

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

2025



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Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed Office of the Federal Co-Chair

February 20, 2024

Message from the Federal Co-Chair

On behalf of the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC), I am pleased to present the attached Congressional budget justification for Fiscal Year 2025.

The 2025 budget justification reflects a request of \$20 million to support the grant-making activities and operations of the Commission. Since its authorization in 2008, SCRC's mission has remained unchanged – to strengthen the economic development of distressed and impoverished communities by infusing strategic investments into physical and human infrastructure throughout seven states, across 210,000 square miles, in 428 counties and county equivalents, for 51 million people.

In FY 2025, the Commission will continue to actively engage state and community stakeholders to establish a foundation that reflects the unique economic and infrastructure needs in the region. As demonstrated in the attached budget justification, SCRC is well positioned to positively impact historically distressed communities through funding processes that are federal regulatory compliant. SCRC is in the implementation phase of its Five-Year Strategic Plan and State Economic and Infrastructure Development Plans and anticipates the disbursement of grant funds in 2024.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed

Federal Co-Chair

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COMMISSION MEMBERS

Co-Chairs

Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed, SCRC Federal Co-Chair

The Honorable Henry McMaster, Governor, State of South Carolina, SCRC States' Co-Chair

Board of Governors

The Honorable Kay Ivey, Governor of the State of Alabama

State Alternate: Kenneth Boswell, Director, Department of Economic and Community Affairs State Program Managers: Crystal Talley and Leslie Clark, Alabama Dept of Economic and Community Affairs

The Honorable Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida

State Alternate – Katherine Russo, Director, Federal Relations, Office of the Governor

The Honorable Brian Kemp, Governor of the State of Georgia

State Alternate: Christopher Nunn, Commissioner, Georgia Department. of Community Affairs State Program Manager: Brittany Pittman, Georgia Department of Community Affairs

The Honorable Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi

State Alternate: Sam Andrews, Senior Advisor, Office of the Governor State Program Managers: Andrea Rose, Mississippi Development Authority

The Honorable Roy Cooper, Governor of the State of North Carolina

State Alternate: Jim McCleskey, Director, North Carolina Washington, DC Office State Program Manager: Olivia A. Collier, North Carolina Department of Commerce

The Honorable Henry McMaster, Governor of the State of South Carolina

State Alternate: Jordan Marsh, Director, Federal Affairs, Office of the Governor State Program Manager: Caroline Griffin, South Carolina Dept. of Commerce

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin, Governor of the State of Virginia

State Alternate: Bryan Horn, Director, Virginia Dept. of Housing and Community Development State Program Managers: Matt Weaver and Rachel Jordan, Virginia Dept. of Housing and Community Development



ABOUT THE SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGION

Overview

Established as a federal-state partnership by the 2008 Farm Bill (page 547, <u>P.L. 110-234</u>), SCRC was authorized to begin operating with the confirmation of a Federal Co-Chair in December 2021. SCRC's mission is to build sustainable communities and strengthen economic growth across its seven-state region - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Currently, there are 428 counties and county equivalents; 166 or 39%, are categorized as distressed. SCRC was established to provide a comprehensive approach to addressing persistent economic distress. The Commission launched the State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program on June 8, 2023. Via this inaugural offering, SCRC is on track to support local and regional planning initiatives and economic and infrastructure development projects. The SEID Grant is available to state governments of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia; local governments (village, town, city and county); other political subdivisions of States (regional planning commissions, local economic or community development groups or a consortium of political subdivisions); Federally recognized Indian Tribes and non-profit organizations as described in section 501(c) and 501(a). The SEID Grant will fund projects that revitalize and transform communities, spurring economic development by:

- Investing In Critical Infrastructure;
- Improving Health and Support Services, Access and Outcomes;
- Strengthening Workforce Capacity;
- Fostering Entrepreneurial and Business Development Activities;
- Expanding Affordable Housing Stock and Access; AND
- Promoting Environmental, Conservation, Preservation and Access

Organizational Structure

As authorized, SCRC consists of a Federal Co-Chair and participating State governors, of which one is selected as the States' Co-Chair. On January 21, 2022, Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed was sworn in as the first Federal Co-Chair and on April 21, 2022, SCRC announced its first State Co-Chair, Governor Henry McMaster of South Carolina. Governor McMaster was later elected to serve a second term at the Governors' Annual Quorum Meeting on April 5, 2023. There is no term limit for the Federal Co-Chair. However, the States' Co-Chair is limited to two consecutive terms, and may not serve a term of less than one year.

Legislative History

The SCRC concept was introduced by university researchers working on rural development issues in 1990 at Tuskegee University's Annual Professional Agricultural Worker's Conference for 1862 and 1890 Land-Grant Universities. In 1994, the Southern Rural Development Commission Act was introduced in the House Agriculture Committee, which would provide the statutory basis for a regional commission in the Southeast. The concept was reintroduced in Congress and various non-governmental entities maintained interest. Supportive legislation was reintroduced in 2002, which led to other legislative efforts until authorization in 2008.

SCRC FY 2025 VISION & PRIORITIES

Looking toward Fiscal Year 2025, the main priority for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission continues to be building a team that can facilitate its mission. In the second quarter of FY 2023, the Commission began onboarding mission-critical staff with the hiring of an Executive Director as well as the Directors of Grants and Programs and Finance and Administration. The filling of these positions represents significant progress toward operationalizing the SCRC. In FY2025, staffing will continue to be a high priority. The Commission aims to increase staff by three in FY 2025. The Commission will follow Executive Order 14035 and the Government-wide Strategic Plan to Advance Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce in its hiring.

SCRC established its headquarters in South Carolina and secured office space at 1901 Assembly Street - Suite 370, Columbia, South Carolina. Due to projected new hires, additional office space is needed to accommodate the growing number of employees. Space has been identified in the existing GSA-approved building where the current office is located and plans to expand to a neighboring suite, which boasts approximately 4,000 square feet, sixteen offices, conference rooms, communal workspace and a breakroom are underway.

Consistent with the Administration's focus on prioritizing the modernization of Information Technology and Cybersecurity and Executive Order 14028, SCRC is currently working with BEMO to finalize SCRC's migration to Microsoft 365 Government GCC G5 and Cybersecurity application. Additional projects include the redevelopment and relaunch of the Commission's website as well as an overhaul of its social media platforms. In upcoming fiscal years, SCRC will continue to partner with industry leaders to enhance its cybersecurity protocols and implement and maintain appropriate solutions to ensure the delivery of excellent, equitable and secure services and customer experiences.

In June of 2023, SCRC launched the State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) grant program with the release of its first Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). The SEID grant program is designed to further sustainable solutions to economic and infrastructure challenges in the most distressed areas within the Southeast Crescent region. The pre-application window for the SEID grant opened on June 19, 2023, with a deadline of September 15, 2023. 361 pre-applications were submitted totaling \$119.2 million. Of the pre-applications, 136 were invited to submit full applications. SCRC received 103 applications for funding consideration.

As detailed above, the SCRC made notable progress in FY 2023 by operationalizing and building upon a number of mission-critical programs it will fully implement in FY 2024. In FY 2025, the Commission will expand upon these early successes through continued investments aimed at combating persistent poverty and quality of life issues within the communities that comprise the Southeast Crescent region. This will be accomplished through future rounds of SEID grants, building and sustaining the capacity of its Local Development Districts and solving for disparities in access to reliable healthcare through the critical partnerships formed under its J-1 Visa Waiver program.

Opportunities to Improve Program Efficiency

In FY 2025, the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission will build upon early successes through continued investments of more than \$18.8M in critical programs that improve the quality of life for the 51M residents across its seven-state region. As it further funds the SEID Grant Program, Crescent Care Collaborative, State and Local Development District Capacity Building Programs and Research and Evaluation Consortium, the Commission will improve program efficiencies by expanding its internal expertise through its people resources plan, working with a GSA-approved vendor to improve its information technology and utilizing the data from its research efforts to establish and evaluate against key performance indicators to ensure continuous improvement. The Commission will also continue its focus on forming and furthering key partnerships at all levels of government for improved efficiency in the provision of critical services.

Characteristics of the Southeast Region

The top three strengths identified in the 2022 SCRC community survey were the people, educational institutions, and natural environment. In addition to these strengths, barriers to economic and social mobility are also prevalent throughout the region. The region has below-average median household income levels and job growth rates, however, a lack of economic diversification in some communities leaves them susceptible to economic turbulence. There are 51 million people residing in the Southeast Crescent region that spans 428 counties and county equivalents, encompassing 210,508 square miles. The needs of the SCRC region are dire, with 39% of its 428 counties categorized as distressed.

SCRC Program Areas

As indicated in 40 U.S.C., Subtitle V, §15501 (a), the SCRC will invest in projects to:

- 1. Develop the transportation infrastructure of its region;
- 2. Develop the basic public infrastructure of its region;
- 3. Develop the telecommunications infrastructure of its region;
- 4. Assist its region in obtaining job skills training, skills development, and employment-related education, entrepreneurship, technology, and business development;
- 5. Provide assistance to severely economically distressed and underdeveloped areas of its region that lack financial resources for improving basic health care and other public services:
- 6. Promote resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open space in a manner consistent with economic development goals; and
- 7. Promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources.

SCRC's authorizing statute, 40 U.S.C., Subtitle V, §15501 (b)(c)(d), also directs the expenditure of Commission funds in amount and location. As stipulated, at least 50% of grant funds must be allocated to distressed counties and isolated areas of distress within the region. SCRC must also allocate at least 40% of grant funds to infrastructure projects tackling basic public infrastructure, telecommunications, and transportation. In the <u>Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)</u>, infrastructure projects and goals are outlined in more detail to include construction and non-construction projects such as rebuilding airports, bridges, ports, rail and roads, in addition to providing access to clean drinking water and high-speed internet.

Strategic Investment in the Southeast Region

All investments by the Commission are guided by the enabling statute, and priorities identified in the SCRC's Five-Year Strategic Plan and State Economic and Infrastructure Development Plans. As shown in SCRC's Strategic Plan, the activities and efforts of SCRC will continue to align with the six strategic goals listed below:

- 1. Invest in Critical Infrastructure
- 2. Improve Health and Support Services Access and Outcomes
- 3. Strengthen Workforce Capacity
- 4. Foster Entrepreneurial and Business Development Activities
- 5. Expand Affordable Housing Stock and Access
- 6. Promote Environmental, Conservation, Preservation, and Access

For a copy of this guiding document, click here: SCRC's Strategic Plan.

SCRC PROGRAM AREAS

State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program

The SEID grant program is designed to encourage and support economic and infrastructure development activities across the Southeast Crescent region. In Fiscal Year 2024, subject to appropriations, the inaugural grant program will invest \$20 million in projects that align with the priorities identified in SCRC's Five-Year Strategic Plan and State Economic and Investment Development Plans. Funding first made available in FY 2023 includes the \$5 million appropriated via the IIJA/BIL to invest in the revitalization of transportation, water and wastewater, alternative energy, and telecommunications. Given the overwhelming need demonstrated in the submissions for the inaugural round of the SEID grant program, SCRC requests \$13.9 million to support continued efforts toward eradicating persistent poverty across the region in FY 2025. The maximum grant awards under the current SEID grant offering are listed below. These amounts may change in subsequent rounds of the program based on the identified needs and priorities of individual states and the availability of funds.

Construction Project Maximum: \$500,000

Non-Construction Project Maximum: \$350,000

*Note: the current SEID grant offering funds both construction and non-construction projects ranging from a minimum amount of \$50,000 to a maximum of \$500,000 as detailed above. With justification, states may recommend awards exceeding the maximum to the Commission for an affirmative vote. Recommendations exceeding the maximum with insufficient justification may be reduced to the state-certified maximum or denied.

The structure of the SCRC grant program was determined through robust dialogue with the full partnership of the Commission to include the Office of the Federal Co-Chair, newly onboarded Commission staff, Governors Alternates and State Program Managers. As stated previously, the SEID Grant NOFA was published June 8, 2023, and the Commission began accepting mandatory preapplications on June 19, 2023. 361 pre-applications were submitted totaling \$119.2 million. Of the pre-applications received, 136 were invited to submit full applications. SCRC received a total of 103 applications for funding consideration. Funding decisions will be made in April 2024.

The role of the States in the grant making process is being facilitated as is outlined in the statute. Grant funding is available to any authorized area but limited to the amounts determined by the formula voted upon by the member State Governors and illustrated in Table 4. The number of grants and the amounts authorized will be determined and adjusted depending on future appropriations and state assessments.

Local Development District (LDD) Capacity Building Program

SCRC established an LDD Capacity Building Program to assist communities with development planning, training, outreach, and grant implementation. In FY 2024, SCRC will invest \$2 million into a program to financially assist 55 LDDs in the participating states within the Southeast Crescent Region. The primary goal of the LDD program is to increase SCRC outreach and training activities to local governments, community groups, the business community, and distressed and transitional counties and county equivalents while improving local access to funding sources and assisting communities in preparing to receive and manage federal funds. In FY 2025, the Commission will increase the efficacy of the LDD Capacity Building Program by investing an additional \$1.8 million dollars to build upon the progress made via its initial round of funding.

State Capacity Cooperative Program

In FY 2025, SCRC will continue its State Capacity Cooperative Program by building on its initial \$2 million investment in Member States in FY 2024 with an additional \$1.8 million. Member States, through State Program Managers, serve as the frontline administrators of the SEID grant program. States collaborate with and provide oversight to participating LDDs on administration of grant awards and assist with local technical assistance, training, and outreach efforts. SCRC also relies on State Program Managers to work directly with its construction applicants to assist in the oversite of environmental reviews, construction progress, payments and reimbursements, and federal, state, and local compliance.

Research and Evaluation Consortium

To guide internal decision making and support policymakers and partners in making informed and effective development decisions, SCRC will invest an additional \$900,000 in research, data gathering, and impact evaluation of SCRC programs in FY 2025. SCRC will continue to collaborate with researchers, evaluators, mapping specialists, and economists to track trends and address economic and infrastructure developments and barriers within the region. Findings will be published on multiple platforms and utilized to direct future program offerings. Alignment with the National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health will also be a key component of the Consortium.

Each of the above programs serves to facilitate the Administration's desired focus on Evidence, Evaluation, and Capacity-Building to Advance Evidence-Based Policymaking. With significant investments by way of people and financial resources, the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission will, through continued efforts to mitigate acknowledged challenges, chart the path to progress toward a more equitable and advantageous economy in the Crescent region.

Crescent Care Collaborative (CCC)

The Crescent Care Collaborative was launched in response to medical professional shortages and low access to quality healthcare throughout the region. The first initiative of the Collaborative was the J-1 visa waiver program. A J-1 visa waiver allows foreign physicians who trained in the United States, to work in medically underserved areas or health professional shortage areas within the

region for three years. Funding also allows for staff to review applications, field applicant and attorney inquiries, and support clinics in rural areas.

Staff will continue to work with the U.S. Department of State to process applications and monitor program compliance for three years to ensure that guidelines are followed, and the work location remains a sufficient environment for the J-1 physician. SCRC has processed 131 total J-1 Visa Waiver applications. Eighty (80) J-1 Waivers have been approved, 39 are pending and 12 are under internal review by the Commission.

To build on the success of the J-1 Visa Waiver Program, the Federal Co-Chair requests \$400,000 for programmatic salaries and expenses to continue investments in the Crescent Care Collaborative. This request reflects the staffing necessary to carry out programmatic functions and responsibilities and to ensure proper fiduciary management of the federal appropriations. The Collaborative will also form partnerships with larger medical systems to host mobile clinics in rural areas where access to medical care is lacking or scarce. The White House National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health will continue to be a key component of the Crescent Care Collaborative.

SCRC Basic Agency Program

40 U.S.C. § 15501 requires the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission to allocate at least 40 percent of any grant amounts provided in a fiscal year for projects aimed at developing the transportation, telecommunications and basic public infrastructure within the region. To support these efforts and ensure compliance with all federal and other regulations, the SCRC will serve as the Basic Agency for SCRC construction programs through a contract with a licensed engineering firm. Through this program, the Commission will continue to establish key partnerships with state and federal entities experienced at managing federal construction grants to oversee all related compliance matters. Consistent with the Administration's Permitting Action Plan detailed in OMB Memorandum M-23-14, this program will ensure the timely and sound delivery of essential upgrades in the region's infrastructure.

SCRC will comply with all federal rules, statutes, and requirements to ensure the efficient, transparent, and ethical execution of federally appropriated funds.

The GPRA Modernization Act

SCRC will adhere to all requirements of the GPRA Modernization Act in serving as a foundation for assisting the agency in focusing on our highest priorities and creating a culture where data and empirical evidence play a greater role in policy, budget, and management decisions. This includes the active participation in the central program inventory, also required by the Act, to facilitate coordination across federal programs.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) / Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

SCRC has received \$5 million under the Infrastructure Investment Act, also known as "IIJA." Funding received under this Act will be used in accordance with the statute to "help rebuild America's roads, bridges, and rails; expand access to clean drinking water; work to ensure access to high-speed internet throughout the Nation; tackle the climate crisis; advance environmental justice; and invest in communities that have too often been left behind." These funds will be used to support the State Economic and Infrastructure Development Grant Program in FY 2024.

Advancing Equity through the Federal Government

SCRC will also adhere to *Advancing Racial Equity and Support*. Equity is defined in E.O. 13985 as: "the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous populations. This includes program design, grant administration and application review, oversight and program evaluation, policy development and research throughout the Southeast Crescent Region.

As the SCRC moves forward with agency planning, program implementation and activities, the agency will proactively engage with oversight entities as required, to include a designated Inspector General and the U.S. Government Accountability Office. SCRC will adhere to the President's expectation that SCRC work in collaboration with other federal agencies to restore and respect the integrity and independence of SCRC and that collaboration between agencies and their Inspector General "on the front-end ensures expertise is brought to bear to ensure programs are efficiently constructed ... and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality" are treated fairly.

Buy America, Build America (BABA) – Made in America

SCRC will adhere to all provisions of the BABA in an effort to strengthen Made in America Laws and bolster America's industrial base, protect national security, and support high-paying jobs. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the SCRC will ensure that "none of the funds made available for a Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure, including each deficient program, may be obligated for a project unless all of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States." The Act affirms, consistent with Executive Order 14005, Ensuring the Future Is Made in All of America by All of

America's Workers, in accordance with the Administration's priority to "use terms and conditions of Federal financial assistance awards to maximize the use of goods, products, and materials produced in, and services offered in, the United States."

Prioritizing IT Modernization and Cybersecurity

SCRC will adhere to the President's Federal Zero Trust Architecture (ZTA) strategy, requiring agencies to meet specific cybersecurity standards and objectives by the end of Fiscal Year FY 2024 in order to reinforce the Government's defenses against increasingly sophisticated and persistent threat campaigns. The SCRC will utilize federal funds to ensure the security of its technology infrastructure, public safety and privacy, restoring the American economy, and rebuilding trust in Government. In May of 2021, the President issued Executive Order (EO) 14028, Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity, initiating a sweeping Government-wide effort to ensure that baseline security practices are in place, to migrate the Federal Government to a zero trust architecture, and to realize the security benefits of cloud-based infrastructure while mitigating associated risks.

Executive Order on DEIA in the Federal Workforce

SCRC will adhere to Executive Order 13985 (Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government), which established that affirmatively advancing equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity is the responsibility of the whole of our government. To further advance equity within the Federal Government, this order establishes that it is the policy of the Administration to cultivate a workforce that draws from the full diversity of the Nation. SCRC will be a model for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, where all employees are treated with dignity and respect. The SCRC will also provide resources and opportunities to strengthen and advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility across the agency. A growing body of evidence demonstrates that diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible workplaces yield higher-performing organizations.

➤ Training and Learning - The SCRC Federal Co-Chair will work with staff to take steps to implement or increase the availability and use of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility training programs for employees, managers, and leadership. Such training will enable employees, managers, and leaders to have knowledge of the harm imposed by systemic and institutional racism and bias against underserved communities, promote skill sets that create respectful and inclusive workplaces, eliminate workplace harassment, acquire knowledge of agency accessibility practices, and have an increased understanding of implicit and unconscious bias.

Equity Executive Order

As stated in the President's Equity Executive Order, "Entrenched disparities in our laws and public policies, and in our public and private institutions, have often denied equal opportunity to individuals and communities." The incorporation of this order will serve as a connector between the disparities that plague the Southeast Crescent Region and "converging economic, health, and climate crises that have exposed and exacerbated inequities." SCRC will adhere to the policy of the Administration through program implementation and grant making to "pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality. Affirmatively advancing equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity." By advancing

equity, SCRC will create opportunities for the improvement of communities that have been historically underserved.

Justice 40 Initiative (and Executive Order on the Climate Crisis)

SCRC will adhere to the President's commitment to securing "environmental justice and spurring economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities that have been historically marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment in housing, transportation, water and wastewater infrastructure, and health care." In Executive Order 14008, the President directed the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), and the National Climate Advisor, in consultation with the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC), to jointly publish guidance on how certain Federal investments might be made toward a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of such investments flow to disadvantaged communities – the Justice40 Initiative. The Justice40 Initiative is a critical part of the Administration's whole-of-government approach to advancing environmental justice. SCRC has incorporated the Justice40 Initiative into our methodology for designating Isolated Areas of Distress and will continue to follow the published guidelines to meet the intent and purpose of this Executive Order.

Evidence, Evaluation, and Capacity-Building to Advance Evidence-Based Policymaking

In FY 2025, SCRC plans to hire a Director of Research & Policy and Data & GIS Specialist to support this critical work, and develop a plan that implements the Evidence Act, develops a learning agenda, and evaluation plan.

Tackling the Climate Crisis

SCRC is authorized (40 U.S.C., Subtitle V, §15501) "...to promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources." This authorization has been, and will remain, an optional funding pathway for eligible grantees in SCRC's current and future grant programs.

Burden Reduction for Public Benefit Programs

As reflected in the budget lines later in this document, SCRC is working on two "capacity" initiatives as an entity in collaboration with Federal, State, and local partners throughout the region. The purpose of these initiatives is to build the capacity of our external partners to work directly with underserved communities to plan and conceptualize projects suitable for Federal funding. SCRC will continue these initiatives in FY 2025 to reduce the burdens on communities with respect to seeking, competing, and administering Federal awards. These initiatives include training, resource identification, outreach, economic development planning, and the leveraging of public and private resources, consulting, and other initiatives.

SCRC COUNTY & COUNTY EQUIVALENT ECONOMIC DESIGNATIONS

In accordance with 40 U.S.C. § 15702, SCRC annually assigns economic designations to counties and areas within the region, the categories are:

- a. **Distressed Counties** Those counties that are the most severely and persistently economically distressed and underdeveloped and have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.
- b. **Transitional Counties** Those counties that are economically distressed and underdeveloped or have recently suffered high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.
- c. **Attainment Counties** Those counties in its region that <u>are not</u> designated as distressed or transitional counties under this subsection.
- d. **Isolated Areas of Distress** In accordance with 40 U.S.C. § 15702, SCRC will designate as isolated areas of distress, areas located in counties designated as attainment counties that have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.

Consistent with the requirements of the statute, the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission is undergoing its annual assessment of the region according to the criteria described above. Economic designations will be updated in May of 2024 to reflect the most recent data.

Matching Requirements

- **Distressed Counties:** Projects in these counties are eligible for 80% funding and require a 20% match.
- **Transitional/ Isolated Areas of Distress:** Projects in these areas are eligible to be funded at a 50% funding and require a 50% match.
- Attainment: Projects in these areas are not eligible for grant funding unless the project is within an "Isolated Area of Distress" or has been granted a significant benefit waiver.

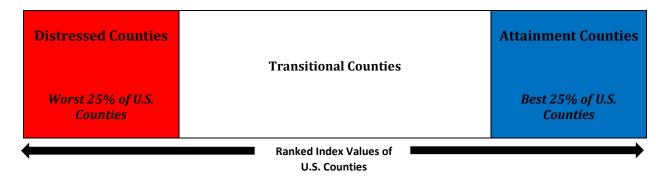
Table 1: Match Requirements by Economic Designation

Distressed Transitional/Isolated Area of Distress		Multi-County or Multi-State Projects (with three or more counties OR two or more states)
SCRC – 80%	SCRC – 50%	SCRC – 60% - 90%
Match – 20%	Match – 50%	Match – 10% - 40%

Methodology - Economic County/County Equivalent Designations

As established in 2022, SCRC uses an index-based county economic classification system to identify and monitor the economic status of its counties and county equivalents. The system involves the creation of a national index of county economic status through a comparison of each county's averages for three economic indicators - *three-year average unemployment rate*, *per capita market income*, *and poverty rate*—with national averages. The resulting values are summed and averaged to create a composite index value for each county. Each county in the nation is then ranked, based on its composite index value, with higher values indicating higher levels of distress. FY 2024 economic designations will be approved by the Commission during the Governors' Quorum Meeting in the spring of 2024.

SCRC County Economic Status Designation by National Index Value Rank



Methodology - Isolated Areas of Distress

In determining isolated areas of distress, SCRC used the following three variables and applied them to attainment county census tracts.

- 1.) census tracts at or above U.S. Median Poverty Rate of 12.6%;
- 2.) census tracts below the U.S. Median Household Income of \$46,244; and
- 3.) census tracts designated as a <u>historically disadvantage community</u>

To be classified as an isolated area of distress, all three conditions must be met. All data came from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2021 5-Year Estimates, with the exception for the Historically Disadvantaged Communities classification that is sourced from the U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT) and defined by utilizing the principles of Justice40 Initiative.

The following six categories listed below in Diagram 1 are used by US DOT to assess the overall level of disadvantage communities:

Diagram 1: Categories Used to Determine Historically Disadvantaged Communities



Source: US Dept of Transportation, Justice 40 Fact Sheet

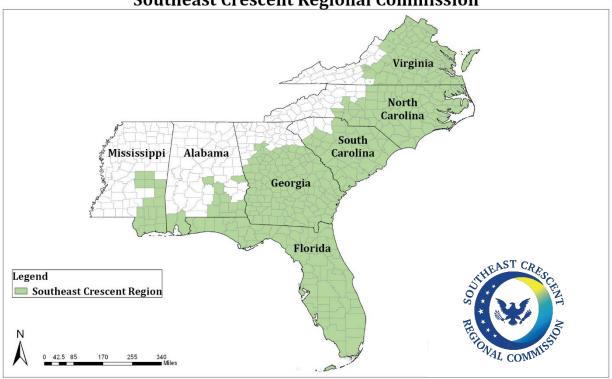
Table 2: Number of Isolated Areas of Distress by State

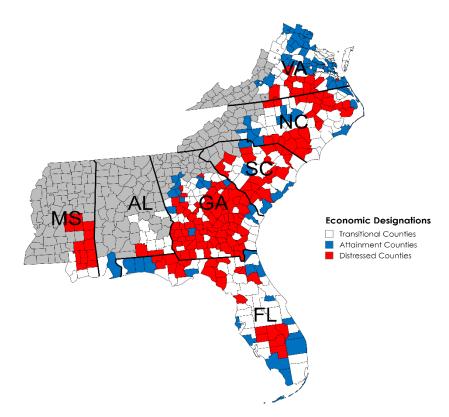
	# of Attainment Census Tracks	# of Attainment Distressed Census Tracts	Percent Distressed
Alabama	17	1	5.9%
Florida	618	30	4.9%
Georgia	281	39	13.9%
Mississippi	0	0	0.0%
North Carolina	455	39	8.6%
South Carolina	196	23	11.7%
Virginia	1005	7	0.7%
Total	2572	139	5.4%

Note: The Federal Co-Chair will submit the FY 2025 methodologies for economic designations and determining isolated areas of distress to the Board of Governors for an affirmative vote during the Annual Governors' Quorum Meeting to be held in the Spring of 2024.

SCRC SERVICE AREA







Individual state maps with counties and county equivalents economic status can be found at scrc.gov.

428 County and County Equivalent Listing by State

Alabama – 13 counties - Autauga, Baldwin, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lee, Mobile, Montgomery County, Pike

Florida – 67 counties - Alachua, Baker, Bay, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Calhoun, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Columbia, DeSoto, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Glades, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Holmes, Indian River, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lake, Lee, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Nassau, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Volusia, Wakulla, Walton, Washington

Georgia – 122 counties - Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Baker, Baldwin, Ben Hill, Berrien, Bibb, Bleckley, Brantley, Brooks, Bryan, Bulloch, Burke, Butts, Calhoun, Camden, Candler, Charlton, Chatham, Chattahoochee, Clarke, Clay, Clayton, Clinch, Cobb, Coffee, Colquitt, Columbia, Cook, Coweta, Crawford, Crisp, De Kalb, Decatur, Dodge, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Effingham, Emanuel, Evans, Fayette, Fulton, Glascock, Glynn, Grady, Greene, Hancock, Harris, Henry, Houston, Irwin, Jasper, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Jones, Lamar, Lanier, Laurens, Lee, Liberty, Lincoln, Long, Lowndes, Macon, Marion, McDuffie, McIntosh, Meriwether, Miller, Mitchell, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Muscogee, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Peach, Pierce, Pike, Pulaski, Putnam, Quitman, Randolph, Richmond, Rockdale, Schley, Screven, Seminole, Spalding, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taliaferro, Tattnall, Taylor, Telfair, Terrell, Thomas, Tift, Toombs, Treutlen, Troup, Turner, Twiggs, Upson, Walton, Ware, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Webster, Wheeler, Wilcox, Wilkes, Wilkinson, Worth

Mississippi – 18 counties - Clarke, Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jones, Lamar, Lauderdale, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Pearl River, Perry, Scott, Stone, Wayne

North Carolina – 69 counties - Alamance, Anson, Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Cabarrus, Camden, Carteret, Caswell, Chatham, Chowan, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Currituck, Dare, Davidson, Duplin, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gaston, Gates, Granville, Greene, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Iredell, Johnston, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Lincoln, Martin, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Orange, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Person, Pitt, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Rowan, Sampson, Scotland, Stanly, Tyrrell, Union, Vance, Wake, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Wilson

South Carolina – 39 counties - Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Greenwood, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Lee, Lexington, Marion, Marlboro, McCormick, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, Saluda, Sumter, Williamsburg, York

Virginia – 100 counties - Accomack, Albemarle, Alexandria city, Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Arlington, Augusta, Bedford, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell, Caroline, Charles City, Charlotte, Charlottesville city, Chesapeake city, Chesterfield, Clarke, Colonial Heights city, Culpeper, Cumberland, Danville city, Dinwiddie, Emporia city, Essex, Fairfax, Fairfax City, Falls Church city, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Franklin, Franklin city, Frederick, Fredericksburg city, Gloucester, Goochland, Greene, Greensville, Halifax, Hampton city, Hanover, Harrisonburg city, Henrico, Hopewell city, Isle Of Wight, James City, King And Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Loudoun, Louisa, Lunenburg, Lynchburg city, Madison, Manassas city, Manassas Park city, Mathews, Mecklenburg, Middlesex, Nelson, New Kent, Newport News city, Norfolk city, Northampton, Northumberland, Nottoway, Orange, Page, Petersburg city, Pittsylvania, Poquoson city, Portsmouth city, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince George, Prince William, Rappahannock, Richmond, Richmond city, Roanoke, Roanoke city, Rockingham, Salem city, Shenandoah, Southampton, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Staunton city, Suffolk city, Surry, Sussex, Virginia Beach city, Warren, Waynesboro city, Westmoreland, Williamsburg city, Winchester city, York

A list of SCRC Counties and County Equivalents by economic designation for FY 2023 can be found in the Appendices.

FY 2025 BUDGET JUSTIFICATION & NARRATIVE

Introduction

This narrative serves as justification for the FY 2025 budget request from the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC). SCRC's six, participating member states (Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia) shoulder 50% of SCRC's administrative budget, less expenses of the Office of the Federal Co-Chair (100% Federal) and specified programmatic expenses, through required annual state assessments. This budget justification presents the full budget, including Federal appropriations and state assessments.

Format and Content

SCRC's administrative budget is presented in three sections:

- 1. **Source:** from where funding is secured (i.e., Federal appropriations/state assessments)
- 2. Uses: how funds are expended (i.e., grant programs/initiatives and administration)
- 3. Administration: salaries and expenses by classification

Source and Uses of Appropriations

The budget table indicates the source and uses of Federal appropriations and a detailed presentation of expenditures as categorized:

FY 2024 Adjusted Budget and FY 2025 Budget Request Administration

Administrative funds are necessary to support the Office of the Federal Co-Chair with daily operations and facilitate the implementation of Commission grants, programs and initiatives.

Table 3: SCRC FY25 Budget Request and Overview

SCRC FY 2025 Budget Request & Overview				
	FY2023 Budget Enacted	FY 2024 Annualized Continuing Resolution	FY 2025 Budget Justification	FY2024 & FY2025 Change (\$)
Source				
Annual Federal Appropriations FY25	\$20,000,000.00	\$20,000,000.00	\$ 20,000,000.00	\$ -
State Assessments	\$ 883,868.00	\$ 797,297.00	\$ 620,273.00	\$ (177,024.00)
Total Federal Appropriations and State Assessments	\$20,883,868.00	\$ 20,797,297.00	\$ 20,620,273.00	\$ (177,024.00)
Program Uses				
State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program	\$12,048,931.00	\$13,212,051.00	\$ 13,920,424.00	\$ 708,373.00
LDD Capacity Building Program	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 1,800,000.00	\$ (200,000.00)
State Capacity Cooperative Program	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 1,800,000.00	\$ (200,000.00)
Research and Evaluation Consortium	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 900,000.00	\$ (100,000.00)
Crescent Care Collaborative	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 425,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ (25,000.00)
Total Programs	\$18,548,931.00	\$ 18,637,051.00	\$ 18,820,424.00	\$ 183,373.00
Base Administration				
Office of the Federal Co-Chair	\$ 567,201.00	\$ 565,652.00	\$ 559,303.00	\$ (6,349.00)
The Commission Administration (50% Federal)	\$ 883,868.00	\$ 797,297.00	\$ 620,273.00	\$ (177,024.00)
The Commission Administration (50% State)	\$ 883,868.00	\$ 797,297.00	\$ 620,273.00	\$ (177,024.00)
Total Administration	\$ 2,334,937.00	\$ 2,160,246.00	\$ 1,799,849.00	\$ (360,397.00)
Total	\$20,883,868.00	\$ 20,797,297.00	\$ 20,620,273.00	\$ (177,024.00)

Office of the Federal Co-Chair

The Office of the Federal Co-Chair consists of the salary and expenses of the Federal Co-Chair, which is a position nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Office of the Federal Co-Chair also includes the salary and expenses of the Chief of Staff. The Federal Co-Chair and the Chief of Staff are the only Federal positions at SCRC. For FY 2025, SCRC requests \$559,303 for salaries and associated expenses for the Office of the Federal Co-Chair.

Office of the Federal Co-Chair				
Classification	FY 2025 Budget Request	FY 2024 Annualized Continuing Resolution	Change	
Salaries	\$367,197.00	\$356,502.00	\$10,695.00	
Fringe Benefits (30%)	\$110,160.00	\$106,950.00	\$3,210.00	
Travel	\$25,000.00	\$40,000.00	(\$15,000.00)	
Professional Services/Contractual	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Leases/Furnishings	\$30,280.00	\$31,200.00	(\$920.00)	
Telecommunications/Utilities	\$2,666.00	\$2,500.00	\$166.00	
Meetings & Events	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Equipment	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00	(\$1,000.00)	
Supplies & Materials	\$4,000.00	\$4000.00	\$0.00	
Communications & Outreach	\$10,000.00	12,500.00	(\$2,500.00)	
Professional Development	\$5,000.00	6,000.00	(\$1,000.00)	
Total	\$559,303.00	565,652.00	(\$6,349.00)	

- Salaries: Salaries consist of payroll for two Federal positions: the Federal Co-Chair and Chief of Staff.
- Fringe Benefits: The effective fringe benefit rate is 30% of Federal salaries (two positions as described previously), which represents both mandatory and voluntary salary-related expenditures such as Social Security (FICA), Medicare, State Unemployment Tax (SUTA),

- non-elective retirement, and elective retirement (FERS and TSP) with a maximum employer match of 5%.
- Travel: Travel includes mileage and/or fuel, rental vehicles, hotel, airfare, meals & incidentals, taxis, parking fees, etc., consisting primarily of trips to rural communities and counties without access to major modes of public transportation throughout the seven-state region. SCRC's service area presents logistical challenges that often necessitate multiple modes of travel (i.e. air and vehicle travel).
- Leases/Furnishings: Leases/Furnishings consist of long-term leases for the Regional Headquarters (Columbia, SC) as well as related furnishings. The Office of the Federal Co-Chair assumes 13% of total costs for the office lease. The amount also includes an additional \$10,000 for office furnishings.
- **Telecommunications/Utilities:** Telecommunications/Utilities consist of internet, business phones, basic utilities, and related items. The Office of the Federal Co-Chair assumes 13% of total costs for telecommunications/utilities.
- **Equipment:** Equipment consists of computers, printers, external monitors, phones, accessories, and related items.
- **Supplies:** Supplies consist of stationery, writing utensils, binders, folders, and related general office supply items.
- Communications: Communications consist of printing for various meetings, marketing, outreach, and related expenses.
- **Professional Development:** Professional development consists of training for federal staff that is aligned with essential job duties and the mission of the Commission, including program-specific education, management development, and leadership training.

The Commission

The Commission consists of six non-Federal positions and costs represent salaries and expenses necessary to carry out the administrative functions of the Commission. Commission administrative costs are shared 50%-50% with the member states through state assessments. For FY 2025, the Federal Co-Chair is requesting \$620,273 to serve as the Federal share of the administrative cost of the Commission.

The Commission				
Classification	FY 2025 Budget Request	FY 2024 Annualized Continuing Resolution	Change	
Salaries	\$577,035.00	\$560,226.00	\$16,809.00	
Fringe Benefits (30%)	\$173,112.00	\$168,070.00	\$5,042.00	
Travel	\$25,000.00	\$36,000.00	(\$11,000.00)	
Professional Services/Contractual	\$274,999.00	\$400,000.00	(\$125,000.00)	
Leases/Furnishings	\$72,400.00	\$212,800.00	(\$140,000.00)	
Telecommunications/Utilities	\$8,000.00	\$20,000.00	(\$12,000.00)	
Equipment	\$ 15,000.00	\$20,000.00	(\$5,000.00)	
Supplies & Materials	\$ 10,000.00	\$14,998.00	(\$4998.00)	
Communications & Outreach	\$ 50,000.00	\$75,000.00	(\$25,000.00)	
Professional Development	\$ 10,000.00	\$12,500.00	(\$2,500.00)	
Annual Conference & Regional Events	\$25,000.00	\$75,000.00	(\$50,000.00)	
Total	\$1,240,546.00	\$1,594,594.00	(\$354,048.00)	
Federal Share (2025 Budget Request)	\$620,273.00	\$797,297.00	(\$177,024.00)	
States' Share	\$620,273.00	\$797,297.00	(\$177,024.00)	

- Salaries: Salaries consist of payroll for six non-Federal, administrative positions, to include the Executive Director, Executive Assistant, Director of Finance & Administration, Finance Generalist, Director of Human Resources, and Communications Strategist.
- **Fringe Benefits:** The effective fringe benefit rate is 30 percent of salaries, which represents both mandatory and voluntary salary-related expenditures such as Social Security (FICA),

- Medicare, State Unemployment Tax (SUTA), non-elective retirement, and elective retirement (IRA) with a maximum employer match of 3%.
- Travel: Travel includes mileage and/or fuel, rental vehicles, hotels, airfare, meals & incidentals, taxis, parking fees, etc., consisting primarily of trips to small rural towns, communities, and counties without access to major modes of public transportation (i.e. air/rail) throughout the seven-state region. SCRC's service area presents logistical challenges that often necessitate multiple modes of travel (i.e. air and vehicle travel).
- **Professional Services/Contractual:** Professional Services/Contractual includes expenses for specialists that provide unique services that are otherwise unavailable to be provided by SCRC staff, such as website development and maintenance, IT, legal, CPA and Finance and Cybersecurity audits, and policy advisors.
- Leases/Furnishings: Leases/Furnishings consist of long-term leases for the Regional Headquarters (Columbia, SC) as well as related furnishings. The funding budgeted for here will be used to optimize work environment posture, including updates to and expansion of SCRC's office space. The Commission assumes 50% of the total cost of the annual lease and is requesting an additional \$10,000 for furnishings.
- **Telecommunications/Utilities:** Telecommunications/Utilities consist of internet, business phones, basic utilities, and related items. The Commission assumes 40% of the total costs for telecommunications/utilities.
- **Meetings & Events:** Meetings and Events consist of venues, materials, and food and beverages (non-alcoholic) related to the meeting or event. These costs have been absorbed by Commission program budgets.
- **Equipment:** Equipment consists of computers, printers, external monitors, accessories, and related items.
- Supplies: Supplies consist of stationery, writing utensils, binders, folders, and related items.
- **Communications:** Communications consist of printing for various meetings, marketing, outreach, and related expenses.
- **Professional Development:** Professional development consists of training for non-federal staff that is aligned with essential job duties and the mission of the Commission, including program-specific education, management development, and leadership training.

Programs and Initiatives

State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program

The Federal Co-Chair of the Commission requests \$592,409 for salaries and expenses (S&E) to implement the \$13,328,015 SEID Grant Program. This request reflects the staffing necessary to carry out programmatic functions and responsibilities and ensure proper fiduciary management of the federal appropriations.

Programmatic S&E Costs: State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program			
Classification	FY 2025 Budget Request		
Salaries	\$310,634.00		
Fringe Benefits (30%)	\$93,190.00		
Travel	\$22,250.00		
Professional Services/Contractual	\$85,000.00		
Leases/Furnishings	\$50,000.00		
Telecommunications/Utilities	\$5,335.00		
Meetings & Events	\$9,000.00		
Equipment	\$5,000.00		
Supplies	\$4,000.00		
Communications	\$8,000.00		
Professional Development	\$0.00		
Total	\$592,409.00		

- Salaries: Salaries consist of payroll for four non-Federal, programmatic positions, to include the Director of Grants & Programs, Grant Program Manager, Program Manager Non-Construction and Program Manager Infrastructure.
- **Fringe Benefits:** The effective fringe benefit rate is 30 percent of salaries, which represents both mandatory and voluntary salary-related expenditures such as Social Security (FICA), Medicare, State Unemployment Tax (SUTA), non-elective retirement, and elective retirement (IRA) with a maximum employer match of 3%.
- Travel: Travel includes mileage and/or fuel, rental vehicles, hotels, airfare, meals & incidentals, taxis, parking fees, etc., consisting primarily of trips to small rural towns, communities, and counties without access to major modes of public transportation (i.e.,

- air/rail) throughout the seven-state region. SCRC's service area presents logistical challenges that often necessitate multiple modes of travel (i.e. air and vehicle travel).
- **Professional Services/Contractual:** Professional Services/Contractual includes expenses for specialists that provide unique services that are otherwise unavailable to be provided by SCRC staff, such as grants management software for program administration and compliance.
- Leases/Furnishings: Leases/Furnishings consist of long-term leases for the Regional Headquarters (Columbia, SC) as well as related furnishings. These costs have been absorbed by the Office of the Federal Co-Chair and the Commission's administrative budget.
- **Telecommunications/Utilities:** Telecommunications/Utilities consist of internet, business phones, basic utilities, and related items. SEID Programmatic S&E Costs assumes 27% of the total costs for telecommunications/utilities.
- **Meetings & Events:** Meetings and Events consist of venues, materials, and food and beverages (non-alcoholic) related to the meeting or event.
- **Equipment:** Equipment consists of computers, printers, external monitors, accessories, and related items.
- Supplies: Supplies consist of stationery, writing utensils, binders, folders, and related items.
- Communications: Communications consist of printing for various meetings, marketing, outreach, and related expenses.

The salaries and expenses described above support the administration of grants to projects in the six participating member states of the Commission. The Commission will publish a competitive grant application process for eligible entities to apply; however, each member state receives a specific allocation which is pre-determined by a formula approved each year by the Board of Governors. In January 2023, the Board of Governors approved an allocation formula for SEID funding for each member state. The projected allocations below are based on the same approved formula.

Table 4: FY 2025 Projected Grant Allocations for Member States

	Equality	Population	Distressed County Population	Distressed Area in Sq. Miles	Total Allocation	% of Total Allocation
	25%	5%	45%	25%		
	\$ 3,332,003.75	\$ 666,400.75	\$ 5,997,606.75	\$ 3,332,003.75	\$ 13,328,015.00	100.00%
Alabama	\$ 555,333.96	\$ 32,318.97	\$ 80,215.78	\$ 78,341.38	\$ 746,210.09	5.60%
Georgia	\$ 555,333.96	\$ 164,070.53	\$ 2,598,684.25	\$ 1,412,807.59	\$ 4,730,896.32	35.50%
Mississippi	\$ 555,333.96	\$ 20,994.21	\$ 525,785.81	\$ 390,113.43	\$ 1,492,227.40	11.20%
North Carolina	\$ 555,333.96	\$ 188,540.83	\$ 1,587,561.06	\$ 654,575.97	\$ 2,986,011.82	22.40%
South Carolina	\$ 555,333.96	\$ 84,570.60	\$ 680,305.12	\$ 538,273.83	\$ 1,858,483.50	13.94%
Virginia	\$ 555,333.96	\$ 175,905.61	\$ 525,054.74	\$ 257,891.56	\$ 1,514,185.87	11.36%
	\$ 3,332,003.75	\$ 666,400.75	\$ 5,997,606.75	\$ 3,332,003.75	\$ 13,328,015.00	100.00%

Note: The state of Florida opted not to participate in the FY 2024 inaugural round of SCRC's grant program.

The formula allocations for FY 2025 will be finalized at the annual Board of Governors' Annual Quorum Meeting typically held in the spring.

Local Development District (LDD) Capacity Building Program

The Federal Co-Chair of the Commission requests \$1,800,000 to support the LDD Capacity Building Program and its associated costs. As referenced in 40 U.S.C. \$15505, SCRC established an LDD program to help with administrative expenses from assisting communities with development planning and grant implementation. SCRC will support 55 LDDs across participating states, which will enhance outreach activities to local governments, community groups, the business community, and distressed and transitional communities while improving local access to funding sources and the bandwidth of organizations to receive financial investments.

State Capacity Cooperative Program

The Federal Co-Chair of the Commission requests \$1,800,000 to support the State Capacity Cooperative Program and its associated costs. SCRC will enter into cooperative agreements with entities with experience managing grants and facilitating training and outreach efforts. SCRC's financial investments in roads, buildings, water systems, and other brick-and-mortar projects will be administered by SCRC's Basic Agency. The basic Agency will oversee environmental reviews, construction progress, payments and reimbursements, and federal, state, and local compliance.

Research & Evaluation Consortium

The Federal Co-Chair of the Commission requests \$900,000 to implement the Research & Evaluation Consortium and its associated costs to research, gather data, and evaluate the impact of SCRC grants and programs. This request reflects the staffing necessary to carry out programmatic functions and responsibilities and to ensure proper fiduciary management of the federal appropriations. Researchers and evaluators, mapping specialists and economists will identify and track trends of economic and infrastructure developments and barriers.

Research & Evaluation Consortium			
Classification	FY 2025 Budget Request		
Salaries	\$194,274.00		
Fringe Benefits (30%)	\$58,282.00		
Travel	\$6,000.00		
Professional Services/Contractual	\$582,944.00		
Leases/Furnishings	\$38,000.00		
Telecommunications/Utilities	\$4,000.00		
Meetings & Events	\$5,000.00		
Equipment	\$4,500.00		
Supplies	\$3,500.00		
Communications	\$3,500.00		
Professional Development	\$0.00		
Total	900,000.00		

- Salaries: Salaries consist of payroll for three non-Federal, programmatic positions, including the Director of Research & Policy, Data Analyst, and GIS Specialist.
- Fringe Benefits: The effective fringe benefit rate is 30 percent of salaries, which represents both mandatory and voluntary salary-related expenditures such as Social Security (FICA), Medicare, State Unemployment Tax (SUTA), non-elective retirement, and elective retirement (IRA) with a maximum employer match of 3%.
- Travel: Travel includes mileage and/or fuel, rental vehicles, hotels, airfare, meals & incidentals, taxis, parking fees, etc., consisting primarily of trips to small rural towns, communities, and counties without access to major modes of public transportation (i.e. air/rail) throughout the seven-state region. SCRC's service area presents logistical challenges that often necessitate multiple modes of travel (i.e. air and vehicle travel).
- **Professional Services/Contractual:** Professional Services/Contractual includes expenses for specialists that provide unique services that are otherwise unavailable to be provided by SCRC staff, such as cooperative agreements with research and compliance partners, data analytics software, ArcGIS subscription, etc.
- Leases/Furnishings: Leases/Furnishings consist of long-term leases for the Regional Headquarters (Columbia, SC) as well as related furnishings. These costs have been absorbed by the Office of the Federal Co-Chair and the Commission's administrative budget.
- **Telecommunications/Utilities:** Telecommunications/Utilities consist of internet, business phones, basic utilities, and related items. Research and Evaluation Programmatic S&E Costs assumes 20% of the total costs for telecommunications/utilities.

- **Meetings & Events:** Meetings and Events consist of venues, materials, and food and beverages (non-alcoholic) related to the meeting or event.
- **Equipment:** Equipment consists of computers, printers, external monitors, accessories, and related items.
- Supplies: Supplies consist of stationery, writing utensils, binders, folders, and related items.
- Communications: Communications consist of printing for various meetings, publications, marketing, outreach, and related expenses.

Crescent Care Collaborative (CCC)

The Federal Co-Chair requests \$328,242 to implement the Crescent Care Collaborative and its associated costs. The SCRC is also requesting \$71,758 to support program activities for mobile health clinics, such as IRT Medical Missions in partnership with other Federal entities. CCC was launched in FY 2022 in response to medical professional shortages and consistently low access to quality healthcare throughout the region. This request reflects the staffing necessary to carry out programmatic functions and responsibilities and to ensure proper fiduciary management of the federal appropriations.

Crescent Care Collaborative (CCC)				
Classification	FY 2025 Budget Request			
Salaries	\$69,243.00			
Fringe Benefits (30%)	\$20,773.00			
Travel	\$18,000.00			
Professional Services/Contractual	\$184,000.00			
Leases/Furnishings	\$0.00			
Telecommunications/Utilities	\$0.00			
Meetings & Events	\$20,000.00			
Equipment	\$2,500.00			
Supplies	\$1,726.00			
Communications	\$12,000.00			
Total	\$328,242.00			

- Salaries: Salaries consist of payroll for one non-Federal, programmatic position, including the Program Manager Health & Wellness.
- Fringe Benefits: The effective fringe benefit rate is 30 percent of salaries, which represents both mandatory and voluntary salary-related expenditures such as Social Security (FICA), Medicare, State Unemployment Tax (SUTA), non-elective retirement, and elective retirement (IRA) with a maximum employer match of 3%.

- Travel: Travel includes mileage and/or fuel, rental vehicles, hotels, airfare, meals & incidentals, taxis, parking fees, etc., consisting primarily of trips to small rural towns, communities, and counties without access to major modes of public transportation (i.e. air/rail) throughout the seven-state region. SCRC's service area presents logistical challenges that often necessitate multiple modes of transportation (i.e. air and vehicle travel).
- **Professional Services/Contractual:** Professional Services/Contractual includes expenses for specialists that provide unique services that are otherwise unavailable to be provided by SCRC staff, such as health-related partners, J-1 visa application reviewers, and ongoing compliance with the U.S. Department of State.
- **Meetings & Events:** Meetings and Events consist of venues, materials, and food and beverages (non-alcoholic) related to the meeting or event.
- **Equipment:** Equipment consists of computers, printers, external monitors, accessories, and related items.
- Supplies: Supplies consist of stationery, writing utensils, binders, folders, and related items.
- **Communications:** Communications consist of printing for various meetings, marketing, outreach, and related expenses.



APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - SCRC FY 2025 Organizational Chart



Appendix 2 – County and County Equivalent Listings by Economic Designation

Distressed Counties and County Equivalents - 166

Alabama (3)

Covington, Geneva, and Pike

Florida (24)

Bradford, Calhoun, Citrus, DeSoto, Dixie, Gadsden, Glades, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Holmes, Jacksons, Lafayette, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Okeechobee, Osceola, Putnam, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, and Washington

Georgia (74)

Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Baker, Baldwin, Ben Hill, Berrien, Bibb, Bleckley, Brantley, Brooks, Bulloch, Burke, Calhoun, Candler, Charlton, Clarke, Clay, Clayton, Clinch, Coffee, Colquitt, Cook, Crisp, Decatur, Dodge, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Emanuel, Evans, Hancock, Irwin, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Lanier, Laurens, Lowndes, Macon, McDuffie, Meriwether, Mitchell, Montgomery, Peach, Quitman, Randolph, Richmond, Screven, Seminole, Spalding, Stewart, Sumter, Taliaferro, Tattnall, Taylor, Telfair, Terrell, Toombs, Treutlen, Turner, Twiggs, Upson, Ware, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Webster, Wheeler, Wilcox, Wilkes, and Wilkinson

Mississippi (14)

Clarke, Forrest, George, Greene, Harrison, Jones, Lauderdale, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Perry, Scott, Stone, and Wayne

North Carolina (26)

Anson, Bertie, Bladen, Caswell, Chowan, Columbus, Cumberland, Edgecombe, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Lenoir, Martin, Northampton, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Sampson, Scotland, Tyrrell Count, Vance, Warren, Washington, and Wilson

South Carolina (16)

Abbeville, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Dillon, Hampton, Laurens, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Orangeburg, and Williamsburg

Virginia (9)

Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Danville City, Emporia City, Greensville, Mecklenburg, Pittsylvania, and Prince Edward

Transitional Counties and County Equivalents - 177

Alabama (9)

Autauga, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Henry, Houston, Lee, Mobile, and Montgomery

Florida (30)

Alachua, Baker, Bay, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Franklin, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hernando, Hillsborough, Jefferson, Lake, Lee, Leon, Manatee, Marion, Miami-Dade, Orange, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, St. Lucie, Sumter, and Volusia

Georgia (36)

Butts, Camden, Chatham, Chattahoochee, Crawford, DeKalb, Glascock, Glynn, Grady, Greene, Henry, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Lamar, Liberty, Lincoln, Long, Marion, McIntosh, Miller, Monroe, Muscogee, Newton, Oglethorpe, Pierce, Pulaski, Putnam, Rockdale, Schley, Talbot, Thomas, Tift, Troup, Walton, and Worth

Mississippi (4)

Hancock, Jackson, Lamar, and Pearl River

North Carolina (33)

Alamance, Beaufort, Brunswick, Cabarrus, Craven, Davidson, Duplin, Durham, Franklin, Gaston, Gates, Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Johnston, Jones, Lee, Lincoln, Montgomery, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Person, Pitt, Randolph, Rowan, Stanly, and Wayne

South Carolina (19)

Aiken, Berkeley, Calhoun, Darlington, Dorchester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Greenwood, Horry, Jasper, Kershaw, Lancaster, McCormick, Newberry, Richland, Saluda, and Sumter

Virginia (46)

Accomack, Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Augusta, Campbell, Caroline, Charles City, Colonial Heights City, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Essex, Franklin City, Franklin, Halifax, Hampton City, Harrisonburg City, Hopewell City, King and Queen, Lancaster, Louisa, Lunenburg, Lynchburg City, Nelson, Newport News City, Norfolk City, Northampton, Northumberland, Nottoway, Orange, Page, Petersburg City, Portsmouth City, Prince George, Richmond City, Richmond, Roanoke City, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Southampton, Staunton City, Surry, Sussex, Warren, Waynesboro City, and Westmoreland

Attainment Counties and County Equivalents - 85

Alabama (1)

Baldwin

Florida (13)

Collier, Indian River, Martin, Monroe, Nassau, Okaloosa, Palm Beach, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, Wakulla, and Walton

Georgia (12)

Bryan, Cobb, Columbia, Coweta, Effingham, Fayette, Fulton, Harris, Lee, Morgan, Oconee, and Pike

Mississippi (0)

North Carolina (10)

Camden, Carteret, Chatham, Currituck, Dare, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Orange, Union, and Wake

South Carolina (4)

Beaufort, Charleston, Lexington, York

Virginia (45)

Albemarle, Alexandria City, Arlington, Bedford, Charlottesville City, Chesapeake City, Chesterfield, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax City, Fairfax, Falls Church City, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Frederick, Fredericksburg City, Gloucester, Goochland, Greene, Hanover County

Henrico, Isle of Wight, James City, King George, King William, Loudoun, Madison, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, Poquoson City, Powhatan, Prince William, Rappahannock, Roanoke, Salem City, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Suffolk City, Virginia Beach City, Williamsburg City, Winchester City, and York

Appendix 3 – Isolated Areas of Distress (Located within Attainment Counties & County Equivalents)

	State	County/County Equivalent	Census Tract	Designation	Poverty Rate	Median Household Income	Historically Disadvantaged Community
1	Alabama	Baldwin County	106	Distressed	33.6%	\$22,330	Yes
2	Florida	Collier County	114	Distressed	22.0%	\$43,628	Yes
3	Florida	Indian River County	501.01	Distressed	23.2%	\$38,652	Yes
4	Florida	Indian River County	504.01	Distressed	30.5%	\$26,679	Yes
5	Florida	Martin County	8	Distressed	22.5%	\$46,125	Yes
6	Florida	Martin County	10	Distressed	20.4%	\$45,052	Yes
7	Florida	Martin County	12	Distressed	23.8%	\$36,324	Yes
8	Florida	Okaloosa County	221	Distressed	15.8%	\$45,750	Yes
9	Florida	Palm Beach County	15	Distressed	20.2%	\$37,969	Yes
10	Florida	Palm Beach County	18.02	Distressed	17.0%	\$41,196	Yes
11	Florida	Palm Beach County	19.12	Distressed	24.0%	\$25,888	Yes
12	Florida	Palm Beach County	21	Distressed	25.9%	\$30,185	Yes
13	Florida	Palm Beach County	40.07	Distressed	23.9%	\$44,179	Yes
14	Florida	Palm Beach County	40.13	Distressed	17.3%	\$31,894	Yes
15	Florida	Palm Beach County	42.03	Distressed	22.4%	\$40,017	Yes
16	Florida	Palm Beach County	45	Distressed	23.9%	\$41,451	Yes
17	Florida	Palm Beach County	51.02	Distressed	17.1%	\$44,178	Yes
18	Florida	Palm Beach County	77.46	Distressed	23.7%	\$22,222	Yes
19	Florida	Palm Beach County	80.01	Distressed	62.5%	\$18,465	Yes
20	Florida	Palm Beach County	80.02	Distressed	21.8%	\$32,127	Yes
21	Florida	Palm Beach County	82.01	Distressed	37.5%	\$31,705	Yes
22	Florida	Palm Beach County	82.03	Distressed	29.3%	\$35,977	Yes
23	Florida	Palm Beach County	83.01	Distressed	28.9%	\$45,781	Yes
24	Florida	Santa Rosa County	106.01	Distressed	14.9%	\$44,071	Yes
25	Florida	Santa Rosa County	107.05	Distressed	23.1%	\$44,784	Yes
26	Florida	Sarasota County	27.21	Distressed	15.3%	\$45,732	Yes
27	Florida	Seminole County	205	Distressed	39.5%	\$42,652	Yes
28	Florida	Seminole County	209.01	Distressed	22.9%	\$35,915	Yes
29	Florida	Seminole County	209.02	Distressed	20.1%	\$45,301	Yes
30	Florida	Seminole County	220.01	Distressed	37.6%	\$45,000	Yes
31	Florida	St. Johns County	210.02	Distressed	30.0%	\$39,732	Yes

22	C	C. I.I. C.	204.44	District 1	20.22/	640.537	.,
32	Georgia	Cobb County	304.14	Distressed	30.3%	\$40,527	Yes
33	Georgia	Cobb County	307	Distressed	24.3%	\$45,583	Yes
34	Georgia	Cobb County	310.04	Distressed	12.6%	\$46,116	Yes
35	Georgia	Fulton County	24	Distressed	39.6%	\$27,647	Yes
36	Georgia	Fulton County	25	Distressed	41.3%	\$34,082	Yes
37	Georgia	Fulton County	26	Distressed	30.9%	\$27,188	Yes
38	Georgia	Fulton County	40	Distressed	27.3%	\$45,761	Yes
39	Georgia	Fulton County	48	Distressed	38.6%	\$15,726	Yes
40	Georgia	Fulton County	55.01	Distressed	43.9%	\$37,342	Yes
41	Georgia	Fulton County	57	Distressed	19.1%	\$35,607	Yes
42	Georgia	Fulton County	61	Distressed	37.6%	\$28,967	Yes
43	Georgia	Fulton County	62	Distressed	24.5%	\$43,147	Yes
44	Georgia	Fulton County	63	Distressed	40.0%	\$37,016	Yes
45	Georgia	Fulton County	64	Distressed	24.6%	\$36,181	Yes
46	Georgia	Fulton County	66.02	Distressed	34.8%	\$22,500	Yes
47	Georgia	Fulton County	67.01	Distressed	28.1%	\$25,963	Yes
48	Georgia	Fulton County	70.01	Distressed	37.7%	\$30,324	Yes
49	Georgia	Fulton County	71	Distressed	27.7%	\$27,993	Yes
50	Georgia	Fulton County	73.02	Distressed	44.3%	\$18,247	Yes
51	Georgia	Fulton County	74	Distressed	40.1%	\$26,391	Yes
52	Georgia	Fulton County	75	Distressed	26.5%	\$26,023	Yes
53	Georgia	Fulton County	76.02	Distressed	16.6%	\$42,965	Yes
54	Georgia	Fulton County	76.03	Distressed	44.5%	\$15,499	Yes
55	Georgia	Fulton County	76.04	Distressed	33.6%	\$26,175	Yes
56	Georgia	Fulton County	77.05	Distressed	13.8%	\$34,543	Yes
57	Georgia	Fulton County	78.07	Distressed	18.3%	\$43,586	Yes
58	Georgia	Fulton County	78.08	Distressed	63.2%	\$16,535	Yes
59	Georgia	Fulton County	80	Distressed	18.6%	\$41,281	Yes
60	Georgia	Fulton County	82.02	Distressed	39.6%	\$25,875	Yes
61	Georgia	Fulton County	83.01	Distressed	42.0%	\$28,144	Yes
62	Georgia	Fulton County	83.02	Distressed	32.4%	\$28,173	Yes
63	Georgia	Fulton County	85	Distressed	40.2%	\$35,515	Yes
64	Georgia	Fulton County	86.01	Distressed	34.0%	\$26,563	Yes
65	Georgia	Fulton County	87.01	Distressed	27.1%	\$27,883	Yes
66	Georgia	Fulton County	106.03	Distressed	14.9%	\$42,246	Yes
67	Georgia	Fulton County	106.04	Distressed	24.9%	\$26,737	Yes
68	Georgia	Fulton County	110	Distressed	38.1%	\$37,888	Yes
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69	Georgia	Fulton County	113.06	Distressed	14.5%	\$44,746	Yes
70	Georgia	Fulton County	120	Distressed	52.0%	\$12,288	Yes
71	North Carolina	Chatham County	204.01	Distressed	26.1%	\$42,205	Yes
72	North Carolina	Chatham County	204.02	Distressed	32.3%	\$33,875	Yes
73	North Carolina	Iredell County	602	Distressed	33.7%	\$33,971	Yes
74	North Carolina	Iredell County	603	Distressed	24.4%	\$37,119	Yes
75	North Carolina	Iredell County	604	Distressed	22.9%	\$41,098	Yes
76	North Carolina	Iredell County	606.01	Distressed	19.2%	\$35,404	Yes
77	North Carolina	Iredell County	616.01	Distressed	24.1%	\$42,617	Yes
78	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	15.04	Distressed	17.4%	\$41,375	Yes
79	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	15.07	Distressed	29.9%	\$35,958	Yes
80	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	16.05	Distressed	15.4%	\$42,260	Yes
81	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	16.08	Distressed	35.1%	\$43,618	Yes
82	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	16.09	Distressed	22.5%	\$43,603	Yes
83	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	19.10	Distressed	15.6%	\$42,641	Yes
84	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	19.14	Distressed	22.4%	\$44,569	Yes
85	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	38.02	Distressed	28.2%	\$35,051	Yes
86	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	38.07	Distressed	26.4%	\$42,420	Yes
87	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	39.02	Distressed	32.2%	\$36,111	Yes
88	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	39.03	Distressed	59.3%	\$19,113	Yes
89	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	40	Distressed	13.0%	\$45,206	Yes
90	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	42	Distressed	16.4%	\$37,304	Yes
91	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	43.02	Distressed	21.0%	\$36,765	Yes
92	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	43.04	Distressed	17.2%	\$39,536	Yes
93	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	45	Distressed	21.3%	\$33,418	Yes
94	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	46	Distressed	17.7%	\$35,104	Yes
95	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	48	Distressed	29.2%	\$25,607	Yes
96	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	51	Distressed	30.7%	\$27,091	Yes
97	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	52	Distressed	26.3%	\$31,654	Yes
98	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	53.01	Distressed	27.4%	\$36,088	Yes
99	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	53.05	Distressed	21.9%	\$41,750	Yes
100	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	53.06	Distressed	25.5%	\$38,017	Yes
101	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	53.07	Distressed	31.6%	\$36,467	Yes
102	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	53.08	Distressed	36.7%	\$32,528	Yes
103	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	59.16	Distressed	21.8%	\$39,911	Yes
104	North Carolina	Orange County	116.02	Distressed	41.7%	\$30,625	Yes
105	North Carolina	Wake County	508	Distressed	33.0%	\$31,962	Yes
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106 North Carolina Wake County 520.01 Distressed 29.0% \$35,077 Yes 107 North Carolina Wake County 521.01 Distressed 22.2% \$40,996 Yes 108 North Carolina Wake County 524.09 Distressed 45.7% \$27,079 Yes 109 North Carolina Wake County 527.04 Distressed 23.6% \$38,833 Yes 110 South Carolina Beaufort County 6 Distressed 21.8% \$42,826 Yes 111 South Carolina Charleston County 24.02 Distressed 18.2% \$40,273 Yes 112 South Carolina Charleston County 27.02 Distressed 16.7% \$44,022 Yes 113 South Carolina Charleston County 31.04 Distressed 26.2% \$30,702 Yes 114 South Carolina Charleston County 31.05 Distressed 29.9% \$33,628 Yes 115 <th></th>	
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125 South Carolina Levington County 208 04 Distressed 28 5% \$34 802 Ves	
125 South Carolina Eckington County 250.04 Distressed 20.576 \$54,002	
126 South Carolina Lexington County 214.02 Distressed 16.5% \$43,879 Yes	
127 South Carolina Lexington County 214.03 Distressed 17.2% \$44,259 Yes	
128 South Carolina York County 603 Distressed 26.2% \$33,604 Yes	
129 South Carolina York County 604.01 Distressed 19.8% \$27,083 Yes	
130 South Carolina York County 605.02 Distressed 24.9% \$41,250 Yes	
131 South Carolina York County 616.01 Distressed 32.7% \$41,143 Yes	
132 South Carolina York County 616.02 Distressed 16.0% \$43,182 Yes	
133 Virginia Charlottesville city 6 Distressed 67.1% \$22,908 Yes	
134 Virginia Chesterfield County 1001.07 Distressed 33.4% \$43,952 Yes	
135 Virginia Chesterfield County 1003 Distressed 27.8% \$37,615 Yes	
136 Virginia Chesterfield County 1004.04 Distressed 18.3% \$37,460 Yes	
137 Virginia Chesterfield County 1004.06 Distressed 37.6% \$32,682 Yes	
138 Virginia Suffolk city 651 Distressed 20.8% \$41,838 Yes	
139 Virginia Winchester city 1.02 Distressed 31.0% \$39,537 Yes	

<u>Distressed Census Tracts</u>

All of the following:

(Yes) Historically Disadvantaged Community (≥12.6%) Greater than U.S. Poverty Rate (<\$46,244) 67% of the U.S. Median Household Income

- *To be included in analysis, each census tract must have all three measures determined. (If the census tract was missing any of the variables, then it was excluded from analysis.)
- **All data came from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2021 5-Year Estimates with the exception of Historically Disadvantaged Communities, which comes from U.S. Department of Transportation:

https://datahub.transportation.gov/stories/s/tsyd-k6ij