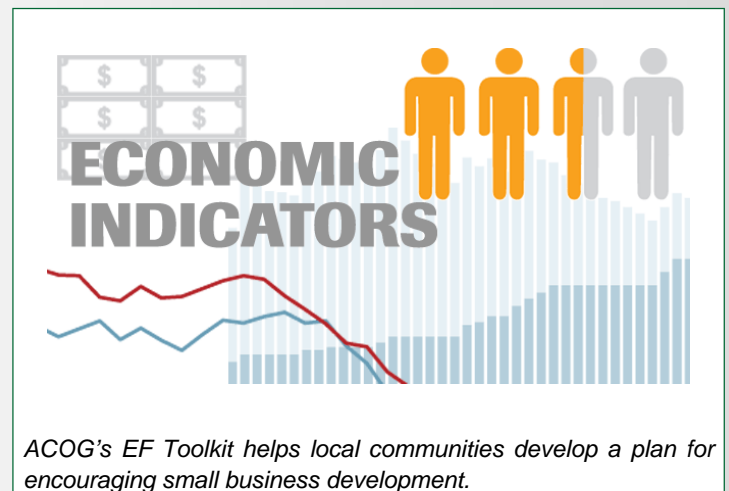
2016 REGIONAL PLANNING INITIATIVES

The Regional Economic Indicators Project

Under a shared planning grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, ACOG completed a special "Economic Indicators" reports in 2016. The report focused on the pre and post-recession performance of key industry "clusters" in the Appalachian region.

InfoMentum Online Program

Completed the "*InfoMentum Mobile*" App which is a series of mobile websites for each county which allows users to quickly search for and share detailed property information with prospects from their mobile devices. The project was selected for a 2016 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation.



Mauldin Customized Property Search Tool

Worked with the City of Mauldin to develop a custom property search website that helps market office and commercial space within the City. The site allows prospective entrepreneurs to search for properties and buildings through a range of search criteria and have access to custom-branded site and building flyers for each property. This effort helps the City of Mauldin promote economic development through recruitment and business retention. This project is the second of two pilot projects that are part of our efforts to increase the tools we can offer to serve local governments throughout the region.

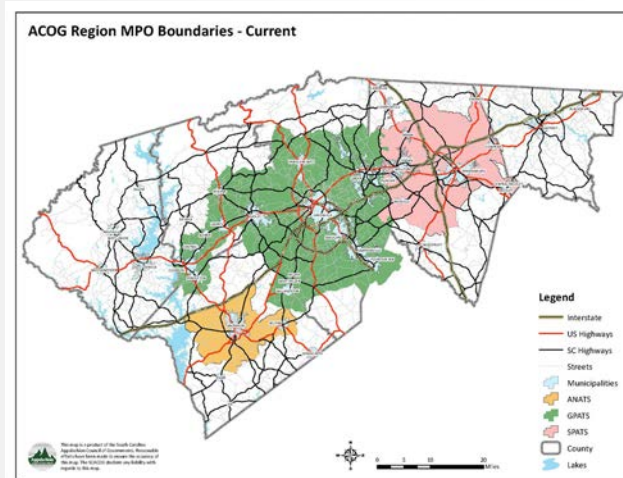
Planning & Economic Development

Planning Assistance

- Assisted Westminster, Belton, Pendleton, and Spartanburg County with updates to their Comprehensive Plans.
- Worked with Chesnee, Honea Path, Easley, Inman and Cherokee County on updating parts of their zoning and land development ordinances.
- Staff provided state required planning education to 103 planning commission and board of appeals members from communities throughout the region.
- Coordinated the Federal Clean Water Act Section 208 Water Quality Management Plan activities and reviewed 162 Section 208 compliance applications. In addition, staff facilitated discussions to update the plan for the Enoree Basin.
- The 2016 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

- Completed work on the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) focusing on transportation activities within the rural portion of our region. The LRTP defines overarching goals for transportation in our region, establishes existing and future transportation needs, and allocates projected revenue to transportation programs and projects that address those needs.
- Assisted local transit providers in developing applications for funding the purchase of services and vehicles for transit needs in the Region. Four agencies submitted applications requesting total funding of \$187,721. Three of four applications received funding totaling \$139,721.



Community Development

- Worked with community stakeholders and leaders in Gaffney to develop the Tank Branch Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. The declining neighborhood has begun to see a revival of late. The planning effort helped city leaders and residents attempt to coalesce around the idea of neighborhood revitalization. The plan identifies key projects and implementation strategies that the city will focus on to help support the revitalization of the Tank Branch Neighborhood.

ANDERSON COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2016



- Approved \$70,000 in loans to support local, small, entrepreneurial, and expanding Anderson County businesses, thereby leveraging another \$177,000 in private capital investment and the retention of existing jobs
- Provided \$792,271 in services to seniors in Anderson County which included home-delivered meals, congregate meals, transportation, health promotion, homemaker services, legal assistance, minor home repair, family caregiver support, and education
- 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
- Continued to work 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 has received a Brownfields RLF loan to meet the ARC match and to cap the site; also continued to work with the county and Sandy Springs Water District on the administration of a CDBG project to upgrade water lines in the LaFrance area; 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 12 homes in the county and Belton during 2016 with a total investment of \$293,620
- 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

***In 2016,
for every
dollar
invested
by
Anderson
County,
ACOG
programs
returned
\$35.***

ANDERSON COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

2016 Highlights

All Municipalities

- Facilitated four HomeTown Connection meetings at ACOG on behalf of South Carolina Municipal Association.

Anderson

- Staff served as acting human resources director; completed staffing level analysis for the Neighborhood and Transit Division.
- Maintained 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; continued to work on the administration of a CDBG project for the Belton Stringer Street Sewer Upgrade Project
- Worked with the city to update their Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

Honea Path

- Provided technical assistance related to zoning administration and planning issues

Iva

- Worked on administrative activities for the Iva Water Tank Project funded with CDBG funds. The project is under construction and almost complete.
- Assisted with the development and submission of a CDBG application for a streetscape project in downtown Iva. This project was approved and the environmental review and startup activities are underway.

Pendleton

- Continued with the administrative activities for the Westinghouse Sewer Upgrade project.
- Continued to work on the administrative activities for the CDBG-funded Pendleton Streetscape project.
- Assisted with completion of the Pendleton Comprehensive Plan following the departure of the Town's Planner.

Powersville

- Worked with Powersville Water District to submit an application to ARC to assist with the funding of the I-85 Corridor Water Extension Project. This project has been funded, and bids have been received.

Williamston

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

Services to Seniors	\$792,271
Federal Direct Grants	\$773,628
Workforce Development	\$ 1,015,836
Small Business and Entrepreneurial Loan Program	\$ 70,000
Private Capital Resulting from Loans	\$ 177,000
Transit Services	\$ 53,321
Total Funding into Anderson County 2016	\$ 2,882,056
County's Annual Contribution to ACOG	\$ 81,260

CHEROKEE COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2016



- Provided \$407,058 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
- Continued to host and maintain 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
- Assisted the Cherokee County DSN Board's application to SCDOT for Section 5310 Funds to purchase an ADA compliant 12 passenger vehicle to improve transit options for seniors and persons with disabilities.

CHEROKEE COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

*In 2016,
for every
dollar
invested
by
Cherokee
County,
ACOG
programs
returned
\$40.*

2016 Highlights

All Municipalities

- Facilitated four 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; This project has now been completed.
- Worked on the administration of an ARC grant to construct sewer lines along Highway 5
- Continued to provide technical assistance related to community development, planning, and zoning issues



ACOG worked on the administration of an ARC grant a to construct sewer lines along Highway 5

Gaffney

- Provided assistance with matters related to human resources (personnel)
- Worked with the city to develop the Tank Branch Neighborhood Revitalization Plan in cooperation with residents, stakeholders, and community leaders; 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
- Worked with the city to submit a CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization grant application to improve the Tank Branch area, which has been approved
- Worked with the city to submit an application for ARC funds to assist with the development of the Gaffney Park and Amphitheater Project; ARC has approved the project, and startup activities are underway.

Services to Seniors	\$ 407,058
Federal Direct Grants	\$ 579,000
Transit Services	\$ 48,000
Total Funding into Cherokee County 2016	\$ 1,034,058
County's Annual Contribution to ACOG	\$ 25,685

GREENVILLE COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2016



- Approved \$210,000 in loans to support local, small, entrepreneurial, and expanding businesses, thereby leveraging another \$645,000 in capital investment and the retention of 17 Greenville County jobs
- Provided \$1,586,410 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

**For every
dollar
invested by
Greenville
County,
ACOG
programs
generated
\$15.**

- 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 Parker Fire Districts with matters related to personnel and FLSA; began the task of writing an employee handbook for the Parker Fire District; conducted board training for all Greenville County fire districts; conducted presentations in the areas of ethics, diversity, sexual harassment, 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

GREENVILLE COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

2016 Highlights

All Municipalities

- Facilitated four 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.

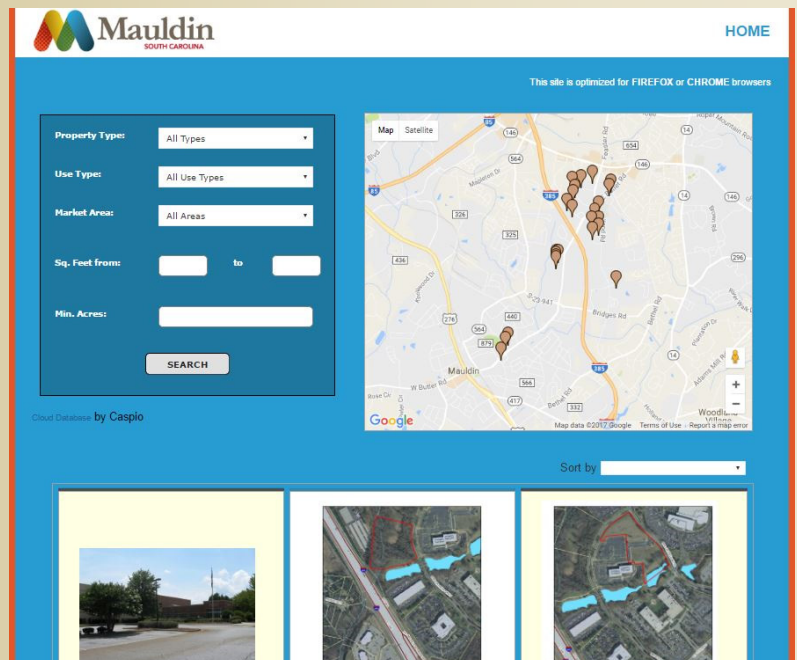


Greenville

- Provided temporary staffing assistance to the City's Planning Department over several months. Assisted with plan review, preparing reports, and staffing Planning Commission and Design Review Board meetings.

Mauldin

- Developed a website to market the city's available office, commercial and industrial properties; the website incorporated a user interface that enabled city staff to upload and maintain property information.



Taylors

- Worked with Taylors Town Square to provide technical assistance on working through meeting regulatory requirements as they made improvements to the Historic Taylors Mill and staged a weekly Farmers Market from May to September in addition to hosting *MadeSouth Market*, a gathering of the top makers and artisans in the south for a weekend event at the Mill that attracted over 3,000 people.

Travelers Rest

- Facilitated a council planning retreat for the city and helped council review goals and establish budget objectives for the coming year.

ACOG Aging Services Program	\$1,586,410
Small Business & Entrepreneurial Loan Program	\$210,000
Private Capital Resulting from Loans	\$645,000
Total Funding into Greenville County 2016	\$ 2,441,410
County's Annual Contribution to ACOG	\$161,274

OCONEE COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2016

- Provided \$353,082 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
- 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
- Provided overview of Hospitality and Accommodations Tax regulations, administration, and funding strategies to Destination Oconee group as they explored how revenues could promote tourism development in Oconee County.
- 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.



OCONEE COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

2016 Highlights



All Municipalities

- Facilitated four 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 the Chicopee Mill Water Project - Phase Two, which is now completed and closed out; also worked with the city on the administration of the ARC-funded Downtown Improvements/Streetscape Project; the construction of this project is complete, and the closeout project is underway.

Westminster

- Continued with administration activities for the CDBG-funded Hampton Street Sewer Upgrade Project; also continued with the administration activities for the CDBG funded Electrical Transformers Upgrade Project, which is now complete.
- Began update of the Westminster Comprehensive Plan, working with the Planning Commission and key stakeholders to identify strategic issues the community will need to address in the next 10 years.

West Union

- Worked with the city to develop and submit an application for CDBG funds to undertake water system improvements in the Schroeder Street/Burns Mill Road area; the project was approved and the environmental review is complete.



For every dollar invested by Oconee County in 2016, ACOG programs generated \$35.

Federal Direct Grants	\$ 278,693
Workforce Development	\$ 433,754
Services to Seniors	\$ 353,082
Transit Services	\$ 38,400
Total Funding into Oconee County 2016	\$ 1,103,929
County's Annual Contribution to ACOG	\$ 31,632

PICKENS COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2016



- Approved \$142,500 in loans to support local, small, entrepreneurial, and expanding businesses, thereby leveraging another \$475,000 in private capital investment
- Provided \$487,082 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
- 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
- Continued to work with the county and the Easley Central Water District on the CDBG-funded project to undertake sewer improvements in the Cateechee Village community; this project is under construction and almost complete
- 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



Services to Seniors	\$ 487,082
Federal Direct Grants	\$ 580,000
Workforce Development	\$825,517
Small Business & Entrepreneurial Loan Program	\$ 142,500
Private Capital Resulting from Loans	\$ 475,000
Total Funding into Pickens County 2016	\$ 2,510,099
County's Annual Contribution to ACOG	\$ 50,939

PICKENS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

2016 Highlights

All Municipalities

- Facilitated four 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.

Easley

- Worked with Easley and the Easley Combined Utilities on the development and submission of a CDBG application for Phase Three 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 Two of the West End Sewer Project, which is now complete
- Continued the administration activities for the ARC-funded Doodle Trail Trailhead Project.

Liberty

- Continued the administration of the \$500,000 CDBG grant for the streetscape project on Commerce Street; this project is complete and in the closeout process
- Completed Downtown Market Analysis for Liberty in conjunction with Commerce Street project to identify retail targets for the community to focus on recruiting

Norris

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

Pickens

- Continued to work with the city on the administration of a CDBG-funded project to undertake water and sewer improvements along Ann Street; continued to assist the city with the ARC-funded project to renovate the auditorium of the Haygood Community Center
- Provided technical assistance to the city's planning staff, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Board of Architectural Review as they transitioned to in house staffing of the administration of the City's Zoning Ordinance



For every dollar that Pickens County invested in ACOG during 2016, \$49 were returned to the County.

SPARTANBURG COUNTY

A Glimpse at 2016



- Approved \$597,500 in loans to support local, small, entrepreneurial, and expanding businesses, thereby leveraging another \$5,181,850 in private capital investment
- Provided \$659,536 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
- 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 staff and Water and Sewer Committee to establish future service areas for sewer providers in the Enoree and Tyger River Basins. These service areas were approved by County Council and will help guide sewer development and the coordination between service providers for the next 20 years
- Assisted County Planning Department with update of the Population Section as part of their Comprehensive Plan update process
- Assisted the County Parks Department with customized mapping services in support of their County Parks Planning effort

Services to Seniors	\$ 659,536
Small Business and Entrepreneurial Loan Program	\$ 597,500
Private Capital Resulting from Loans	\$ 5,181,850
Federal Direct Grants	\$ 500,000
Total Funding into Spartanburg County 2016	\$ 6,938,886
Annual Contribution to ACOG	\$ 119,567

SPARTANBURG COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

2016 Highlights

All Municipalities

- Facilitated four 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

Chesnee

- Continued to work with the city and the LCF Water District on the CDBG-funded Georgia Avenue Water Upgrade Project; the project is now complete.

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.
- Assisted in the hiring of a full-time administrator, helping with the search, interviews, and background checks during the process.

Inman

- Continued to work with the city on the CDBG-funded project to undertake downtown streetscape improvements; also worked to develop and submit an ARC application to provide additional funding and to expand the project; this project was approved and the startup activities are 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.
- Assisted in the hiring of a full-time administrator, helping with the search, interviews, and background checks during the process.

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



Lyman

- Continued administrative activities for the \$500,000 CDBG grant for the Lyman Mill Village Sewer Project; this project is complete and in the closeout process.

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

- Continued to assist in the administration of a CDBG-funded project to demolish a city-owned building and to clear and improve the site for green space

For every dollar that Spartanburg County invested in ACOG during 2016, \$58 were returned to the County.

Meet the Board 2017

The Board and Staff of the Appalachian Council of Governments looks forward to a productive 2017. 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	Cindy Wilson
Mack Durham	Mayor Terence Roberts
Dennis Claramunt	Rick Laughridge

Cherokee County

Rep. Dennis C. Moss	Rufus Foster, Jr.	David Cauthen
Ed Elliott	Mayor Henry Jolly	

Greenville County

Brandy Amidon	Lillian Brock Flemming	Butch Kirven
Joe Dill	Rev. Grady Butler	Willis Meadows
Gaye Sprague	Don Godbey	Ennis Fant, Sr.

Oconee County

Sen. Thomas C. Alexander	Edda Cammick	Bill Brockington
Bob Winchester	Bennie Cunningham	

Pickens County

G. Neil Smith	Ensley Feemster	Mayor Larry Bagwell
Rep. Neal A. Collins		

Spartanburg County

Rep. Mike Forrester	Roger Nutt	Justin Bradley
Jane Hall	Mayor Junie White	Elbert S. Tillerson, Sr.
Michael Brown	Larry Chappell	

Regional Members

Francis Crowder	Ernest Riley
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