ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

“Our region, your COG”

Serving Beaufort • Colleton • Hampton • Jasper Counties
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2015-2016

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Beaufort County
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Joseph McDermott, Citizen Minority
Jerry Stewart, Councilman

Bluffton
Lisa Sulka, Mayor
Dan Wood, Councilman

Colleton County
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Gene Whetsell, Councilman

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Crawford Moore, Councilman

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Joey Malphrus, Mayor

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Walterboro
Bobby Bonds, Councilman

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Chair: Tommy Mann
Vice Chair: Gerald Dawson

Secretary: Henry Etheridge
Treasurer: Pete Hagood
I am pleased to present to our region this Annual Report for 2015-2016. It summarizes how the Lowcountry COG has operated during the year and highlights some program success stories.

My first year as director was spent getting to know the region and more importantly marketing and re-introducing COG services to the local governments, community groups, our partners and citizens in the region. A new vision statement was adopted by the board. A new logo, website and power point presentation were also developed and utilized in our marketing efforts.

As shared in this report, our core programs Aging, Community & Economic Development, Planning & Transportation and Workforce remain vitally important to the region. Looking ahead, we will strive to find more ways to say yes in our existing programs and more opportunities to serve by introducing new programs and services. It is our goal to serve as the "convener of the region" in matters of importance to our communities, and local governments.

Thank you to the LCOG Board and staff for a great year! Thank you to our Office Manager, Connie Schroyer, for so beautifully summarizing and telling our story. And a special thank you to the local governments and citizens in the region for allowing us to serve you. I hope you will enjoy reading this annual report.

Sincerely,

Sabrena P. Graham
**What is a COG**

- "COG" is an abbreviation for Council of Governments.
- There are 10 COGs in South Carolina, each representing a multi-county planning district. Each of the state’s 46 counties falls within a COG region.
- COGs are partnerships of, and provide resources to, the locals counties, cities and towns in their regions.

- COGs are partners with numerous state and federal agencies, obtaining & administering grants for programs.
- COGs are governed by volunteer boards of directors composed of elected officials, business & community leaders.
- COGs are recognized for their fiscal responsibility and outstanding capabilities in professional program management.

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**COG PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:**

- Local & Regional Planning
- Transportation
- Workforce Development
- Programs for Senior Citizens
- Develop & Administer Grants
- Demographic & Census Data Centers
- Community Development
- Business Loans
- GIS Mapping
- Economic Development
- Water Quality
We are a resource to four counties and twenty-five cities and towns within Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties.

We are a public agency guided by a thirty-member board of directors appointed by the participating local governments.

We serve as a connection between our local governments and State & Federal programs.

Our activities are organized into four program areas:

- AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCES
- COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION
- WORKFORCE
Administration
Sabrena Graham, Executive Director
Kathy Lucas, Finance Clerk
Beverly Neiderhiser, Housekeeping
Connie Schroyer, Office Manager
Sherry Smith, Finance Director
Frances Stophel, Finance Clerk
Lakesha Wood, Finance Clerk

Aging & Disability Resources
Hank Amundson, Aging Director
Karen Anderson, Information & Referral Specialist
Eugenia Beach, Program Specialist
Tonyetta Bentley, Program Specialist
Chamaine Concepcion, Home Safety Program
Claire Glasson, Long-term Care Ombudsman
Meyoka Griffin, iCARE Specialist
Rhonda Hiott, Family Caregiver Advocate
Tabatha McLaine, Family Caregiver Advocate
Zoe Perpall, Program Specialist
Ashley Young, Service Coordinator

Community & Economic Development
Jessica Dailey, C&ED Specialist
Rhonda Davis, C&ED Technician
Barbara Johnson, Affordable Housing Manager
Michelle Knight, C&ED Director
Kimberly Mullinax, C&ED Specialist

Planning & Transportation
Lawrence Holdsworth, Planner
Ginnie Kozak, Planning Director
Jonathan Sherwood, Planner

Workforce Development
Michael Butler, Workforce Director
Shelly Campbell, Performance & Data Manager
Stephanie Ferguson, Workforce Developer
Althea Graham, Program Assistant
LaToya Grier, Workforce Developer
Dennis Hall, Workforce Developer
Lakelya Haynes, Workforce Developer
Chappella Johnson, Workforce Developer
Tiffany Lloyd, Youth Workforce Developer
Stephanie McCallister, Youth Workforce Developer
Tony Polien, Workforce Center Operator
Roger Roberg, Workforce Developer
Lorinda Sekanovich, Youth Workforce Developer
**Financial Statement**

**Sources & Uses of FY15/16 Funds**

**Revenues by Source**
The chart below illustrates revenue percentages by source. The majority of LCOG's funding comes through federal grants. LCOG uses local dollars, member dues and inkind match to meet the match requirements for the federal funds.

- Federal: $4,040,531 (67%)
- State: $1,144,959
- Local: $526,300
- Inkind Match: $175,762
- Dues: $148,195

**Expenditures by Function**
The following chart represents the major areas of spending. Both the Aging & Workforce Departments have expenditures that are used to provide direct client services in the region. Community & Economic Development and Planning Departments provide services to the regional governments through direct staff time.

- Aging: $2,842,741 (48%)
- Community & Econ Dev: $1,606,80 (25%)
- Planning: $432,558
- Workforce: $1,489,920
- Administration: $35,211
Providing assistance and services to eligible seniors and disabled persons.

### Long-Term Care Residence Advocacy
Provides advocacy for assisted living and long-term facility residents. The Ombudsman monitors the quality of life and care of residents by investigating concerns and works closely with both the family and the facility to resolve problems.

### Family Caregiver Support Program
Provides support, information, education, and services to family caregivers to make this a rewarding experience.

### Legal Assistance Program
Helps individuals aged 60 or older obtain legal services with a lawyer who can assist with their legal issues, at no cost to the senior.

### Home Safety Program
Assists individuals aged 60 or older in making minor safety modifications that promote aging in the home safely.

### Information & Referral Services
An access point for those seeking help. Advocacy is provided with help in navigating the system to gain access to entitlement programs.

### Insurance Counseling
Insurance Counseling Assistance and Referral for Elders (I-CARE) assists all persons understand what insurances they have and how to use the insurance in the most cost effective way. I-CARE also helps individuals from becoming victims of insurance fraud and scams.

### Home and Community Based Services
- The Consumer Choice Home Care program offers homemaker and minimal personal care services to homebound seniors.
- The Nutrition Program offers noon-time meals to seniors both homebound and those who attend locally contracted Senior Centers & Nutrition Sites.
- The Service Coordination program conducts in-home assessments to determine eligibility for home delivered meals, home care, and coordination of services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advocate for</th>
<th>Residents in care facilities</th>
<th>HOURS OF IN-HOME SERVICES FUNDED</th>
<th>in funds distributed to improve home safety</th>
<th>increase in referrals for SERVICE</th>
<th>increase in I-CARE counseling</th>
<th>meals served</th>
<th>comprehensive assessments completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>8,740</td>
<td>4,513</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>170,182</td>
<td>1,536</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Looking ahead

The goals for the Aging & Disability Resource Center in 2016-2017 will be to: continue to innovate and lead with new ideas and efficient strategies; grow the Assessment Program by 25%; continue in the growth of the Home Care Program; increase the number of meals served in the region by 15%; build volunteer programs in the Ombudsman and I-Care Programs.

THE REGIONAL AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL

The AAA Advisory Committee assists the LCOG's Aging & Disability Resource Center in identifying the needs of seniors and disabled persons. Meets. Minimum of 4 times yearly.

Esther Black - LCOG Board (C)  Betty Hodges - Veterans Affairs
At-large Rep (C)                  Leah Kidwell - Council on Aging Rep (B)
Audrey Brown - Dept. Social Services (C)  Marilyn Koerber - At-large Rep (B)
Gerald Dawson - LCOG Board (B)       Henry Lawton Sr. - LCOG Board (J)
Ethel Denmark - Council on Aging Rep (H)  Senior Citizen (J)
Ervena Faulkner - Senior Citizen (B)  Jenny Price - Senior Citizen (C)
Margie Fennell - Senior Citizen (H)  Council on Aging Rep (C)
Pete Hagood - LCOG Board (H)         Deborah Walsh - Disability & Special Needs (J)

PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE:  Esther Black (C), Henry Lawton Sr. (J), Harry Scott (B), Vacant (H)
                         (B) Beaufort (C) Colleton (H) Hampton (J) Jasper

* South Carolina State Plan on Aging 2017-2021
Providing resources & services to help governments and agencies boost the economy via federal grant programs.

**Grant Services**

*Needs Assessment*

Staff from the Community & Economic Development (C&ED) Department meets annually with individual communities to identify local community and economic development needs. Prioritized needs are then matched with grant funds to maximize project opportunities.

*Project Development & Potential Funding*

C&ED meets with local governments to discuss short and long term goals for the community. The needs assessment priorities, comprehensive plans, sales tax initiatives, and other information is considered to identify grant opportunities and partner with other funding agencies to maximize the use of local funds.

*Grant Writing and Management*

Once a project and funding are identified, C&ED will write the grant application on behalf of the locality and manage an awarded grant on their behalf. These services are usually funded by the grant budget.

**2015-2016 By the Numbers**

- **$13,389,292**
  - 27 active CDBG projects

- **$1,687,298**
  - 12 active HOME projects

- **$2,820,000**
  - 2 active EDA projects

**Lowcountry Regional Development Corporation**

LRDC is a 501(c)(6) not-for-profit organization that assists in the financial packaging of economic development projects. It has acted primarily as a shell corporation in landlord/tenant arrangements on behalf of the local governments in the region. The LRDC is governed by the Executive Committee of the LCOG Board of Directors.

LRDC Board Members:
**2015-2016 Grant Awards**

- **$189,000**<sup>3</sup> yrs
  - 1 EDA Planning Grant

- **$500,000**
  - 1 SC RIA Grant

- **$91,446**
  - 1 FEMA Grant

- **$3,103,210**
  - 7 SC CDBG Grants

**HOME Consortium**

Under the HOME Program of the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), local governments are able to join together as a "consortium" in order to receive HOME funding for affordable housing. The Beaufort County/Lowcountry Regional HOME Consortium (LRHC) receives an annual allocation of HOME money. The primary activities with these funds are for **single family home rehab, new construction** through Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) and **down payment assistance** for qualifying individuals.

There is an 8 member committee that makes recommendations to the LCOG Board of Directors related to projects, annual action plan and Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report (CAPER). A 5-year consolidated plan governs the program. The annual allocation requires a 25% match provided by LCOG’s four member counties.

**Committees**

*Lowcountry Regional Housing Advisory Committee*
Gerald Dawson (B), Andrew Fulghum (J), Pete Hagood (H), Gray Henderson (H), Doug Mixson (C), Evon Robinson (C)

*Civil Rights Committee*
Karen Anderson, Michael Butler, Charmaine Concepcion, Rhonda Davis

**Looking ahead**

The Community and Economic Development Department will continue to provide project driven services that meet the needs of our localities. We will broaden our client base when opportunities arise and seek to expand housing activities in the region.
DUKE STREETSCAPE PROJECT

Utilizing the grant services of the C&ED Department, the City of Beaufort recently completed the final phase of the Duke Streetscape Project. The $775,999 project was funded by combining resources that included a $500,000 CDBG Grant, $249,274 grant match from local funds, and $26,725 from SCE&G.

The project scope included the installation of 5ft sidewalks on both sides of the street, vertical curb & gutters, drainage improvements, planting strip & shade trees, on-street parking, and pedestrian-scale lighting.

The ‘new’ Duke Street was selected by the City of Beaufort Redevelopment Commission to be a “model street.” Private developers have been encouraged to use Duke Street as an example when planning new development or redevelopment in the area.

This project sparked several nearby improvements, including the construction of this new home, in an area that had seen little new investment in the predominately low to moderate income neighborhood.
Works with local governments on varied community planning projects such as land use, transportation, hazard mitigation & water quality. Also serves as regional demographers and statisticians.

**JOINT LAND USE STUDY**

Currently in the implementation stage, the 2015 Joint Land Use Study is a community-driven, cooperative strategic plan between the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, Beaufort County, Beaufort, Port Royal, LCOG, and the State of South Carolina. The purpose is to:

- Promote compatible land use, growth, and economic development near both Beaufort MCAS and MCRD.
- Protect public safety & quality of life, and sustain the mission of the Marine Corps in the long term.
- Identify current and potential encroachment issues which may include noise, endangered species, safety/security, air or water quality, energy development & frequency spectrum interference.

**WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

- The LCOG Planning Department maintains the Lowcountry Regional 208 Water Quality Management Plan and serves as the Section 208 Program Coordinator.
- The principal objective of the Section 208 program is to maintain & improve water quality as it relates to the surface waters in the LCOG region.
- Through an on-going agreement with DHEC, the 208 Program Coordinator reviews all wastewater permit applications in the LCOG region to ensure that they are consistent with goals of the Water Quality Management Plan.
- The COG's approval must be attained before DHEC will permit a project.
Every time you fill up, a portion of the money collected at the pump is used by your local MPO.

Who? Metropolitan Planning Organization. An agency of local officials who oversees how funds are managed & who make transportation projects happen.

Projects which affect how people & things get around - like adding new sidewalks and bike lanes, road & bridge improvements and enhancing transit.

These agencies exist across the nation where there is an urbanized population over 50,000. The Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS) is the MPO that serves the Beaufort/Bluffton/Hardeeville/Hilton Head/Port Royal area.

The LATS/MPO's mission is to implement a transportation plan which includes the LCOG region's shared vision of the future.

The LCOG Planning Department serves as the lead entity & fiscal agent of the LATS and also serves as the LATS staff.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$22,957,800</th>
<th>$234,205,280</th>
<th>185,489</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LATS road &amp; bridge projects</td>
<td>LCOG rural road &amp; bridge projects</td>
<td>Palmetto Breeze annual passenger trips</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lowcountry Area Transportation Study (LATS) Policy Committee

David Bennett - Town of Hilton Head
David Blauch, LRTA
Bronco Bostick - City of Hardeeville
Barbara Clark - Jasper County Council
Tom Davis - State Senator, Dist. 46
Samuel Glover - SCDOT, District 6
William Herbkersman, State Representative, Dist. 118
Billy Keyserling - City of Beaufort
Samuel Murray - Town of Port Royal
G. Clifton Parker - SCDOT
Jim Rozier - SCDOT, District 1
D. Paul Sommerville - Beaufort County Council
Lisa Sulka - Town of Bluffton
Let the LCOG Planning Department help your agency or community group with their planning needs. Services include:

* Economic & Market Studies
* Housing Studies
* Traffic Impact Analysis
* Bike & Pedestrian Planning
* Custom Mapping
* Survey Design & Administration
* Grant Application Assistance
* Procurement Assistance

Assistance from Certified Planners who live & work in the region are here to help. Fees are reasonable and competitive.

Call 843-473-3958 for more information.
Bringing employees & employers together through occupational & on-the-job training to meet the needs of local businesses and industry.

Adult and Youth Career Counseling
- We help job seekers achieve the necessary skills to become successful.
- We assist job seekers in navigating their way to employment, technical school, college or even into the military.
- We enlighten job seekers with options in the region and empower them to take this very important step towards a new career and good quality life.
- If you are unemployed, underemployed or new to the workforce we can guide you down a path to success.

Advance Job Training
Clusters of focus
- Manufacturing
- Medical
- Technology
- Transportation, Distribution, Logistics (TDL)

Recruitment
We assist employers with candidate search, prescreen job candidates, improve job worker readiness, fund pre-hire training, and reimburse wages for on-the-job training (OJT) hires.

Incumbent Worker Training
Can provide reimbursements to train currently employed workers in an effort to keep businesses and workers.

Information & Referral Services
An access point for those seeking help. Advocacy is provided in help with navigating the system to gain access to entitlement programs.

$709,102 invested in training, instruction & support
190 certifications awarded
84 manufacturing ★ 45 GED youth ★ 35 TDL ★ 20 medical ★ 6 technical

$46,468 on-the-job training
$22,734 incumbent worker training

ojt & incumbent worker training provided at these local industries
Commercial Licensed Driver

A journey to success

Isaiah's story is an excellent example of how a little patience and a proactive attitude can go a long way in achieving your career goals. Isaiah Williams, 21, visited the Var-Drive SC Works Center seeking assistance for a new beginning. Isaiah wanted to become a Commercial Truck Driver to improve his lifestyle and provide for his family. Workforce Developer, Chappella Johnson guided Williams towards the pursuit of his success. Chappella assisted him in becoming job ready and helped with the enrollment into CDL courses. Isaiah attended Palmetto Training Inc. of Walterboro under the direction of Douglas "Mack" Brown. After successfully completing 160 hours of instruction and behind-the-wheel training, Isaiah shortly gained employment with Sunbelt Rentals. As a commercial licensed driver, he has the opportunity to drive all over the state delivering heavy equipment to various construction sites. Isaiah is enjoying his new career and is thankful for the assistance of the Workforce Development program. This success story displays how getting involved and taking advantage of the many effective resources offered is a sure-fire recipe for success.

The Lowcountry Workforce Development Board

The Lowcountry Workforce Development is funded through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Services and strategies are designed and governed by the Lowcountry Workforce Board made up of local businesses, regional government agencies, and workforce system partners. The board works very closely with the SC Department of Employment and Workforce (SC DEW) and other regional partners to provide direct client services and support. Meets: Fourth Wednesday, bi-monthly.

Michelle Adams - SC DEW
Kimberly Alexander - Universal Distributors
Glynis Avant - Spencer Industries
Lynn Bowers - Hampton Regional Medical Center
Donna Callihan - Dayco
Barbara Entiken - Net Solutions
Greggory Gilbert - SC Voc. Rehabilitation Dept.
Wendy Glass - Colleton Medical Center
Heyward Horton - Colleton County Econ. Alliance
Chris Horvath - Colleton County Adult Education

Brenda Jamison - NALC Branch #6113
Janice Malafrante - Companions Nurses and Nannies, Inc.
James Morrison - IAMAW District 112 Local 2775
Joni Mortiz - Be-Green Packaging
Gina Mounfield - Technical College of the Lowcountry
Darlene Nester - Tenet Healthcare Corporation
Steve Palmer - SC Electric & Gas
Patti Tuten - Precision Machined Components
Ronnie Stanley - NUI Americas

Youth Committee: Lasonya Bryson-Murdaugh, Nancy Deloach, Wendy Glass,
Lynn Jones, Sarah Marshall, Juanita Murrell, Kim Statler
Find a
Workforce Development Team
at these local SC WORKS locations

Beaufort/Jasper
Beaufort SC Works Comprehensive Center
164 Castlerock Road
Beaufort, SC 29906
843.524.3351

Colleton/Hampton
Colleton County Career Skills Center
1085 Thunderbolt Drive
Walterboro, SC 29488
843.694.7257

Hampton
Technical College of the Lowcountry
84 Tech Circle
Varnville, SC 29944
843.694.7024
Mission

“Improving the lives of Lowcountry citizens through client programs and services to local governments; serving as a resource to the twenty-five local governments in the region and a connection between them and certain state and federal programs.”

Vision

“The Lowcountry Council of Governments will be an organization which promotes regionalism in county and municipal governments, and advocates for the region at the state and local level in order to help the people and communities in the region to prosper and grow.”