



SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION

From Blueprint to Benchmarks

Reporting Progress of a Five-Year Strategic Plan





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ABOUT SCRC

FROM BLUEPRINT TO BENCHMARKS:
REPORTING PROGRESS OF A FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN



About SCRC

The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) was originally authorized under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 ("The Farm Bill"), and was reauthorized in the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024. Envisioned as a federal-state partnership dedicated to uplifting the Southeastern United States, SCRC began official operations in 2022 with a clear mission: to build thriving communities and strengthen economic growth across the Southeast Crescent region. The Southeast Crescent region includes 428 counties across seven states, including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Modeled from other regional commissions, including the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), and the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC), SCRC invests federal appropriations into projects supporting critical infrastructure, housing and community revitalization, workforce training, business development, and public services and healthcare. The vast majority of SCRC grant-funded projects leverage additional support from local communities, governments, businesses, and other partner organizations, creating a multiplier effect that maximizes both impact and return on investment.



MISSION



To build thriving communities and strengthen economic growth across the Southeast Crescent region.

Guiding Principles

Of the seven states served by SCRC, six are shared with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and two with Delta Regional Authority (DRA). Like SCRC, these regional commissions are charged with investing in programs and projects that will improve economic development within the footprint. In accordance with 40 U.S.C. Chapter 2 § 15501, SCRC invests in projects that will:



Develop transportation, telecommunications, and public infrastructure.



Assist in obtaining job skills training, skills development and employment related education, entrepreneurship, technology, and business development.



Provide assistance to severely economically distressed and underdeveloped areas in the region that lack financial resources for improving basic health care and other public services.



Promote resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open space consistent with economic development goals.



Promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources.



Our Region At A Glance



Footprint:

428 counties in seven states across 210,508 square miles.



People:

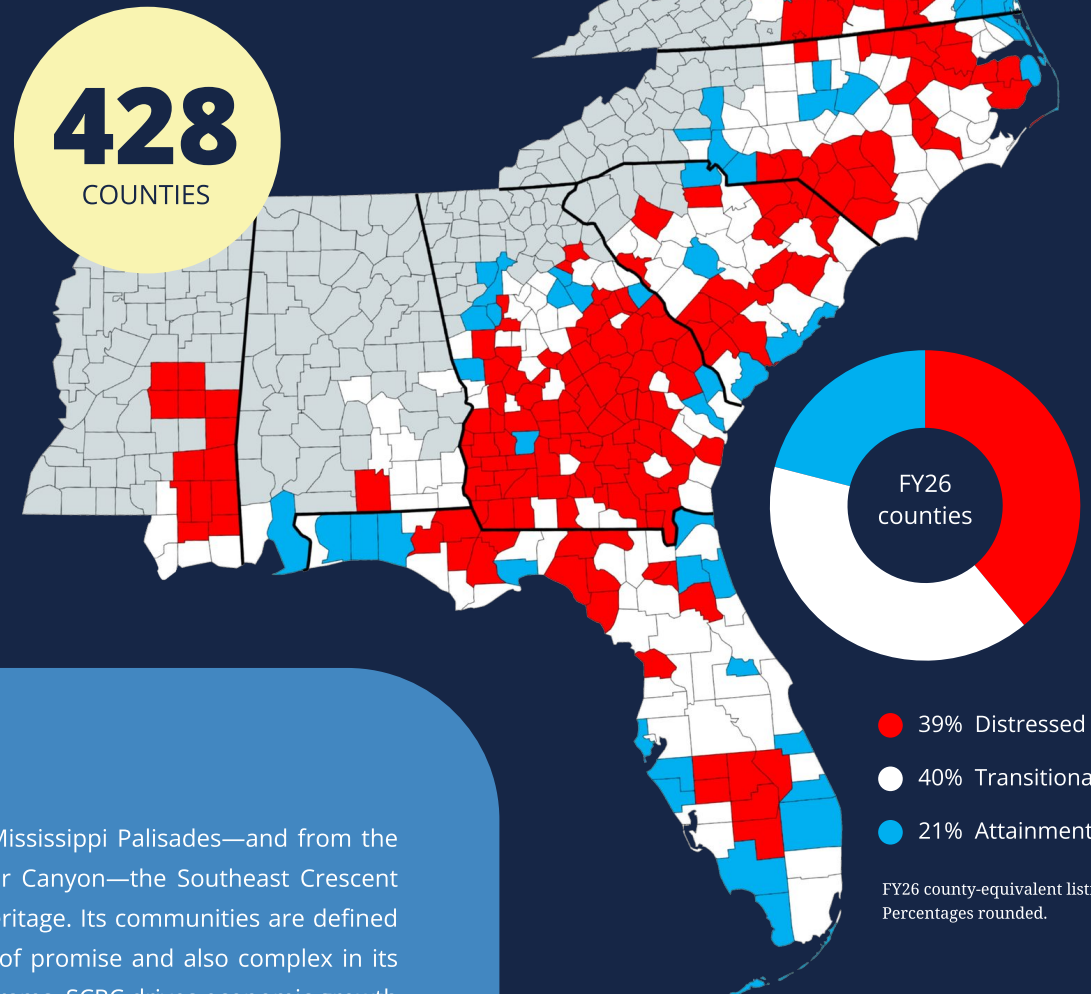
51.1 million residents; 39% of counties classified as distressed.



Targeting need:

SCRC commits at least 50% of grant funds to distressed counties & isolated areas of distress, and at least 40% to basic public infrastructure.

FY26 Regional Map Of Economic Status



The Uniqueness of the SCRC Region

From the sweeping vistas of the Florida Everglades to the rugged beauty of the Mississippi Palisades—and from the saltwater marshes of South Carolina’s Lowcountry to Alabama’s scenic Little River Canyon—the Southeast Crescent region is home to breathtaking natural landscapes and a deeply rooted cultural heritage. Its communities are defined by resilience, ingenuity, and generations of tradition, making the region both full of promise and also complex in its challenges. Through targeted investments, capacity-building, and collaborative programs, SCRC drives economic growth while honoring the region’s unique legacy and preserving its natural beauty.

Introductory Letter From The Federal Co-Chair

It is with immense pride and a deep sense of purpose that I present to you the inaugural Blueprint to Benchmarks Report of the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC). This document chronicles the early achievements of a regional commission born out of a bipartisan vision and built on the belief that all communities, especially those long overlooked, deserve the opportunity to thrive.

SCRC is one of six congressionally authorized, active regional commissions—including the Appalachian Regional Commission, Delta Regional Authority, Northern Border Regional Commission, Southwest Border Regional Commission, and Denali Commission—designed to lift up rural and economically distressed communities through place-based investments. These commissions are uniquely positioned: closer to the ground, more attuned to regional needs, and often the first to invest where others have not. In doing so, we serve as catalysts unlocking public and private capital, empowering local leadership, and ensuring federal resources reach the communities that need them most.

Though formally authorized in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, SCRC only became active in 2021, when I had the honor of being confirmed as its first Federal Co-Chair, and operational in 2022. In just a few short years, we have worked with urgency and vision to establish a strong foundation across our seven-state region, which spans 428 counties in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Rich in natural and cultural assets, this region has also borne the weight of generational disinvestment and persistent economic challenges.

From day one, our work has centered on listening to communities and building with them, not for them. Through initiatives like our Love Where You Live survey and Coffee and Conversation series, we engaged residents directly to shape our Five-Year Strategic Plan, adopted in December 2022. That plan now guides our efforts to support locally driven infrastructure, workforce, and health-related projects that reflect each community's vision for its future.

With the support of our Local Development Districts (LDDs) and State Capacity Cooperative (SCC) Programs, we have launched high-impact initiatives such as the State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program. In 2024 alone, SEID invested \$17.4 million in 52 projects, leveraging more than \$35 million in additional funding—a 205% return on investment. Through our 2025 SEID grant cycle, SCRC invested \$34.6 million in 82 projects that support public works, infrastructure, and workforce initiatives specifically targeted to fuel transformation in communities that have too often been left behind.

SCRC's reach and responsiveness go beyond infrastructure and workforce development. In addition to the impacts of investments made through the SEID program, the Crescent Care Collaborative and J-1 Visa Waiver Program are helping address persistent gaps in healthcare access. And our Inaugural HBCU Tech Summit is building new pipelines for economic mobility and innovation across the region.

This Blueprint to Benchmarks Report documents our progress to date, but more importantly, it affirms the urgent need to continue this work. The momentum we've built must not only be maintained, it must be accelerated.

Continued investment in SCRC's mission is essential to ensuring that the Southeast Crescent region is not left behind in national recovery and growth efforts. Our work is far from finished, and the communities we serve cannot afford for this progress to stall.

SCRC is not just a grantmaking agency; we are a strategic partner committed to unlocking the full potential of the region we serve. By continuing to invest in regional commissions like SCRC, we invest in the idea that every place matters, and that lasting prosperity is possible when communities are given the tools and trust to shape their own futures.

Thank you for your interest in our work and for standing with us as we continue this journey in amplifying local voices, scaling place-based solutions, and building a stronger Southeast Crescent region for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed

Federal Co-Chair
Southeast Crescent Regional Commission

Commission Members

Policy and oversight decisions for the Commission are made jointly by the Federal Co-Chair and a majority of Governors from participating states. At the time of this report, participating states are Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Board of Governors



The Honorable Kay Ivey
Governor for the State of
Alabama



The Honorable Brian Kemp
Governor for the State of
Georgia



The Honorable Tate Reeves
Governor for the State of
Mississippi



The Honorable Henry McMaster
Governor for the State of
South Carolina



The Honorable Abigail Spanberger
Governor for the State of Virginia
(*The Honorable Glenn Youngkin 2022-2025*)



The Honorable Josh Stein
Governor for the State of North Carolina
(*The Honorable Roy Cooper 2022-2024*)



**Dr. Jennifer
Clyburn Reed**
Federal Co-Chair
Southeast Crescent
Regional Commission



Gov. Henry McMaster
South Carolina · 2022–2024



Gov. Roy Cooper
North Carolina · 2024–2025



Gov. Josh Stein
North Carolina · 2025–2026

State
Co-Chairs

Years of Service
Tenure by state and year



State Support

Governors' Alternates & State Program Managers

FY 2027 | Roster as of September 29, 2026

STATE	GOVERNORS' ALTERNATES	STATE PROGRAM MANAGERS
Alabama	Kenneth W. Boswell, Director Department of Economic and Community Affairs	Crystal G. Talley, Division Chief Department of Economic and Community Affairs
Georgia	Christopher Nunn, Commissioner Department of Community Affairs	Brittany D. Pittman, Program Manager Department of Community Affairs
Mississippi	Sam Andrews Office of Governor Tate Reeves	Tim Climer, PCED Community and Rural Development
North Carolina	Reginald Speight, Assistant Secretary Department of Commerce – Rural Economic Development	Olivia Collier, Director Department of Commerce
South Carolina	Jonathan Eckstrom Office of Governor Henry McMaster	Caroline Griffin, Deputy Director Department of Commerce
Virginia	Dr. Tamarah Holmes, Director Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)	Matt Weaver, Associate Director Department of Housing and Community Development



STRATEGIC PLANNING

FROM BLUEPRINT TO BENCHMARKS:
REPORTING PROGRESS OF A FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Targeted, Community- Informed Development Strategies

In alignment with its governing statute, 40 U.S.C. Chapter 2 § 15303 et seq., SCRC has engaged with states and local communities to better understand the region's needs and priorities in support of targeted and effective strategy development. SCRC has also conducted outreach to raise awareness of the Commission's mission so that all leaders, constituents and communities can have the opportunity to access SCRC resources and programs.

The insights collected through outreach and engagement laid the groundwork for SCRC's inaugural five-year Strategic Plan, adopted in December 2022. This plan now serves as the Commission's comprehensive blueprint for economic and infrastructure development—anchored in business development and job creation strategies and positioned as a catalyst for regional growth and long-term community resilience.



Highlights

Love Where You Live Survey

In April 2022, SCRC launched the Love Where You Live survey to gather direct input from residents across the seven-state footprint. Despite limited staffing and resources, SCRC successfully deployed the regionwide survey as a key tool to understand local priorities and challenges. Designed to identify community needs related to workforce training, infrastructure, healthcare access, housing, and other drivers of economic development, the survey captured valuable insights from critical voices across the Southeast Crescent.

I would improve infrastructure—roads, water, sewer, natural gas, broadband so we could have more developable sites for housing and businesses.

I would improve healthcare—elimination of disparities in health outcomes, provision of additional health services, education of local residents to understand why good health is important.

If I could change one thing in or about my community, opportunities to it would drive be more entrepreneurship and innovation and to create more opportunities for the community. This would serve to keep more folks in the region.

The findings provided critical, community-informed data and information that shaped the development of SCRC's inaugural five-year Strategic Plan. In addition, the survey results played a central role in guiding the design of grant programs and investment strategies, ensuring that SCRC's efforts were responsive, targeted, and grounded in the lived experiences of the region's residents.

Coffee & Conversation

To ensure the voices of residents and community leaders were central to its work, SCRC launched the Coffee and Conversation series in the summer of 2022. This virtual engagement series brought together participants from across the seven-state region—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia—for open dialogue with SCRC leadership. Each session featured Federal Co-Chair Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed, who shared the Commission’s mission, priorities, and vision for the region’s future.

The series created a forum for residents, local officials, nonprofit leaders, and other stakeholders to ask questions, share lived experiences, and voice concerns in real time. These candid conversations generated meaningful insights into regional challenges and opportunities ranging from economic development and infrastructure to healthcare access, energy resilience, and environmental sustainability.

Themes and trends that emerged from the series were instrumental in shaping SCRC’s strategic direction, ensuring that the Commission’s investments and programs are community-informed, locally-responsive, and regionally impactful.



Strategic Plan

(FY 2022–FY 2027)

After beginning operations in January 2022, SCRC used the regional outreach described above to shape its five-year Strategic Plan and key programs, including the State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program. Utilizing prior-year federal appropriations from FY 2010 through FY 2021 and funds appropriated through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), SCRC launched these programs and committed to awarding \$20 million through the SEID Grant Program across six participating states: Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Adopted in December 2022, the five-year Strategic Plan serves as SCRC's roadmap for economic and infrastructure development, grounded in place-based investment principles. The plan aims to catalyze regional economic growth, promote community sustainability, and fill critical service gaps. With a focus on service and resiliency, SCRC identified **six strategic goals** to guide its investments:

01 Invest in Critical Infrastructure

02 Improve Health & Support Services Access and Outcomes

03 Strengthen Workforce Capacity

04 Foster Entrepreneurial & Business Development Activities

05 Expand Affordable Housing Stock & Access

06 Promote Environmental Conservation, Preservation, & Access

To measure progress and ensure accountability, SCRC established **four core impact measures to evaluate investments** made from FY 2023 through FY 2027, particularly through the inaugural SEID Grant Program:



Target 1

Number of households and businesses with new or improved access to critical services.



Target 2

Number of jobs created and/or retained.



Target 3

Number of communities with enhanced capacity.



Target 4

Value of community and resident wealth attained or built.

Together, these targets provide a framework for assessing the effectiveness of SCRC's work and reinforcing its role as a driver of transformative change in the Southeast Crescent region.

State Strategic Plans

To complement SCRC's five-year Strategic Plan and ensure the Commission's investments are responsive to the unique needs of the communities throughout the region, each participating state developed a State Plan & Strategy Statement to help inform SCRC investments.

1 Florida opted out of participation in FY 2022 through FY 2027.



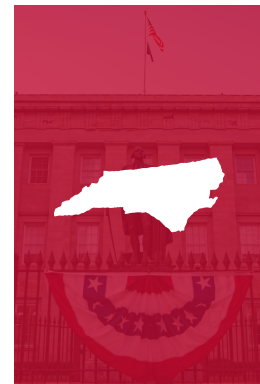
STATE OF
Alabama



STATE OF
Georgia



STATE OF
Mississippi



STATE OF
North Carolina



STATE OF
South Carolina



STATE OF
Virginia





COLLABORATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FROM BLUEPRINT TO BENCHMARKS:
REPORTING PROGRESS OF A FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Advancing Regional Collaboration

In February 2026, SCRC joined fellow regional commissions and the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) in Charleston, West Virginia, for the inaugural Regional Commissions Convening. The gathering focused on coordinating federal support, sharing best practices, and increasing the impact of investments in distressed communities.

The convening built on the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024. Passed by Congress in December 2024, the legislation reauthorized EDA for the first time in 20 years and formalized its relationship with regional commissions.

Together, EDA and the commissions are strengthening coordination to help communities access resources, reduce duplication, and advance long-term regional economic development.



U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito and EDA Deputy Assistant Secretary and Chief Operating Officer Ben Page with six Federal Co-Chairs, including Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed. Charleston, West Virginia • February 18, 2026.

State Capacity Cooperative (SCC) Program

In 2023, the Commission launched the State Capacity Cooperative (SCC) Program by entering into ongoing cooperative agreements with its member states. This initiative was created to strengthen coordination between SCRC and state governments, enhance outreach to local communities, and support effective implementation of grant-funded programs. Through the SCC Program, states collaborate closely with Local Development Districts (LDDs) to conduct outreach, raise awareness about SCRC initiatives, and assist communities in accessing available resources. These partnerships have expanded the Commission's reach across the region, ensuring that local stakeholders are informed, engaged, and supported throughout the grant development and implementation process.

The SCC Program also reinforces communication between SCRC and member states, promoting alignment of efforts and enabling more efficient, accountable use of federal investments. By working together at the state and local levels, the program helps build the foundation for long-term impact and regional success.



LDDs in the Southeast Crescent Region

The Local Development District (LDD) Capacity Building Program is a cornerstone of SCRC's strategy to expand local access to federal resources and ensure communities are prepared to receive and manage federal funding. Through this program, SCRC empowers LDDs to serve as vital connectors between the Commission and local governments, community-based organizations, and industry, particularly in economically distressed and transitional areas.

To inform the design of this initiative, SCRC conducted a comprehensive assessment in 2022 of LDD-related programs and statutory frameworks used by other regional commissions. This research shaped the foundation for SCRC's own LDD program and clarified how best to support and engage local partners across the Southeast Crescent region.

Beginning in 2023, SCRC committed to assisting 55 LDDs with administrative expenses related to pre-development activities, totaling over \$4.6M by 2026. This support enables LDDs to deepen community outreach, build stronger local coalitions, and more effectively guide project development aligned with SCRC priorities. By strengthening the capacity of LDDs, the program helps ensure that local stakeholders are fully equipped to participate in and benefit from SCRC programs and investments.



55 Local Development Districts

Supported through NADO partnership across six states in the SCRC region.

LDDs in the Southeast Crescent region

Alabama

- Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission
- Lee-Russell Council of Governments
- South Alabama Regional Planning Commission
- South Central Alabama Development Commission
- Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

Georgia

- Atlanta Regional Commission
- Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission
- Coastal Regional Commission
- Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission
- Middle Georgia Regional Commission
- Northeast Georgia Regional Commission
- River Valley Regional Commission
- Southern Georgia Regional Commission
- Southwest Georgia Regional Commission
- Three Rivers Regional Commission

Mississippi

- East Central Planning and Development District
- Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District

North Carolina

- Albemarle Commission
- Cape Fear Council of Governments
- Central Pines Regional Council
- Centralina Economic Development District
- Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments
- Lumber River Council of Governments
- Mid-Carolina Council of Governments
- Mid-East Commission
- Neuse River Council of Governments (d/b/a Eastern Carolina Council)
- Piedmont Triad Regional Council
- Southeastern Economic Development Commission
- Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments

South Carolina

- Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments
- Catawba Regional Council of Governments
- Central Midlands Council of Governments
- Lowcountry Council of Governments
- Lower Savannah Council of Governments
- Pee Dee Council of Governments
- Santee Lynches Council of Governments
- Upper Savannah Council of Governments
- Waccamaw Council of Governments

Virginia

- Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission
- Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
- Central Virginia Planning District Commission
- Commonwealth Regional Council
- Crater Planning District Commission
- George Washington Regional Commission
- Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
- Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
- Northern Neck Planning District Commission
- Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission
- Northern Virginia Regional Commission
- Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
- Richmond Regional Planning District Commission
- Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission
- Southside Planning District Commission
- Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission
- West Piedmont Planning District Commission

NADO and DDAA

In 2022 and 2023, the Commission deepened its engagement with partner states and local communities by collaborating with the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). As a national advocate for regional development and economic competitiveness, NADO plays a vital role in supporting Local Development Districts (LDDs), which are instrumental to SCRC's work on the ground. Through this partnership, SCRC provided training and technical assistance to 55 LDDs across six states in its region, helping to build local capacity and align regional efforts with the Commission's strategic goals.

To further strengthen relationships and increase visibility, SCRC participated in NADO's 2022 Annual Policy Conference, the joint NADO-Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) Conference in 2023, and the NADO Annual Training Conference in 2026. These events offered valuable opportunities to connect with key stakeholders, economic development professionals, and local leaders from across the region. In addition to fostering collaboration, the conferences enabled SCRC to share its mission, introduce new initiatives, and build momentum for its growing network of regional partnerships.



Inaugural HBCU Tech Summit

The SCRC region is home to 38 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), each playing a vital role in shaping the region's educational, economic, and cultural fabric. In 2023, SCRC Federal Co-Chair Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed partnered with Congressman Ro Khanna (CA-17) to co-host the inaugural HBCU Tech Summit at Claflin University—a landmark event designed to bridge the gap between the region's HBCUs and the global technology sector.

The summit convened over 200 guests from across the country, including Members of Congress Rep. James Clyburn (SC-06) and Rep. Jonathan Jackson (IL-01), university presidents, students, state and local officials, nonprofit leaders, and corporate representatives. Claflin University President Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack joined Rep. Khanna and Dr. Reed in welcoming attendees and setting the tone for a forward-thinking dialogue on innovation and economic opportunity.

Congressman Khanna, whose California district includes Silicon Valley, has been a longtime supporter of strengthening HBCU-industry partnerships. Many tech companies in his district have established collaborations with South Carolina HBCUs, including Claflin University, Benedict College, South Carolina State University, and Allen University. These partnerships have yielded impressive results, including internships, full-time jobs, and more than \$3.5 million in scholarships for students and graduates from these institutions.

COLLABORATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



The summit featured dynamic presentations and panels led by senior executives from some of the world's most influential tech firms including Microsoft, Google Cloud, Google, Dell Technologies, OpenAI, TalentSprint, and Apple. Additional participation from the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC), the U.S. Small Business Administration, and USDA Rural Development helped broaden the conversation to include public sector innovation and small business growth.

Discussions focused on closing the digital divide, advancing workforce development, and building stronger career pipelines. Key solutions emerging from the summit included expanding digital infrastructure, strengthening HBCU-industry partnerships, and investing in scalable models that connect talent in the Southeast Crescent region with high-demand careers in technology and innovation.

SCRC has committed to facilitating events like the HBCU Tech Summit throughout the Southeast Crescent region as part of its broader strategy to build and strengthen partnerships with emerging industries, expand access to economic opportunity, and ensure the region's workforce is prepared for the future.

Tuskegee University Booker T. Washington Annual Summit

SCRC Federal Co-Chair Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed was the keynote speaker for Tuskegee University's 27th Annual Booker T. Washington Summit in 2023. The title of Dr. Clyburn Reed's presentation was Empowering Communities Today to Face the Challenges of Tomorrow.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear from local community leaders and share information about the State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program. Meeting attendees included General Rick Boutwell, Troy University's Senior Vice Chancellor of Advancement; Kenneth Boswell, Director of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and SCRC Governor's Alternate; and several local community stakeholders.

**Empowering Communities Today
to Face the Challenges of
Tomorrow**

— Keynote address by SCRC Federal Co-Chair Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed, pictured with Tuskegee University President (retired) Dr. Charlotte Morris





STATE ECONOMIC & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT **GRANT PROGRAM**

FROM BLUEPRINT TO BENCHMARKS:
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State Economic & Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program

The State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program supports projects that revitalize and transform communities, spurring economic development in counties throughout Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

SCRC has completed two full grant cycles of the SEID Grant Program — FY 2024 and FY 2025 — investing \$52.0 million in 134 projects across six states.

6

States participating in SEID: Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Florida opted out for FY 2024 and FY 2025.

134

Projects

\$52.0 MILLION

FY 2024 Grant Cycle
FY 2025 Grant Cycle

\$1.83

Matching funds per \$1 invested by SCRC

SEID Grant Funding Formula and Priorities

Balance

25% of funds are distributed equally across the 6 states

Total State Population

5% of funds serve communities based on size

Distressed Population

45% of funds prioritize communities with the greatest need

Distressed Land Area

25% of funds address geographic infrastructure challenges

The SEID Grant Program supports a wide range of economic development and community development priorities including, but not limited to, the following:



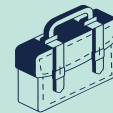
Critical Infrastructure

Water and sewer systems, broadband connectivity, transportation upgrades, and stormwater management.



Business Development

Entrepreneurial hubs, small business support programs, and access to capital.



Workforce Training

Programs designed to prepare workers for careers in high-growth sectors such as advanced manufacturing, logistics, healthcare, and technology.



Housing & Community Revitalization

Affordable housing projects, land development initiatives, and community renewal efforts.



Public Services & Healthcare

Investments in emergency healthcare facilities, medical equipment, and telemedicine.

2024 SEID Investments at a Glance



52
Projects Total

\$17.4 Million
SCRC Investment

\$35.6 Million
Matching Funds

EXPECTED OUTCOMES



133,745
Households Impacted



1,367
Businesses Supported



740
Jobs Created

STATE ECONOMIC & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

With \$20 million available in 2024, 52 projects totaling \$17.4 million were funded, investing in communities, building capacity, creating jobs, and strengthening infrastructure across the Southeast. The 2024 SEID Grant Program supported projects that revitalize and transform communities, spurring economic development in counties throughout Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.



Alabama
\$1,043,930
Awarded



Georgia
\$6,185,153
Awarded



Mississippi
\$2,197,515
Awarded



North Carolina
\$4,035,620
Awarded



South Carolina
\$2,347,760
Awarded



Virginia
\$1,552,459
Awarded

The state of Florida opted out of the SEID Grant Program.

2025 SEID Investments at a Glance



82
Projects Total

\$34.6 Million
SCRC Investment

\$59.3 Million
Matching Funds

EXPECTED OUTCOMES



15,189
Households Impacted



2,650
Businesses Supported



368
Jobs Created

STATE ECONOMIC & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

With \$36.11 million available in 2025, 82 projects totaling \$34.6 million were funded, strengthening infrastructure and economic development opportunities across six states in the Southeast Crescent Region. The 2025 SEID Grant Program supports projects that improve roads, sewer systems, and public works, and that provide workforce training and entrepreneurial development programming throughout Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.



Alabama
\$2,073,593
Awarded



Georgia
\$12,585,205
Awarded



Mississippi
\$3,918,949
Awarded



North Carolina
\$7,168,679
Awarded



South Carolina
\$4,567,807
Awarded



Virginia
\$4,293,402
Awarded

The state of Florida opted out of the SEID Grant Program.

Explore SEID Investments Across the Region

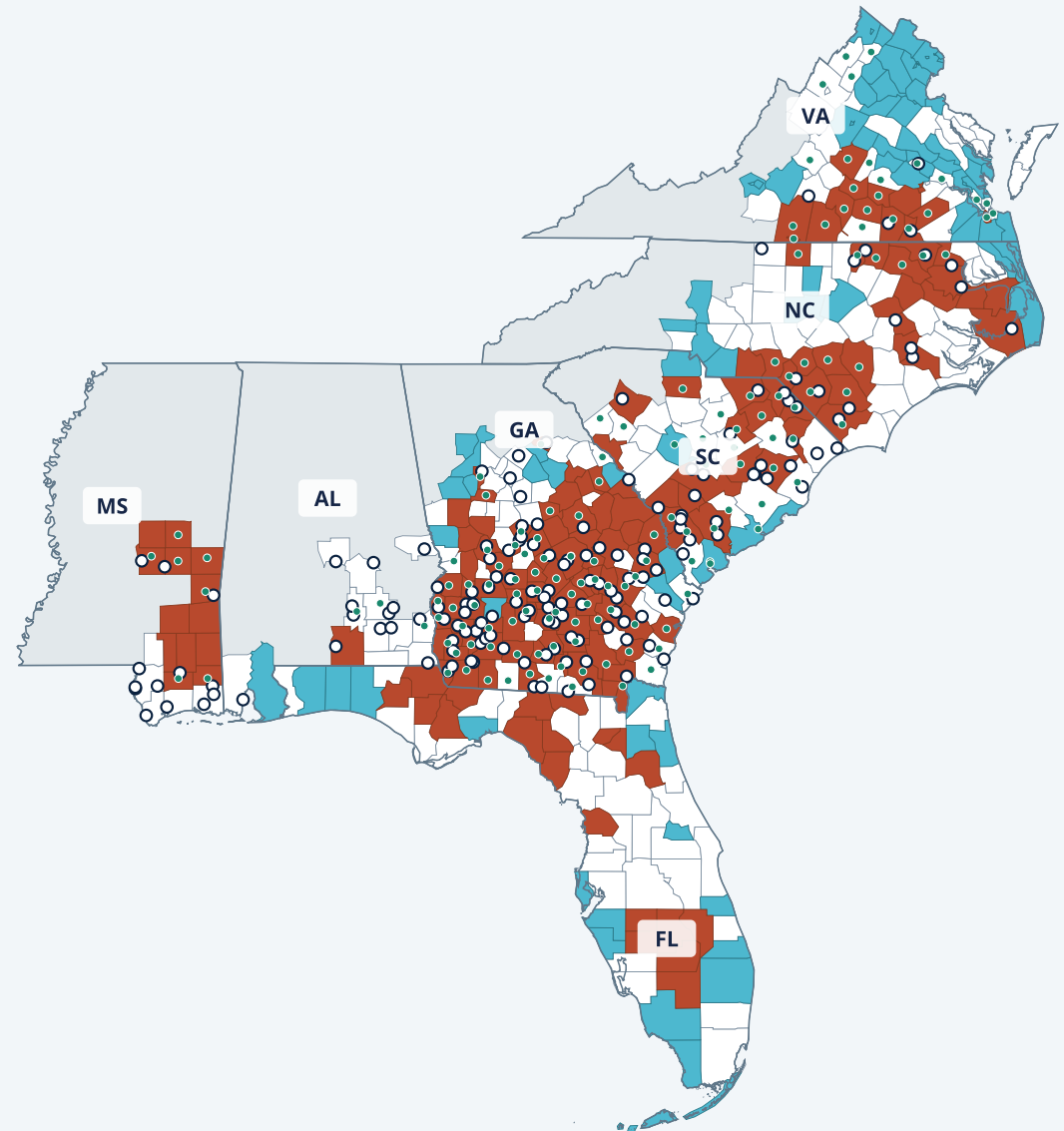
Continue to explore projects supported by SCRC's State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program with our interactive digital map.

Visit scrc.gov/interactive-map or scan the QR code below.

Filter by year, location, region, and more.



STATE ECONOMIC & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM



COUNTY STATUS

■ Distressed

■ Transitional

■ Attainment

GRANT LOCATIONS

○ FY2024

● FY2025



SPOTLIGHT ON HEALTHCARE

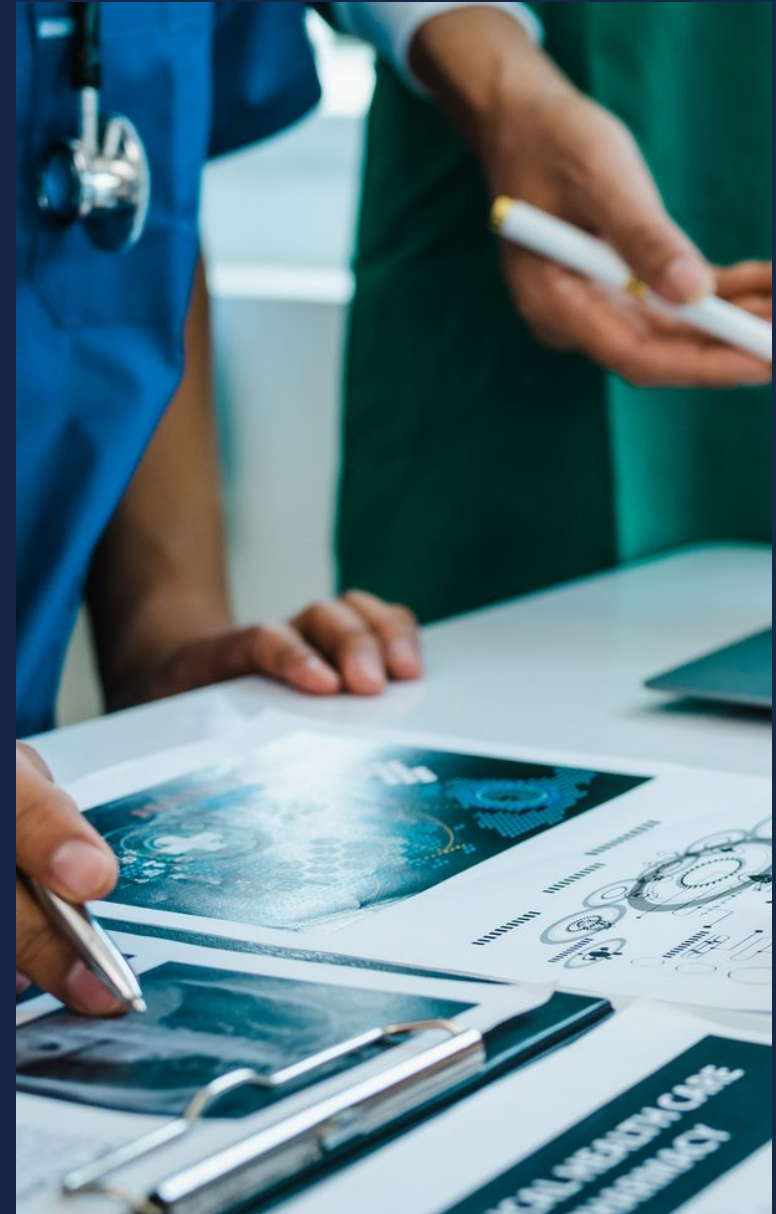
SCRC Regional Health Assessment

In order to identify trends across the region and to inform future healthcare programming and resource allocation, SCRC commissioned a health assessment of the region's 428 counties across seven states in spring 2023. The assessment identified counties with the highest concentrations of residents demonstrating certain health risk factors (i.e., obesity, smoking, etc.) and developed correlations between risk factors and demographics.

The study found a clear correlation between higher poverty rates and increased rates of uninsured individuals, obesity, diabetes, and hypertension. Distressed counties, with the highest poverty rates, had the highest rates of these health issues.

The assessment also found that higher unemployment rates are associated with higher poverty rates. Distressed counties had the highest unemployment and poverty rates, while attainment counties had the lowest. According to the study, attainment counties also had significantly lower rates of uninsured individuals, obesity, diabetes, and hypertension.

The data from the SCRC Regional Health Assessment highlights the significant disparities in economic and health conditions across different county categories within the SCRC region and helps to identify specific counties where shortfalls exist. Findings from the assessment have been used to identify critical gaps in health outcomes and will be used to inform programming and resource allocation decisions in future grant funding cycles to help bridge these gaps.



Crescent Care Collaborative & J-1 Visa Waiver Program

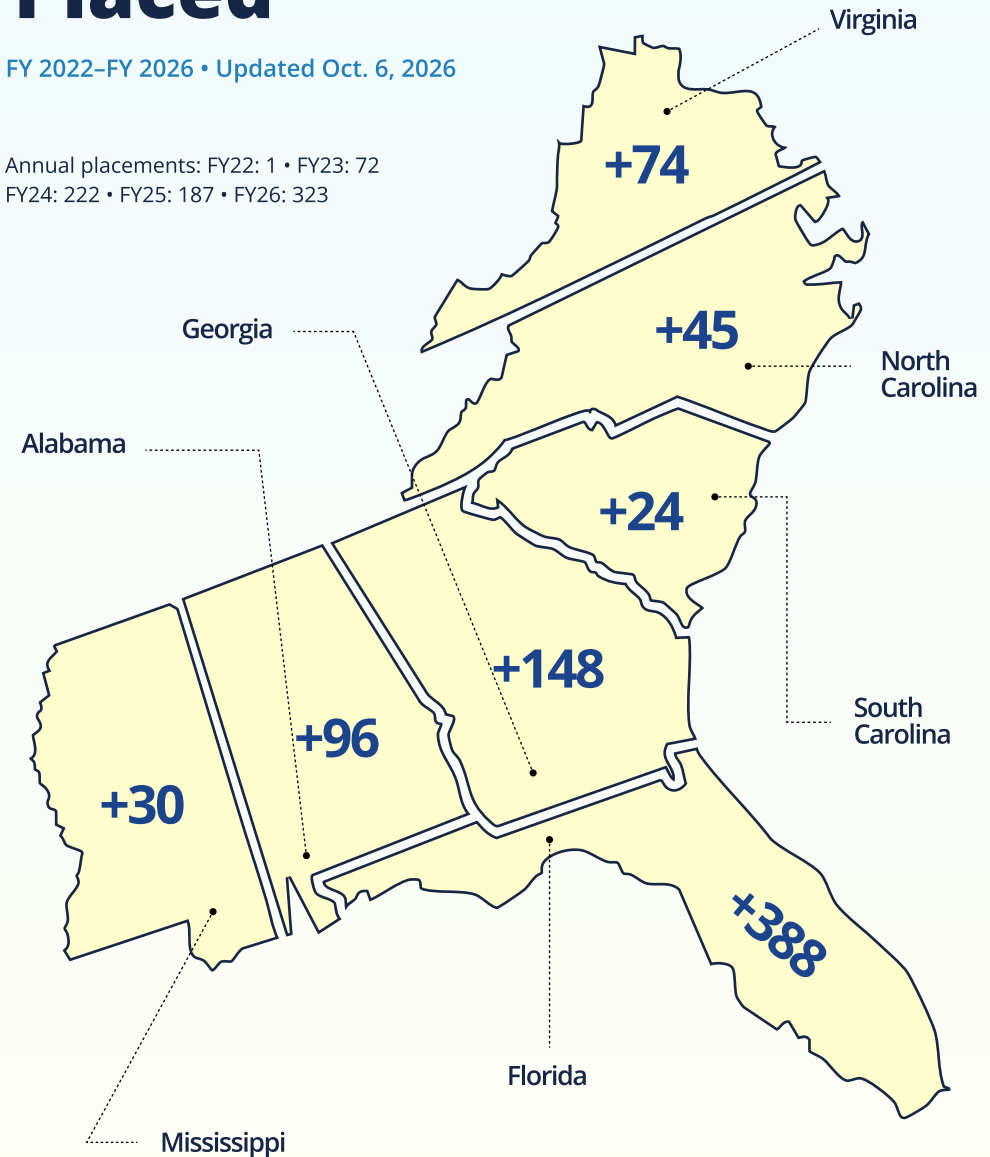
In response to data showing a critical shortage of medical professionals in the region, due in part to 47 rural hospital closures since 2022, SCRC's Crescent Care Collaborative (CCC) has partnered with the U.S. Department of State to fill critical healthcare gaps by implementing the J-1 Visa Waiver Program. The J-1 Visa Waiver Program allows foreign physicians who trained in the United States to work for three years in Medically Underserved Areas (MUA) or where there is a health professional shortage (i.e., a Health Professional Shortage Area or HPSA). Funding generated from application processing fees provides the resources SCRC needs to administer the program, including application reviews, responding to applicant and attorney inquiries, and supporting mobile clinics in rural areas. Staff works directly with the U.S. Department of State (DoS) to process applications and oversee program compliance for three years per physician.

Across FY 2022–FY 2026, SCRC placed 805 physicians in medically underserved areas—expanding access to essential healthcare in distressed communities. Figures include one Florida placement in FY 2022 and the updated state-by-state data provided by SCRC.

805 Physicians Placed

FY 2022–FY 2026 • Updated Oct. 6, 2026

Annual placements: FY22: 1 • FY23: 72
FY24: 222 • FY25: 187 • FY26: 323





APPENDIX

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FROM BLUEPRINT TO BENCHMARKS:
REPORTING PROGRESS OF A FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN



Strengthening Commissions Through Legislation

In December 2024, Congress passed legislation **reauthorizing seven federal regional commissions and authorities, including SCRC**. To facilitate this process, Federal Co-Chair Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed engaged directly with federal partners and legislators to help secure key updates that improve how Commissions operate and deliver resources to distressed communities. These updates expand authority, improve financial stability, and increase flexibility in service delivery.

KEY LEGISLATIVE UPDATES



\$40,000,000 Authorized Annually (FY2025–FY2029)

Each Regional Commission is authorized \$40 million per year to carry out its mission — providing predictable, long-term funding capacity for economic development investments.



Authority to Collect, Retain, and Expend Fees

Commissions may now collect and retain fees, including those associated with the J-1 Visa Waiver Program, increasing operational sustainability and program flexibility.



Interagency Transfer Authority

Commissions may accept transfers from other federal agencies and make transfers to them — improving coordination and reducing bureaucratic barriers.



State Capacity Building Grant Program Authorization

Commissions are authorized to operate a State Capacity Building Grant Program directly, rather than solely through cooperative agreements, strengthening state-level administrative capacity.



Health Demonstration Projects Added

The legislation expands scope to include health demonstration projects, recognizing the direct connection between economic vitality and health outcomes in distressed regions.



Official Bill Text

[congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov/bills/118/4367) | S.4367 - Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024

Budget Justification & Congressional Testimony

Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed testified before Congress four times between 2021 and 2026 in order to receive confirmation as Federal Co-Chair of the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) and to advocate for the allocation of federal dollars to support strategic economic development efforts in the Southeast Crescent region.

As Dr. Reed shared with Members of Congress, the Southeast Crescent region faces deep-rooted economic challenges that demand a coordinated, regional approach to economic and community development. Persistent poverty has long limited access to capital, healthcare, education, and broadband in SCRC communities, and because the region's key industries—such as agriculture, manufacturing, logistics, and energy—operate across state lines, a fragmented approach to development limits effectiveness.

Dr. Reed's statements advocating for continued support of strategic, integrated approaches to economic development in the SCRC region can be found here:



2021
Congressional
Testimony

2023
Congressional
Testimony

2024
Congressional
Testimony

2026
Congressional
Testimony

In addition to Congressional testimony, SCRC is required to submit Congressional Budget Justifications each year, which can be found here:

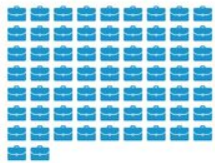
2023
Budget
Justification

2024
Budget
Justification

2025
Budget
Justification

2026
Budget
Justification

ALABAMA



65 New Jobs
Projected

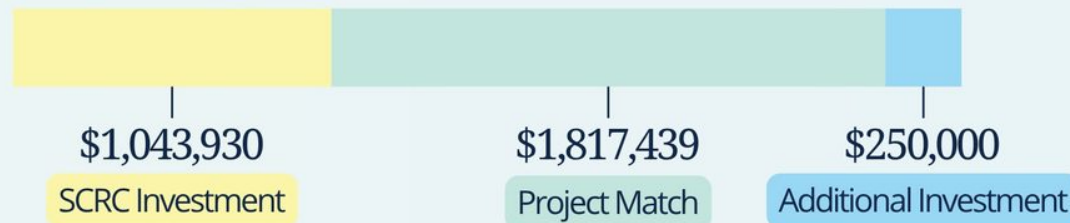


62 Businesses
Impacted



421 Households
Supported

\$3,111,369 Total Invested in Alabama



For every federal dollar invested, the community has leveraged \$1.98.

198%

*

RETURN ON
FEDERAL
INVESTMENT
(ROFI)



Driving Revitalization
and New Investment
\$402,108



Arboretum Hickory
Loop Nature Trail
\$203,086

Brantley Water and
Sewer Improvements
\$964,875



Brundidge Sewer
Improvements
\$1,541,300

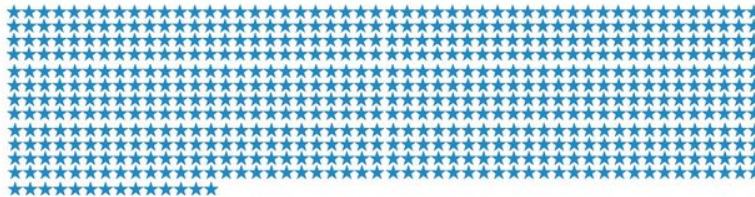
GEORGIA

15 New Jobs Projected

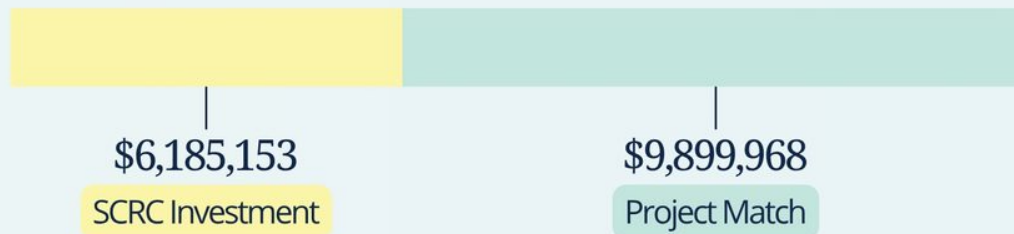


94,499 Households Supported

614 Businesses Impacted



\$16,085,121 Total Invested in Georgia



For every federal dollar invested, the community has leveraged **\$1.60**.

160%* RETURN ON FEDERAL INVESTMENT (ROFI)



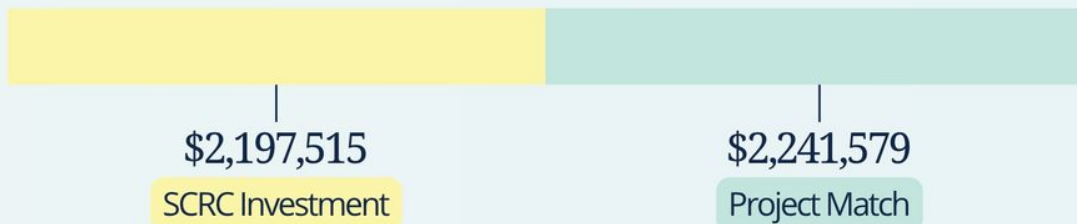
The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission's Impact:

MISSISSIPPI

30 New Jobs Projected  16,996 Households Supported

67 Businesses Impacted 

\$4,439,094 Total Invested in Mississippi



For every federal dollar invested, the community has leveraged **\$1.02**.

102%* RETURN ON FEDERAL INVESTMENT (ROFI)

* ROFI = (Total Investment – SCRC Investment) ÷ SCRC Investment



Coastal Business Growth Accelerator (CBGA)
\$416,000



Burnside Park Improvements
\$390,000



Highway 489 Pump Station Rehabilitation
\$219,285

Support for Wechsler School, 1951 Addition
\$840,487



Infrastructure Improvements for Howard Industries
\$968,322



Airport Advancement Plan
\$100,000



I-59/Sycamore Road Intersection Improvements and Frontage Road
\$1,000,000



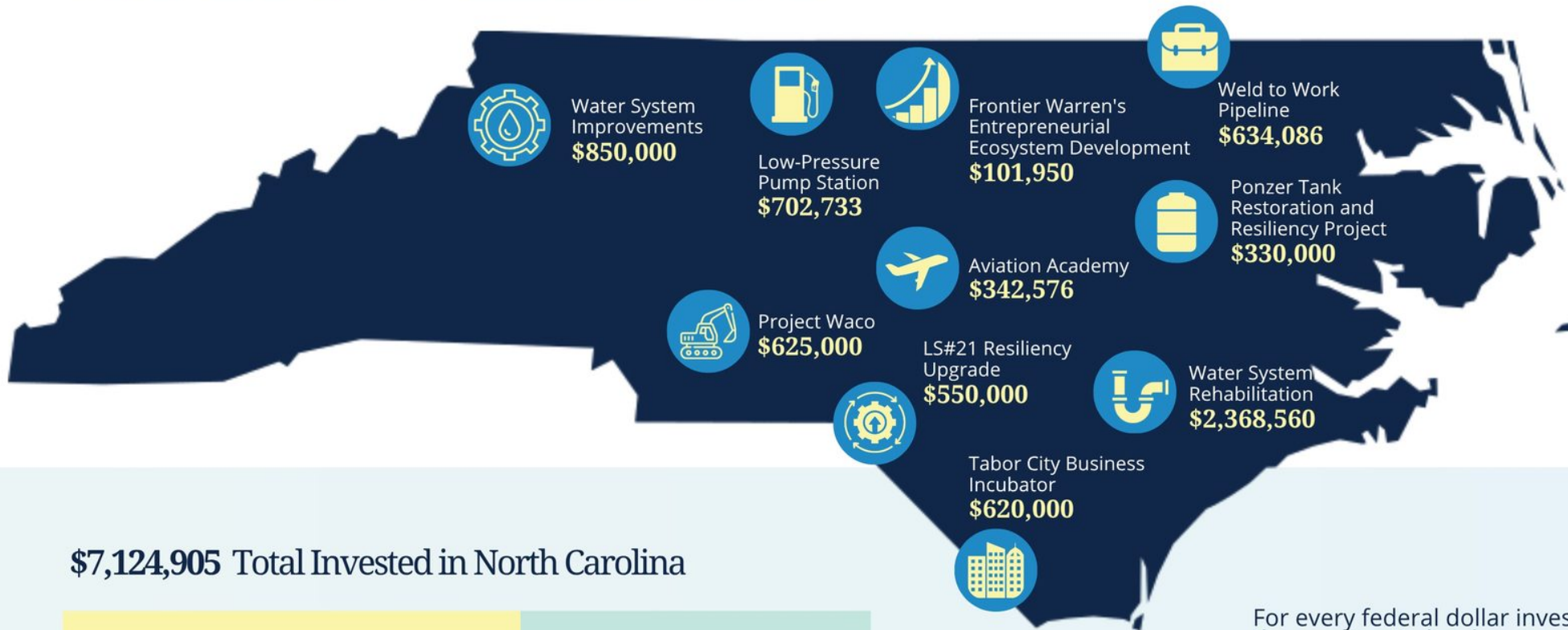
Sue Ellen Recreation Center Restoration
\$505,000

NORTH CAROLINA

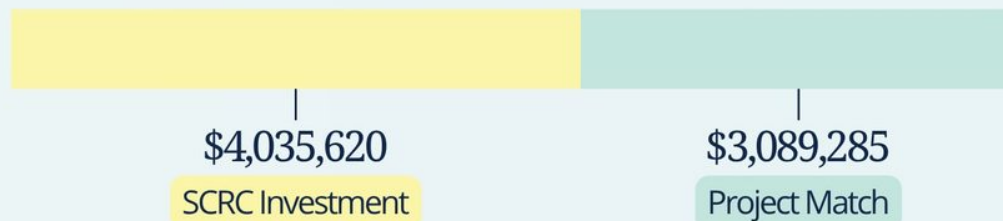
73 Households Supported



46 Businesses Impacted



\$7,124,905 Total Invested in North Carolina



For every federal dollar invested, the community has leveraged **\$0.77**.

77%

*

RETURN ON
FEDERAL
INVESTMENT
(ROFI)

FY 2024

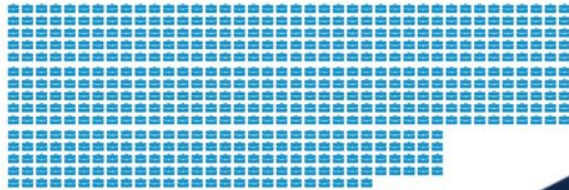
Oct. 1, 2023 – Sep. 30, 2024

The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission's Impact:

SOUTH CAROLINA



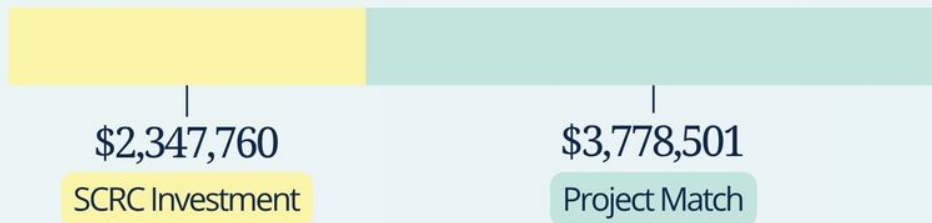
550
New Jobs
Projected



21,689
Households
Supported

569
Businesses
Impacted

\$6,126,261 Total Invested in South Carolina

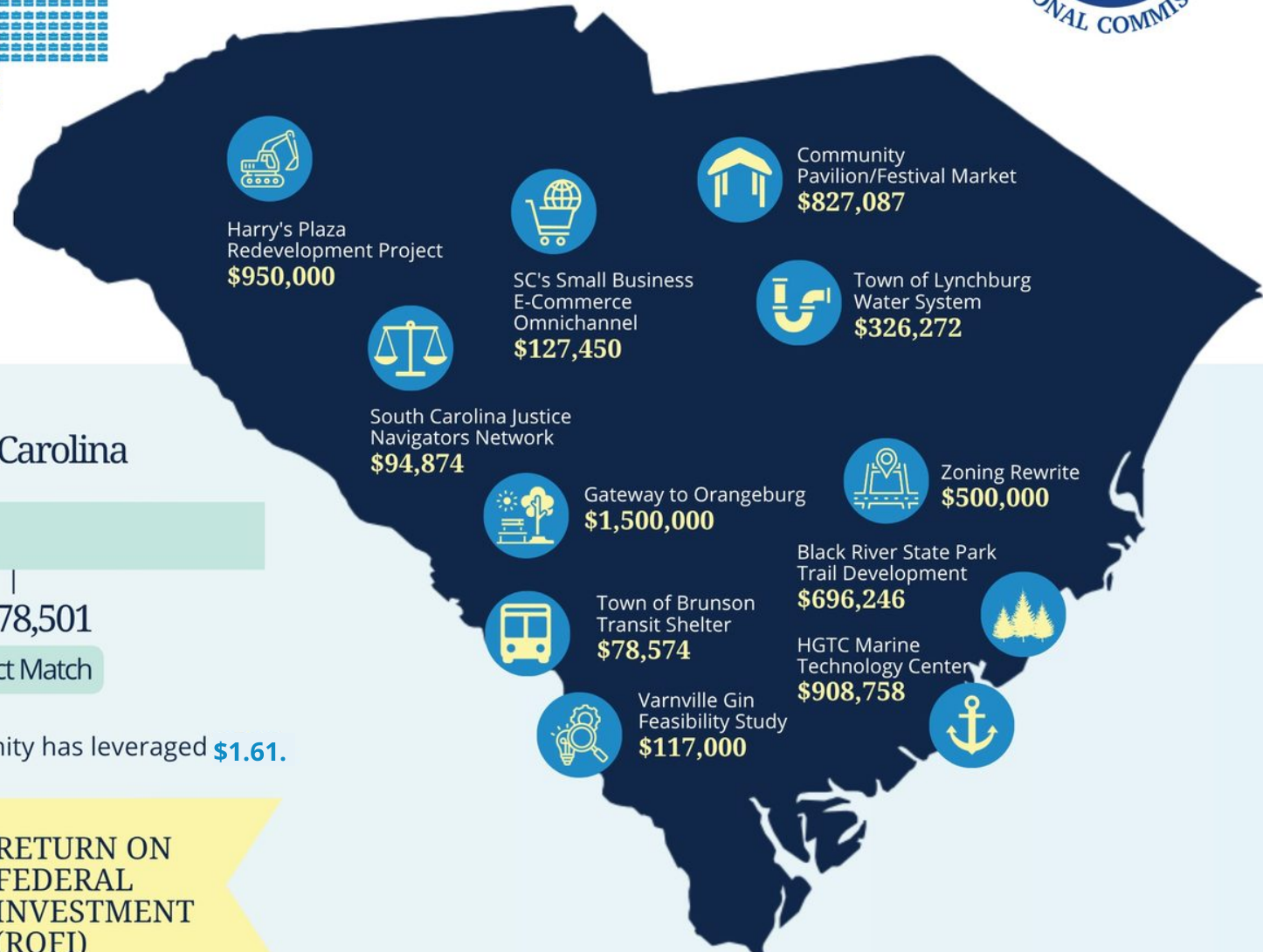


For every federal dollar invested, the community has leveraged **\$1.61**.

161%

* RETURN ON
FEDERAL
INVESTMENT
(ROFI)

* ROFI = (Total Investment – SCRC Investment) ÷ SCRC Investment



FY 2024

Oct. 1, 2023 – Sep. 30, 2024

The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission's Impact:

VIRGINIA



80 New Jobs Projected

9 Businesses Impacted



67 Households Supported

Oak Grove Resilience:
Building a Brighter
Future Together
\$4,230,457



Brunswick County
Produce Project
\$1,935,000



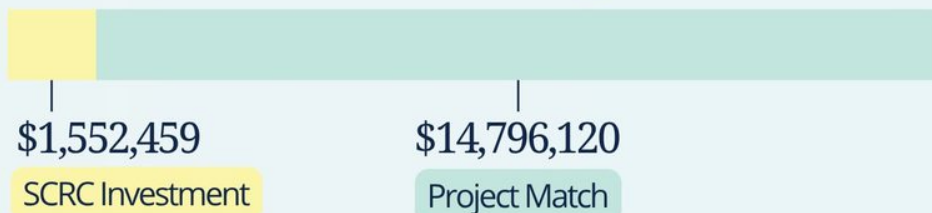
SCDHC Emporia Rail
Depot Townhomes
\$9,373,286



Seneca Commerce Park
Grading JKL Sites Project
\$809,836



\$16,348,579 Total Invested in Virginia



For every federal dollar invested, the community has leveraged **\$9.53**.

953%* RETURN ON
FEDERAL
INVESTMENT
(ROFI)

* ROFI = (Total Investment – SCRC Investment) ÷ SCRC Investment

ALABAMA



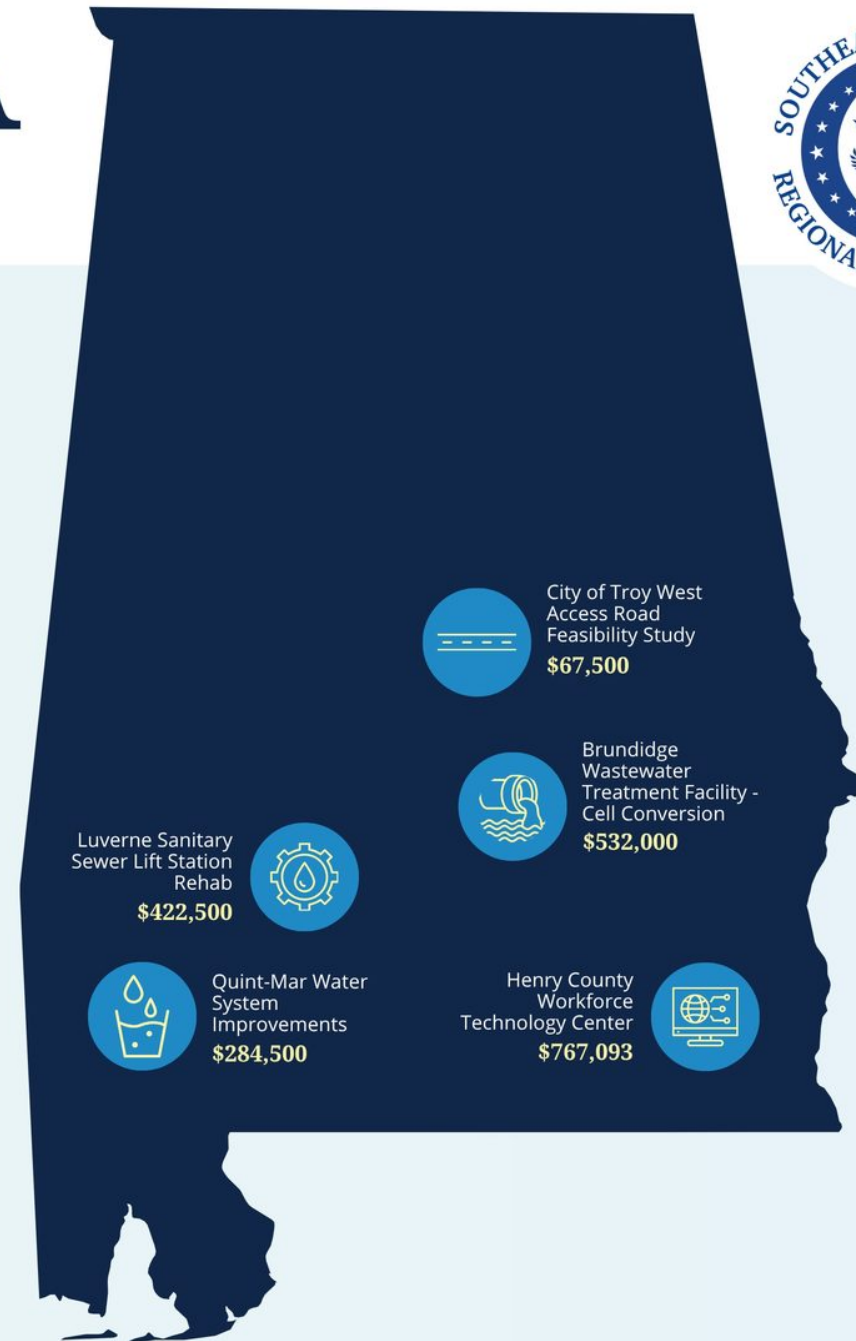
\$2,073,593 Total SCRC Investment

5 Projects Funded     

4 Construction Projects    

80% Percent of Projects Addressing Critical Infrastructure Needs 

3 Counties Served 



GEORGIA



\$12,585,205 Total SCRC Investment

18 Projects Funded



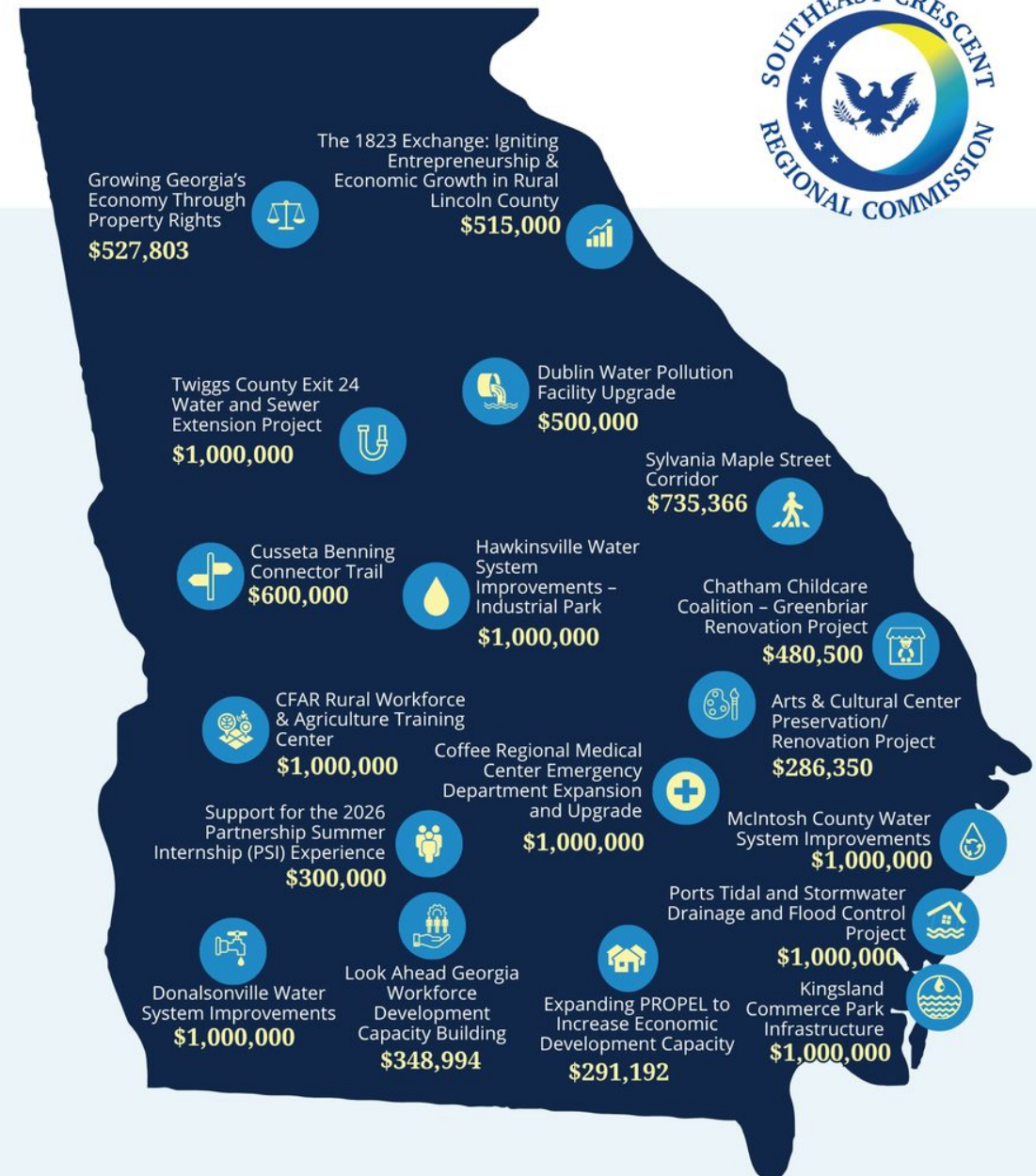
78% Percent of Projects Addressing Critical Infrastructure Needs



69 Counties Served



14 Projects Serving Economically Distressed Counties



MISSISSIPPI



\$3,918,949

Total SCRC Investment

9

Projects Funded



89%

Percent of Projects Addressing Critical Infrastructure Needs



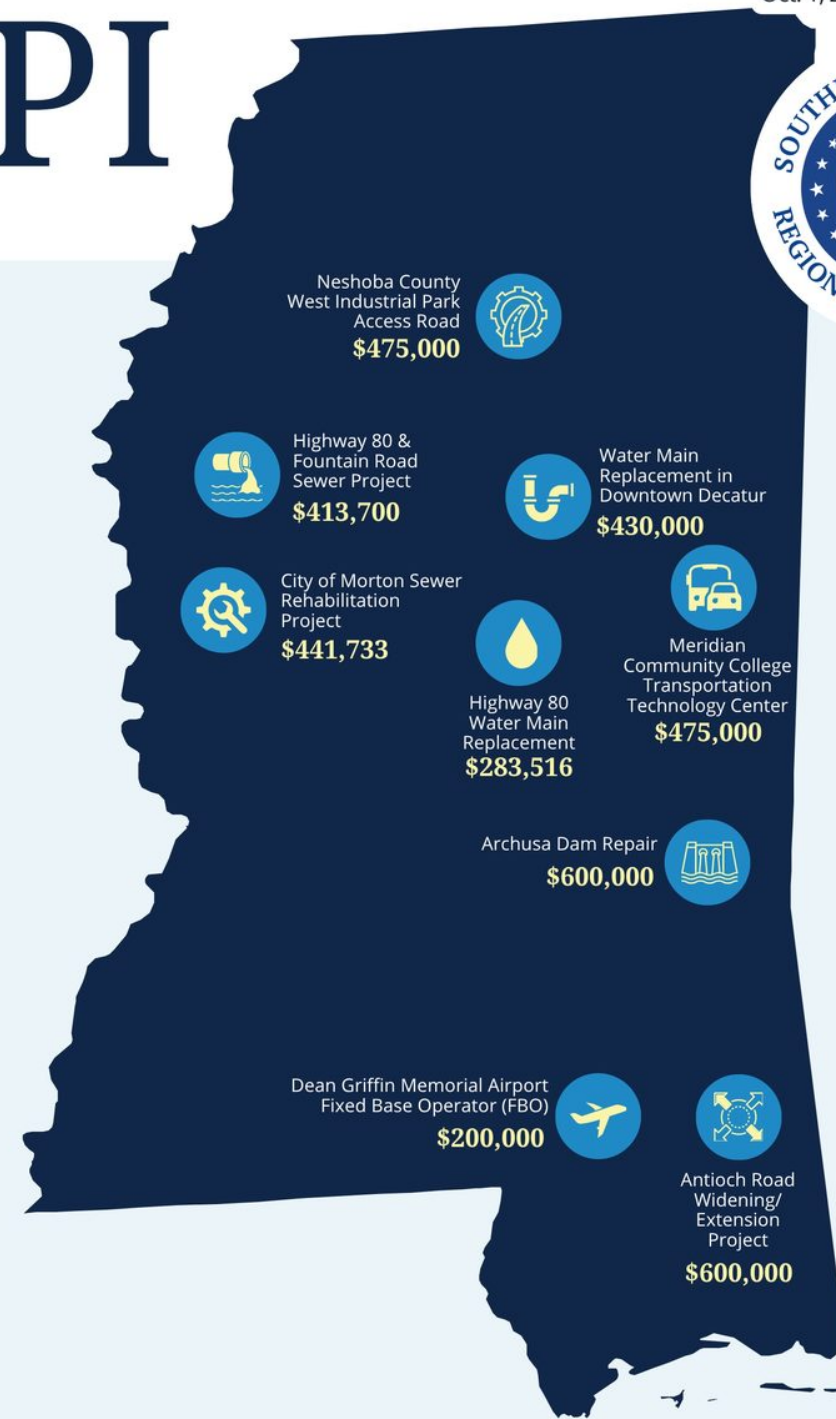
7

Counties Served



9

Projects Serving Economically Distressed Counties



NORTH CAROLINA



\$7,168,679

Total SCRC Investment

15

Projects Funded



14

Counties Served



80%

Percent of Projects Addressing Critical Infrastructure Needs



15

Projects Serving Economically Distressed Counties



SOUTH CAROLINA



Total SCRC Investment

\$4,567,807

23 Projects Funded



50% Percent of Projects Addressing Critical Infrastructure Needs



25 Counties Served



13 Projects Serving Economically Distressed Counties



VIRGINIA



Total SCRC Investment

\$4,293,402



12

Projects
Funded



26

Counties
Served



50%

Percent of Projects
Addressing Critical
Infrastructure Needs



6

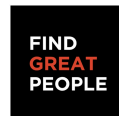
Projects Serving
Economically
Distressed Counties



Our Partners

SCRC works with a range of trusted vendors who provide specialized services that advance the Commission's operations and mission delivery across the Southeast Crescent Region.

Businesses and Organizations



Individuals

Bevin Dearing Hunter

Brian R. Harrold

Mark Scarano

Melody V. Porter