



COG
LOWER SAVANNAH

Council of Governments
Ralph F. Cullinan Building

2748

2021 Annual Report

Our Mission

It is the mission of the Lower Savannah Council of Governments to work with and on behalf of local governments to develop, implement and administer plans, programs and projects in cooperation with local, state and national stakeholders, to improve the quality of life for residents in the Lower Savannah Region.

Our Vision

Our vision is to be a nationally recognized, comprehensive resource that facilitates regional issues through innovative and cooperative partnerships.

Our Values

The Lower Savannah Council of Governments' Board, Management and Staff are committed to the highest ethical standards of professional service, leadership and integrity. They strive together in service to the region to utilize problem solving techniques and develop a creative outlook for the future.

The success of the organization depends on the talents, skills, and expertise of its board and staff working as a team. Lower Savannah Council of Governments' understands the importance of its mission and vision and values the trust placed in this organization by the people it serves.

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David Summers,
Calhoun County,
celebrated 40 years of
service on the Lower
Savannah Council of
Government Board of
Directors.



Above: Palmetto Priority is a formal commitment made by South Carolina restaurateurs to provide a clean and safe environment for their staff and customers to demonstrate the extensive precautions that they are taking to prevent the spread of Covid-19.



Left: SC WIRE bag delivery containing personal hygiene items provided to residents of Community Residential Care Facilities. These deliveries were made possible by partnership with the LSCOG and the SC Department on Aging.

Message from the Chairman



What a year! What a year! With the pandemic continuing to linger and taking in the lessons we learned in 2020, the year 2021 has been a momentous year to reflect and reboot.

Despite the pandemic, closures, economic issues, volatile government decision, and ever changing working conditions, the COG has continued to provide the highest quality of services to its member counties and municipal jurisdictions. Board and staff members are continually looking for new opportunities to bring funding to our region which will provide innovative programs and initiatives to improve the region's quality of life.

As rural communities we had to step out of the comfortable, and look for new ways to serve our citizens, by shifting from creating jobs to creating qualified workers for the numerous jobs left vacant during this social reboot. Reprioritizing infrastructure by placing broadband as an immediate priority for the future of education in the rural area. Place concerns for affordable housing and homelessness at the forefront. Reevaluate how services are

provided in the senior centers, by increasing in home services to our elderly, low income, and rural communities.

The Lower Savannah Council of Governments Board of Directors have found new and innovative ways to meet and communicate from the use of virtual meetings to hybrid meetings using both in person and virtual attendance. These methods have proven to be great ways to increase board participation and reduce meeting time.

We are coming to realize the short-term impact of the virus, although difficult, has inspired long-term innovative changes, in our individual communities and the Lower Savannah Region as a whole.

Thank you, to the Lower Savannah COG Board, Executive Director and Staff for your collaboration and collective efforts to serve this region. This year you have proven you have what it takes to reach our vision "To be a nationally recognized, comprehensive resource that facilitates regional issues through innovative and cooperative partnerships."

Enjoy the holidays and look forward to a blessed prosperous new year.

David Kenner, Chairman
LSCOG Board of Directors

Message from the Executive Director



2021 was an “up and down” year for everyone. The resurgence of the coronavirus, vaccines, and the economic relief acts dominated much of our lives. Once again, the LSCOG Board and the staff’s priorities were threefold, to keep our employees safe, to work with federal and state organizations in the disbursement of relief funds, and to continue to serve our partner governments and clients.

During the last year, Council staff coordinated and administered numerous federal funding streams for the region including the 2020 Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Beyond carrying out our routine programs, the staff worked with local governments and agencies to coordinate and disperse CARES funds to regional food banks, county councils on aging, and our technical colleges. In addition, we worked with our local county partners to apply for federal transportation funds and worked with many South Carolina organizations to ensure that small municipalities correctly filed for ARPA funding. We continue to

work with these organizations to help develop state ARPA regulations. This is not a one-shot event; we will be working with local and state partners for years to coordinate and administer ARPA funds. In 2021, we began to receive the following ARPA funds:

- \$2.1m (over 3 years) from the South Carolina Department of Aging to assist with home and congregate meals, family caregiver and homemakers’ services, etc.
- \$3.85m (over 9 years) from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development in additional funding to support the construction of new low-income homes and our home restoration program
- In addition, we are working with our counties and municipalities on ARPA spending strategies and with our legislative delegations and state agencies to develop regulations for infrastructure investments. These funds are meant to be transformative, and the proper coordination of these funds is essential for the well-being of the region

The LSCOG Board and staff continue to work diligently to find short and long-term solutions to regional infrastructure challenges and opportunities.

I want to thank 2020-2021 Chairman Andrew Siders and 2021-2022 Chairman David Kenner and the Board for guiding the Council through another difficult year.

I wish you all a safe holiday season,
Dr. William Molnar

About LSCOG

Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG) is one of ten regional organizations in South Carolina which coordinates cooperative development among local governments. Regional planning organizations are associations of local governments that seek regional solutions for common problems. COGs strengthen the individual and collective power of member counties and municipalities and help identify regional opportunities. They provide guidance and act as advisors when needed, but do not have authority over member counties. COGs are the middleman between local governments and public agencies to secure funding, promote projects and encourage growth on a regional level.

LSCOG, established in 1967, serves Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg counties. All six counties help to fund our programs and receive a positive return on investment. Representatives from each county make up our Board of Directors, who act as the final decision makers for the COG.

The COG is governed by a Board of Directors, composed of thirty-nine members, who are appointed by participating county governments. The Board set policy and provide direction to the COG's programs, with guidance from the Executive Director and COG staff.

Our programs are divided into four divisions: Administration and Marketing; Aging, Disability and Transportation; Planning, Community and Economic Development; and Workforce Development. Staff assist the aging population of the region; administer regional transportation programs; plan for future land use in communities; provide grant writing and administration services; provide workforce training and development; Market the region to bring in tourist; and much more. All of our programs and services help local governments best serve their constituents.

Programs are funded through a variety of sources, including federal and state grants, and contributions from local governments. Major funding sources include the Economic Development Administration, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, SC Department of Transportation, SC Department of Commerce, S.C. Department of Aging, the Older Americans Act and SC Department of Employment and Workforce.

In addition to our major funding sources, we work with several partners throughout the region to administer or fund our programs and services. These partnerships help our programs flourish in the Region. Partners include the United Way of Aiken County, Savannah River Site Redevelopment Authority, Savannah River Site Retiree Association, school districts across the region and many others.

Like our sister-organizations across the state, Lower Savannah Council of Governments continually promotes a greater understanding of regional issues and opportunities. We encourage our partners and local governments to work together to enhance efficiency and effectiveness, and search for innovative ways to improve the quality of life for residents. Our staff and board are committed to ensuring that all six counties' needs are served.

Board of Directors 2021-2022



David Kenner
Chairman
Barnwell County



James Haigler
Vice Chairman
Calhoun County



Michael Butler
Treasurer
Orangeburg County

AIKEN COUNTY



Roger Boyd



Gary Bunker



Danny Feagin



Willar Hightower



Lessie Price



Andrew Siders



John Simmons



Thomas Williams

ALLENDALE COUNTY



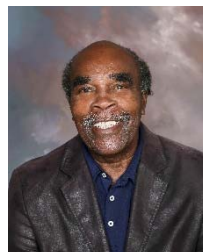
Larry Cohen



Rebecca Gooding



Dorothy Riley



William Robinson



Dawan Smith



Theresa Taylor

BAMBERG COUNTY



Jerry Bell



Clint Carter



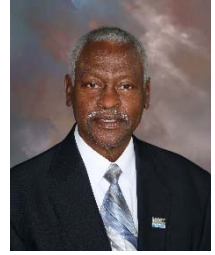
Marvin Dueck



Sharon Hammond



Larry Haynes



Dr. Gerald Wright

BARNWELL COUNTY



Daniel Alexander



Freddie Houston



Ben Kinlaw



Jason Stapleton



Thomas L. Williams

CALHOUN COUNTY



Helen Carson-Peterson



Roger Hill



John McLaughlin



Ken Westbury

*Not pictured – John Nelson

ORANGEBURG COUNTY



Janie Cooper-Smith



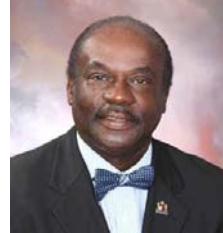
Deloris Frazier



Joseph Garvin



Johnny Ravenell



Senator
Vernon Stephens



Harry Wimberly

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS



Representative
Justin Bamberg



Representative
Lonnie Hosey



Senator
Brad Hutto



Representative
Melissa Oremus



Representative
Russell Ott

HONORED BOARD MEMBERS



Heyward Livingston
Passed away 2021

Program Funding by County 1969-2021

Program Funding by County 1969-2021									
Program	AIKEN COUNTY	ALLEDALE COUNTY	BAMBERG COUNTY	BARNWELL COUNTY	CALHOUN COUNTY	ORANGEBURG COUNTY	REGIONAL PROGRAMS	TOTAL FUNDS BY PROGRAM	
Economic Development Administration (EDA)	\$24,192,009	\$5,791,857	\$10,343,227	\$14,030,952	\$3,220,409	\$27,747,460	\$3,671,987	\$88,997,901	
Community Development (CDBG)	16,511,267	15,807,787	15,684,243	27,787,987	10,071,427	20,903,297	1,755,000	108,521,008	
USDA Rural Development	0	0	0	0	0	30,834,500	0	30,834,500	
Highway Safety Programs	204,778	41,160	43,412	30,000	29,650	75,995	0	424,995	
Historic Preservation Programs	75,752	0	0	15,000	0	0	0	90,752	
Housing and Urban Development (HOME)	821,048	818,010	1,150,608	287,160	247,428	2,718,939	999,166	7,042,359	
Local Planning	73,030	5,250	3,055	19,261	11,923	17,902	0	130,421	
Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP)	1,442,234	98,037	277,045	184,597	113,810	2,232,986	0	4,348,709	
Recreation Funds	807,787	45,240	55,780	182,528	24,856	316,917	0	1,433,108	
Local Development Corporation	1,711,000	0	645,000	198,528	3,635	2,524,000	0	5,082,163	
Area Agency on Aging Programs	19,639,266	6,609,744	8,496,231	9,240,487	7,461,026	16,538,813	11,043,910	79,029,478	
Tourism Programs	34,400	0	0	0	0	0	7,273,996	7,308,396	
Farmers Home Administration	0	600,000	0	0	84,000	591,400	0	1,275,400	
Workforce Development Programs	41,090,351	8,080,403	12,132,118	13,788,621	5,449,762	48,876,468	0	129,417,723	
Transit and Transportation Programs	16,769,936	16,294,926	15,266,609	11,178,925	10,033,520	57,347,559	36,895,552	163,787,027	
Energy Efficiency Block Grants	78,949	0	0	174,304	0	283,588	0	536,841	
Medication Assistance Program	12,059,922	0	0	0	0	0	0	12,059,922	
SRS Retirees Program	3,113,270	42,576	71,431	432,357	0	38,010	0	3,697,644	
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	104,250	104,250	
Regional and Local Planning Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,225,618	1,225,618	
Loan Programs	1,163,925	1,055,699	805,100	1,791,000	200,000	3,901,000	18,424,526	27,341,250	
Total Funds Received	\$139,788,924	\$55,290,689	\$64,973,859	\$79,341,707	\$36,951,446	\$214,948,834	\$81,394,004	\$672,689,464	
Total Assessments	\$3,371,060	\$297,838	\$444,622	\$558,404	\$365,005	\$2,218,768	\$7,255,697	\$7,255,697	
Total Return on Investment	\$41	\$186	\$146	\$142	\$101	\$97	\$93	\$93	

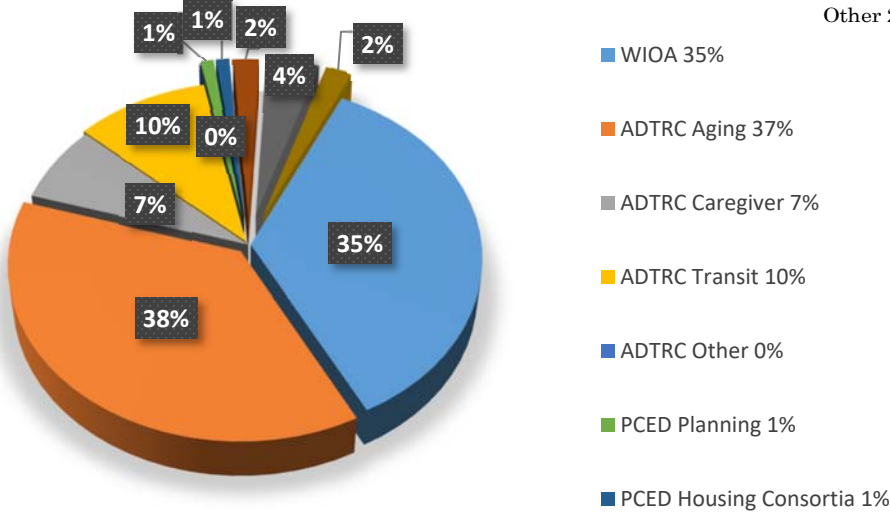
Updated 11/2021

2020-2021 Budget Summary

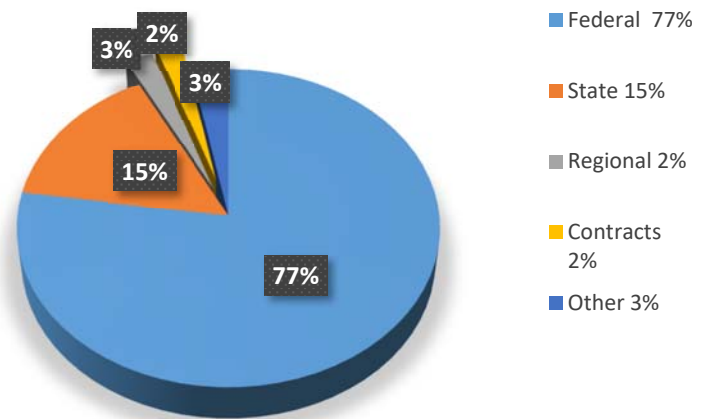
FY 20-21 REVENUE BY PROGRAM

Program	Revenue
WIOA 35%	\$ 3,726,877
ADTRC-Aging 37%	\$ 4,023,184
ADTRC-Caregiver 7%	\$ 720,730
ADTRC-Transit 10%	\$ 1,087,716
ADTRC-Other 1%	\$ 21,566
PCED-Planning 1%	\$ 153,738
PCED-Housing Consortia * 1%	\$ 143,983
PCED-Community & Economic Development * 2%	\$ 250,864
Tourism 4%	\$ 380,469
Other 2%	\$ 254,939

FY 20-21 REVENUE BY PROGRAM



FY 20-21 REVENUE BY SOURCE



Source	Revenue
Federal 73%	\$ 8,327,803
State 19%	\$ 1,626,973
Regional 2%	\$ 257,911
Contracts 3%	\$ 230,262
Other 3%	\$ 321,118
Total	\$ 10,764,067

Aging, Disability & Transportation Resource Center (ADTRC)

Lower Savannah Council of Governments operates South Carolina's only Aging, Disability and Transportation Resource Center. The Resource Center's mission is to inform and assist people in our region with topics related to aging, disabilities, family caregiving, benefits, and transit.

Programs and Services

Aging staff manages all Older Americans Act Program contracts. Aging staff also conduct client assessments for services under the Older Americans Act like group dining, home delivered meals, home care, family caregiver and transportation.

Information and Referral staff provide callers with information on available resources to meet identified needs as well as educate callers about area programs for seniors, people with disabilities and their caregivers.

SHIP- Senior Health Insurance Program, provides Medicare beneficiaries with counseling regarding benefits and Medicare, Savings Programs and about Medicare fraud.

Family Caregiver Support Program provides education and assistance for caregivers and seniors raising children.

Elderly Legal Services Program provides limited legal assistance to seniors 60 years of age or older.

Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program advocates for Residents' Rights in licensed facilities like nursing homes and residential care facilities. Also conducts complaint investigations with resident consent.

Mobility Management and Transit staff coordinates transportation resources for the elderly, persons with disabilities and travel requests, as well as assist in the development of transportation projects within the region.

Aiken County Urban Transit Operations manages the Best Friend Express Transit Service.

Medication Assistance Program - A Program of United Way of Aiken County. Assists Aiken County individuals who have no health insurance benefits with personal assistance to complete all necessary paperwork to apply to pharmaceutical company programs which may provide free or low-cost maintenance prescription medications.

Savannah River Site (SRS) Retiree Association Resource Center - A Partnership with LSCOG/ADTRC provides education to retirees about their insurance benefits, Medicare and the enrollment process.

ADTRC STAFF

Wallace White	Human Services (ADTRC) Director, Aging & Disability Programs Manager
Susan Garen	LTC Ombudsman/Volunteer Services Manager
Alanna Berrie	HS Programs Specialist Ombudsman
Linda Al-Jabere	Customer Care Specialist
Nikki Cannon	HS Programs Specialist I&R & SHIP/SMP Coordinator
Vickie Jackson	Mobility Management Specialist
Hannah Stone	HS Programs Specialist Caregiver Services
Dana Luttrull	HS Grants Compliance Coordinator Transit
Vickie Richardson	HS Programs Specialist Assessment Coordinator
Sabrina Balz	HS Programs Specialist Assessment Coordinator
Karen Bedgood	HS Programs Specialist Assessment Coordinator
Mary Williams	HS Integrated Program Specialist I&R
Dorothy Faust	ADTRC Finance Clerk
Ellen Heim	Medication Assistance Program Coordinator
Laureen Feinman	SRS Retiree Association Resource Center Manager
Sandy Zasadil	Medication Assistance Program

Aging, Disability & Transportation Resource Center (ADTRC)

Operation Spread the Joy

On December 17, 2020, the residents of Blackville Health and Rehabilitation Center were the recipients of gifts made by inmates of the Allendale Correctional Institution in the second round of giving under the program, Operation Spread the Joy. The Lower Savannah Regional LTC Ombudsman Program staff nominated the facility. Residents received a variety of gifts including tote bags, face coverings, lap blankets, stuffed animals, and paintings. All of which were created by the inmates who through their completion in various programs earn the opportunity to take part in the art or practical skills classes.



Nadean Macean, Jessica Hutto, Coach Salmond, Preston Ellison, and Alanna Berrie

Operation Spread the Joy Program of 2020 is a partnership of SC Department on Aging and SC Department of Corrections where inmates across the state make gifts for residents of long-term care facilities. Blackville Health and Rehabilitation Staff receiving the gifts on behalf of the residents were Jessica Hutto and Nadean Macean. Representatives from Allendale Correctional Institution presenting the gifts were Mr. Preston Ellison, Program Coordinator, and Coach Salmond. Susan Garen, Regional LTC Ombudsman, and Alanna Berrie, Ombudsman Specialist, were present at the facility for the presentation.

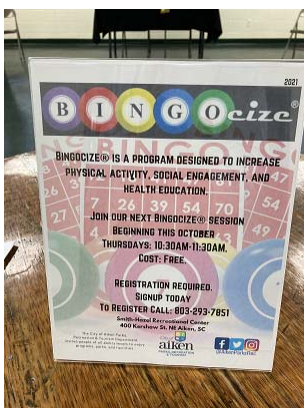
Joy for All



Through our Family Caregiver Program, we were granted 8 robotic cats and dogs from the South Carolina Department on Aging to use with our seniors who are affected with Alzheimer's or a dementia related illness. These pets given to clients in our region, with a pre and post-test given to capture the benefits of having one of these pets. These animals are battery operated and the cats will purr, roll on their backs, and have soft fur. The puppies lightly bark, pant, and have soft fur as well. If you give these pets some loving, you can feel their sweet heart beat!

Moving & Shaking

The Center for Healthy Aging sponsored a new program called Evidence-Based Program: Bingocize, which is a health education program designed to incorporate exercise, nutrition, and falls prevention within the game of Bingo. This program targets sedentary older adults, in a variety of settings including certified nursing facilities, assisted living, independent living, and community senior centers.







Aging, Disability & Transportation Resource Center (ADTRC)

ADTRC *Aging, Disability,
Transportation Resource Center*



2020-2021 Year In Review

2,811 Senior Assessments	MAP Prescription savings	Prescription applications
	\$829,049	435
4,913 Dial-A-Ride trips	 4,411 Contacts for assistance	
20,337 Trips for BFE Public Transit	690 Caregiver Grants \$594,944	6,912 Mobility service calls
414 Medicare Enrollments		963 OMB Resident Contacts
	\$180,012 Medicare Plan Savings	147 Received Legal Services
		

Planning, Community and Economic Development (PCED)

Planning Staff assists local governments with the development of comprehensive plans, land use plans and zoning ordinances. The planning department maintains and updates the regional Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), which details roadway improvement projects funded by SCDOT's Guideshare program.



Community Development Staff work with governments in our region to develop and implement projects that improve the quality of life for area residents. These projects include critical improvements to water/sewer/drainage systems, demolition of dilapidated government-owned buildings and vacant housing, creation of health clinics in under-served areas, modifications to public facilities to ensure accessibility and other projects that meet other urgent community needs.

Economic Development The Lower Savannah region of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg counties is a designated Economic Development District through the US Economic Development Administration (EDA). The Economic Development staff assist the region with eligibility for EDA grants through the development and implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs), which identifies and promotes projects that strengthen the regional economy.



Lower Savannah Regional Housing Consortium

(LSRHC) LSRHC is a regional program designed to aid participating jurisdictions in implementing local housing strategies to increase the supply of decent, affordable housing for low and very low-income households. This is primarily accomplished through the construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income renters and homeowners.

All four departments work closely with local, state, and federal governments to make the Lower Savannah region a better place.

Planning, Community and Economic Development (PCED)

Lower Savannah Council of Governments assisted the City of Denmark with a fall 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application that was recently awarded by the SC Department of Commerce. The City will receive \$366,300 in CDBG funds to obtain a new rescue pumper fire truck for its municipal fire department. The truck will help serve the entirety of the Denmark Fire Department's fire zone that encompasses approximately 80 square miles of northwestern Bamberg County.



Barnwell County, SC Rail Spur

EDA Supplemental: Labor Market Analysis

Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG) has been working through an Economic Development Administration (EDA) initiative to evaluate the economic injury sustained in our region due to COVID – 19. LSCOG has commissioned Dr. Joey Von Nessen and his colleagues from the USC Darla Moore School of Business – Division of Research to conduct a Regional Labor Market Needs, Recovery and Resiliency Analysis for our area (Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Orangeburg, and Calhoun). The purpose of this research project is to complete a comprehensive assessment of the six-county LSCOG region that documents (1) the economic impact to the region that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic along with the economic recovery that the region has experienced to date and (2) the opportunities that the region has to maximize its future economic growth in the coming years based on the current strengths and weaknesses of the region with respect to industry and workforce composition, emerging regional industry clusters, population and migration patterns, and other major macroeconomic factors.

PCED STAFF

Emory Langston
Brooke Morris
Yolonda Buchanan
Dan Cherry
Eric Carrier
Leslie Crawford
Ashley Baker
Meizi Wolven

PCED Administrator
Community and Economic Development Projects Manager
Housing Coordinator
Housing Inspector
Planner
GIS Planner / Environmental
Community Development Grants Coordinator
Economic Disaster Recovery Coordinator

2020-2021 Year In Review

Serving
6 Counties
46 Municipalities

Comprehensive Plan
 and Zoning Updates

FEMA Hazardous
 Mitigation Plans

**1 County and 5
 Municipalities**

Aiken, Allendale,
 Barnwell, Bamberg, and
 Calhoun



E.D.A

**Economic Injury Assessment Grant – Phase 1
 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
 Resilience Update**

**Community
 Development Block
 Grants Regular
 Program (CDBG)
 13 Projects
 \$5 Million**

**CDBG Projects in the LSCOG
 Region Include**

Elevated Water Tank, Water System
 Pump Upgrade, Residential Blight
 Demolition, Upgrades to Wastewater
 Treatment Plants, Downtown
 Streetscapes, Fire Truck,
 Neighborhood Water System
 Upgrades



LSRHC -HOME Program

**2 Edisto Habitat Homes
 4 Homeowner Occupied Rehabs
 3 Affordable Duplexes (6 Units)
 4 Affordable New Construction Homes
 1 Affordable Renovated Home
 2021 Allocation - \$1,063,804**



**Lower Savannah
 Regional Housing
 Consortium
 28 Members Strong**



CDBG-CV

Community Development
 Block Grant Coronavirus
 Funds -CARES ACT

\$1,287,725.00

Food Services and Meal
 Assistance and Healthcare
 Job Training



Regional Transportation
\$84.9 Million
*In Rural
 Transportation
 Project*

Thoroughbred Country Tourism

The mission of Thoroughbred Country is to market the four-county region of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, and Barnwell, as a tourism destination, and to support and encourage the development of local tourism services and programs, thereby providing economic benefits to the area. To achieve its mission, Thoroughbred Country produces a visitor guide, advertises to niche markets, and hosts travel media. Thoroughbred Country partners include South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (SCPRT) and South Carolina Association of Tourism Regions (SCATR).

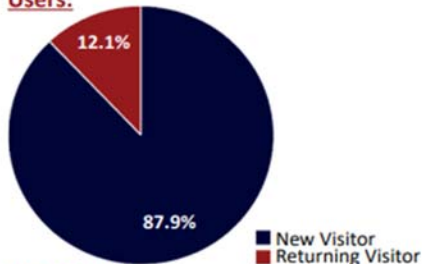


SEO REPORT

Thoroughbred Country continued our partnership with Compass Media focusing on Search Engine Optimization (SEO). The statistics continue to improve, below are a few key areas of growth.

For FY 20-21	Total number of PAGEVIEWS:	130.63%	67.42%	Total number of SOCIAL visits:
	70,571	Increase in ORGANIC visits compared to FY 19-20.	Increase in DIRECT visits compared to FY 19-20.	5,701

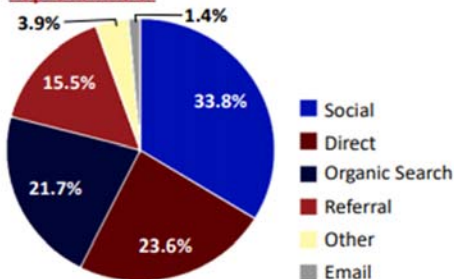
Users:



Average Pages / Session = 3.46
Average Session Duration = 1.13
Bounce Rate at a low 11.31%

Website Users by Time of Day with the highest average was Sundays at 1pm for FY 20-21.

Top Channels:



Top National Keywords:

Keyword	Starting Rank	Rank Now
1. Things to do in Aiken SC	#13	#5
2. Things to do in Barnwell SC	#5	#6
3. South Carolina Attractions for Families	#12	#10

Top Pages Viewed:

Pages	Pageviews
1. /Home	16,728
2. /Calendar	4,967
3. /Search-Attractions	1,985
4. /Things-to-Do-in-Aiken	1,842
5. /Thoroughbred-Country-Visitor-Guide	1,340

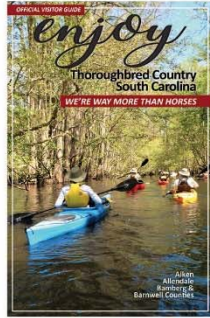
TOURISM STAFF

Mary Ann Keisler
Gwen Winkler

Marketing/Tourism Director
Tourism Assistant

Thoroughbred Country Tourism

2020-2021 Year in Review



19,373
Guides Distributed



Partnered with SCPTV & SCETV to plan and shoot for the 'Go For It' series.



Partnered with Aiken County and Aiken City Tourism to plan the 2021 SC Outdoor Press Association (SCOPE) annual meeting, which was rescheduled due to COVID-19.



Travel Media results:
49 Published Articles
valued at

\$32,125,427

Social Media Marketing

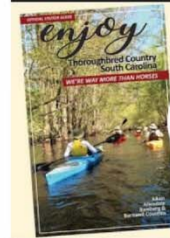
Followers

Facebook: **3,892**

Instagram: **542**

Facebook Likes: **3,624**

Created VG promo video for



printed copies
LOW available.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oY4o3l84e6U>

Attended the 2021 South Carolina Governor's Conference on Tourism & Travel, Virtual Park Service Conference and the NTTW Celebration at the I-20 Welcome Center.



Hosted members of the travel media, including Liz Mays and Beverly Hurley from North Carolina; Jill Becker, Sue Rodman and Jan Schroder from Georgia; and Brista Zhu from China.



Monitored the Longwoods International Travel Sentiment survey results and the Southern Living Travel Trends to gain insight into American travel sentiment during the pandemic crisis.

Available Online

2021 South Carolina Peaches & Berries Brochure

www.TBredCountry.org/Resources/3343.pdf

Workforce Development

The Lower Savannah Workforce Development department administers workforce investment activities that aim to improve the quality of the workforce and enhance productivity and competitiveness of the six-county region. WD staff operate SC Works centers, which provide workforce information and training to workers, job seekers and employers.

Programs and Services

- Operates SC Works centers in Aiken and Orangeburg counties, as well as satellite centers in Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, and Calhoun counties
- Connects job-seekers with resources, like information on the labor market, resume writing tutorials and career assessments
- Provides individuals with referrals to Unemployment Insurance, Public Assistance, assistance with disabilities, GED classes, and other services and agencies
- Holds hiring events at SC Works centers
- Assists individuals with finding On-the-Job Training sites
- Hosts WD Youth Forums for high school students to highlight WIOA opportunities
- Partners with County Public School Districts on Initiatives, designed to prepare students for the workforce through hands-on, paid work experiences

NADO Impact Award Recipient 2021 Drive-Thru Job Fairs

During 2021 and the Coronavirus pandemic, there was a shortage of employees in the workforce. The potential was actualized with the creation of the Drive-Thru Job Fairs amid the social distancing. The National Association of Development Organizations recognized this innovation during our current time of social and economic strain with an Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award.



Workforce Development

SC Works Centers

SC Works Centers are located throughout the Lower Savannah Region with centers in Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, and Orangeburg Counties. New digital information signage provides up to date information along with job boards and needed community resources which are promoted by partners located in the centers.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STAFF

Andre Anderson	WD Administrator
Christine Chandler	WD Lead Programmatic Monitor and SWOS Coordinator
Sally Sharpe	WD Procurement / SC Works System Supervisor & EEO Office
Megan Helmig	WD Finance Manager
Wendy Mahuron	WD Business Services Manager

Workforce Development

2020-2021 Year In Review



2020-2021

Year In Review

25,313
Customer Visits

96%
Customer
Satisfaction
Rating



6,004
*New Registered Job
Seekers*

121
New Registered Employers

84
Hiring Events

707
*New Customers Referred
to Partner Services*

246
WIN Test Administered

Our Vision

Building tomorrow's
workforce today

SC WORKS

LOWER SAVANNAH



A proud partner of the
AmericanJobCenter
network

269
WIOA Program Enrollments

547
WIOA Participants Served

88
Workshops Facilitated

75
TABE Test Administered



Advisory Boards & Committees

ADTRC Advisory Committee

Aiken County

Amy Hane (Chair)
William Price
John Veldman
Vacant

Bamberg County

Sharon Hammond
Frances Johnson
Vacant

Calhoun County

Shayla Jenkins
Vacant

Allendale County

Barbara Lewis
Larry Cohen
Vacant

Barnwell County

Susan Jerkins
Vacant

Orangeburg County

Janie Cooper-Smith
Jeannette Goodwin
Jimmy Bolen
Vacant
Vacant

Transportation Advisory Committee

Aiken County

Teresa Crain
Joel Duke
Camille Furguele
Lequan "LJ" Peterson*

Bamberg County

Larry Haynes
Bill Johnson
Joey Preston

Calhoun County

Elain Golden
Roger Hill
John McLaughlin

Allendale County

Bill Robinson (Chair)
Catherine Russell
Vacant

Barnwell County

Tim Bennett*
Freddie Houston
Ben Kinlaw

Orangeburg County

Janie Cooper-Smith
Amanda Sievers
Harold Young

Other

Alex Bennett
Adam Humphries

Commissioners:

William Dukes
John Barnwell Fishburne

**Alternate*

HOME Technical Review Committee

Aiken County

Joel Duke
Trudy Boyd

Bamberg County

Spencer Donaldson

Calhoun County

Tyrone Dantzler

Allendale County

Wilbur Cave

Barnwell County

Evelyn Coker

Orangeburg County

Deloris Frazier
Harold Young (Chair)

Tourism Advisory Committee

Aiken County

Ken Cresswell
Ashley Havird
Marylin Kline
Mandy Nelson

Allendale County

Lottie Lewis
Angela Youmans
Hayward Simmons

Ex-Officio Members

Jerry Bell Elizabeth Ringus
Liana Orr
Joy Raintree
Lill Stoltzfus
Andrea Wright
Aaron Chavous
Chelsea Stutz
Terri Smith

Bamberg County

Jewel Davis
Rena Riddle (Chair)

Barnwell County

Bob Cothran
Lynn McEwen
Eddie Richburg

Workforce Development Board

Aiken County

Dee Crawford
Catie McCauley
Tiiu Goode
Forest Mahan
Lessie Price (Chair)
Deborah White
Kimberly Williams-Griffin

Allendale County

Donella Robinson
Darainey Hudson

Bamberg County

Nancy Foster
Dr. Dorian Newton
Donald Parler

Barnwell County

Cecilia Allen
Jeanette Murray
Tommy Boyleston

Calhoun County

Pat Black, Jr.
Gary Jones
Kirsten Pratt

Orangeburg County

Kenisha Grimes
Curtis Randolph
William Reynolds, Jr.
Dr. Renee Ritter
C. W. Welch

Other

Evonne Willingham

Disability Committee

Aiken County

Steven Simmons
Heather Waddell

Allendale County

Robbie Dublin

Bamberg County

Christopher Green
Jeanette Murray (Chair)
Donald Parler

Barnwell County

Joye Hallman
Stephanie Williams

Calhoun County

Jill Truesdale

Orangeburg County

Kitty Bamberg

Other

Lori Bennett
Jacquelyn Lewis

Youth Council Committee

Aiken County

LaLita Ashley
Dee Crawford
Garen Cofer
Tiiu Goode

Lessie Price (Chair)

James Randall
Steven Simmons

Allendale County

Joni McDaniel
Karen Whitlock
Angela Youmans

Bamberg County

Rebecca Bodiford
Christopher Green
Jeanette Murray

Barnwell County

Joye Hallman
Doris Jamison
Shanice Willingham

Calhoun County

Kirsten Pratt

Orangeburg County

Renee Ritter (Chair)

Other

Lori Bennett

Past Board of Directors Chairpersons

1967-1968	P. E. Eugene Brabham *	1994-1995	Alzena Robinson*
1968-1969	Joseph B. Wilder *	1995-1996	Olivia G. Cohen *
1969-1970	Charles Weber *	1996-1997	W. Hammond Burkhalter *
1970-1971	Clarence Evans *	1997-1998	Clyde T. Reed
1971-1973	James D. McNair *	1998-1999	S. J. Robinson *
1973-1974	Ernest Corbin	1999-2000	Harry F. Wimberly
1974-1975	H. W. Wall *	2000-2001	Jasper B. Varn, Jr. *
1975-1976	Jack Keel *	2001-2002	William E. Robinson
1976-1976	H. W. Norris	2002-2003	Ronnie Young*
1976-1977	Wilbur Hunt	2003-2004	Jim H. Kearse
1977-1978	Hammond Burkhalter *	2004-2005	David K. Summers
1978-1979	Joseph C. Jackson	2005-2006	J. Danny Covington
1979-1980	Jack Croft *	2006-2007	Robert Chatman
1980-1981	DeWitt M. Norwood, Jr. *	2007-2008	Moses L. Cohen
1981-1982	Ralph F. Cullinan *	2008-2009	Kathy Rawls
1982-1983	C. M. Kinsey, Jr. *	2009-2010	Thomas L. Williams
1983-1984	Charles L. Riley *	2010-2011	Roger L. Hill
1984-1985	M. Rudy Grooms	2011-2012	Janie Cooper-Smith
1985-1986	Fay Hatcher	2012-2013	Clint Carter
1986-1987	William H. Nimmons	2013-2014	Theresa Taylor
1987-1988	Conner A. Isgett, Jr. *	2014-2015	Ronnie Young*
1988-1989	F. Pickens Williams, Jr.	2015-2016	Keith Sloan
1989-1990	Nathaniel B. Rice *	2016-2017	Joe Sikes
1990-1991	LaWana R. McKenzie	2017-2018	Johnny Ravenell
1991-1992	Freddie L. Houston	2018-2019	Larry Haynes
1992-1993	W. E. Smoak *	2019-2020	Dorothy Riley
1993-1994	Chester A. Ray *	2020-2021	L. Andrew Siders
	<i>*Decased</i>		

Past Executive Directors

1967-1972	Joel Gunnells
1972-19**	Jim Hammond
19**-1981	Orren Byrd
1981-2003	Eric Thompson
2003-2011	Wayne Rogers
2011-2015	Connie Shade
2015-Present	William Molnar, Ph.D.



Mr. Andrew Siders was presented a gavel plaque honoring him as LSCOG Chairman during the years 2020-2021.



Lower Savannah Council of Governments

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