“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.”  

LCOG Vision Statement
The Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG) is one of ten South Carolina regional councils designed to serve as a connection between the region's local governments to various state and federal programs by obtaining and administering grants for a variety of community-based programs and economic development initiatives.

We are a resource to four counties and twenty-two cities and towns in the Lowcountry Region. The purpose of these partnerships is to help the people and the communities in the LCOG region prosper and grow.

LCOG is a public agency guided by a thirty-member board of directors appointed by the participating local governments. Our activities are organized into four program areas:

- Aging and Disability Resources
- Community and Economic Development
- Planning and Transportation
- Workforce Development

2,971
Square Miles

26
Member Governments

259,422
People in our region

97,374
Total households
A message from our Board Chair

We are pleased to provide this Annual Report for the Lowcountry Council of Governments, covering activities and accomplishments from July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017.

When people ask “what is the Lowcountry Council of Governments?” it is sometimes challenging to come up with a concise response. To put it in one sentence, our purpose is to enhance the lives of people living in the four-county South Carolina Lowcountry Region. While our programs are broad and widely varied, they all come back to serving people in the Lowcountry.

Since our establishment in 1971, we have maintained a commitment to providing quality services to local government. In this current time, as local entities see increasing responsibilities in the face of shrinking dollars, this mission is more critical than ever. Whether it is general administration, assistance with grants, planning, or through specialized programs, we want to be a key resource for getting the job done.

Our involvement with human services has grown substantially in recent years. Programs for the elderly, such as home-delivered meals & congregate dining, caregiver support and referral services benefit seniors across our region every day. Likewise, services in work skills development has seen an increase in activity as we strive to ensure that people in our region are able to keep up with the ever changing skill sets that are required by business and industry.

Economic Development is another focus area for us. Last year the LCOG managed over 30 state and federal grants that improved infrastructure and neighborhoods in mostly rural, low-to moderate income areas. Our Planning Department continues to play a key role in data studies, public transportation and water quality. While you may not be familiar with our name, our programs have likely impacted every citizen in the Lowcountry at some time during our past 46 years of service.

We would like to extend a sincere appreciation to the Board of Directors, to the many essential LCOG Boards & Committees, and to the LCOG Staff who have worked with great energy to make this year a success. As we focus on the future, we look forward to more discussion and new ideas with our member governments and partner agencies on how to plan and build an even stronger region.

LCOG Board Chair
The Lowcountry Area Agency on Aging is a broad-based, aging focused organization whose mission is to support the county-wide aging programs in meeting the needs of the older population in the Lowcountry Region.

Through the Aging & Disability Resource Center, the Lowcountry AAA coordinates and provides the following direct services:

- Comprehensive Person-Centered Assessments
- Long-Term Care Residence Advocacy
- Family Caregiver Support Program
- Information & Referral Services
- Health Insurance Counseling
- Legal Assistance / Services

Also provided are Home & Community-Based Services through contractual arrangements with local service providers including:

- Group Dining
- Home Delivered Meals
- Health Promotion
- Transportation
- Home Care Services

The work of the Lowcountry AAA is guided by the Lowcountry Aging Advisory Council and the LCOG Board of Directors.

- Conducted 2,004 in-home assessments to determine needs and coordination of services.
- Responded to 8,261 requests for information & referral.
- Provided Medicare Counseling to 663 seniors and made 982 contacts for information.
- Provided $224,170 awarded to Family Caregivers for help & support.
- Provided $9,488 in legal fees to seniors.
- Provided $125,076 spent on minor home repairs and adaptation.
- Provided more than 185,000 meals through congregate and home delivery.
- Seniors received 20,147 hours of in-home care service.
- Advocacy & assistance provided to 2,150 residence in long-term care facilities.
Betty Brunson has her glucose checked during a free monthly health screening at the Hampton County Senior Center.

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**Ombudsman: Front Line Advocate for Residents in Long-term Care Facilities.**

Meet Claire Glasson. Claire is the Ombudsman for the Lowcountry AAA. She is trained and certified by the state to investigate and resolve complaints and provide advocacy and assistance to residents in long-term care facilities.

There are currently 2,150 residents living in 31 skilled nursing & assisted living facilities in the Lowcountry region. Claire makes friendly visits to each facility four times a year to check on residents and the facilities in general.

In addition to 124 friendly visits, she also responded to 143 complaints and closed 114 cases. "Not all complaints are big," says Claire. "One gentleman who had been a resident for several years longed for a fried egg. I was able to work with the facility to grant his request. I have never seen a happier man."

No concern is too big or too small when it comes to making sure your elderly loved one is properly cared for. If efforts to address issues with senior facility staff members have failed, your local ombudsman is on your side and able to address a variety of matters. Your identity and discussions will be kept confidential and you can even call in anonymously if you wish.

**CLaire GLASSON ★ 843.473.3955 ★ 877.846.8148 (toll free) ★ cglasson@lowcountrycog.org**
A growing economy sometimes needs a little help to thrive. The C&ED Department provides technical assistance to local governments with carrying out activities that address community, economic, and housing development needs that benefit low to moderate income persons. The C&ED staff works as a liaison between local government, funding sources, citizens, and other community-based organizations that bring together resources to improve communities. Here are some of the grant programs administered by the department:

- Community Development Block Grant
- SC Parks, Recreation & Tourism
- SC Rural Infrastructure Authority
- US Economic Development Administration

Other activities of the C&ED include:
- The Lowcountry Regional Development Corporation. A 501 (c)(6) organization used to support economic and community development activities in the region.
- Lowcountry Regional HOME Consortium. A program to promote and increase affordable housing in the region.
- Referrals to the SC Revolving Loan Fund to assist start-up and existing small businesses.

This home in Estill received a new roof & electrical panel with funds from the HOME Consortium. A total of $533,352 was spent to rehabilitate 16 homes in the Lowcountry Region.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Project Type</th>
<th>Funded Amount</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beaufort County</td>
<td>Bon Aire Sewer Extension</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Beaufort</td>
<td>Greenlawn Neighborhood</td>
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<td>Town of Port Royal</td>
<td>Sewer Extension</td>
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<td>Colleton County</td>
<td>Walterboro Booster Pump</td>
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<td>Colleton County</td>
<td>Bama Road Drainage</td>
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<td>Colleton County</td>
<td>Gadsden Loop Neighborhood</td>
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<td>City of Walterboro</td>
<td>Lemacks VR III</td>
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<td>Town of Williams</td>
<td>Water Improvements</td>
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<td>Brunson-Gifford Water Connection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hampton County</td>
<td>Fire truck</td>
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<td>Town of Brunson</td>
<td>Neighborhood Revitalization</td>
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<td>$319,180</td>
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<td>Town of Estill</td>
<td>Water - Lawton/Second Streets</td>
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<td>$750,000</td>
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<td>Town of Furman</td>
<td>Neighborhood Revitalization</td>
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<td>Town of Hampton</td>
<td>Demolition</td>
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<td>Town of Hampton</td>
<td>Jackson St. Sewer Rehab</td>
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<td>Town of Yarnville</td>
<td>Hwy 278 Streetscape</td>
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<td>Town of Yemassee</td>
<td>Sewer Line Upgrade</td>
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<td>Old Bailey Sewer Extension</td>
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<td>City of Hardeeville</td>
<td>Hardeeville Library</td>
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<td>$125,000</td>
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<td>City of Hardeeville</td>
<td>Drainage Focus Area 2</td>
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<td>Town of Ridgeland</td>
<td>Consolidated School Preservation</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
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</table>

**Total** | **$11,135,167** | **$8,594,344**

- **$103,600**
  - 1 PRT Grant
- **$2,820,000**
  - 2 EDA Grants
- **$1,000,000**
  - 2 RIA Grants
Hardeeville Library Project

A part of the Allendale/Hampton/Jasper Library System, the City of Hardeeville had been utilizing a 1,400 sq.ft. non-ADA accessible building as its library since 1983. Hosting about 70 users a day, there was not enough space for users, collections, staff, storage & public programs.

Most afternoon users are children who come to do homework. Many day users are people searching online for jobs. With 170+ affordable housing units within walking distance, the library’s location is ideal for everyone.

The new 6,288 sq.ft. ADA accessible library now has areas for all age groups. There are shelves to accommodate over 14,000 books and media, a computer lab and a meeting area to hold educational and entertainment programs.

Funding for the $1.9M project was a collaborative effort from many funding sources, including a $500,000 CDBG grant, USDA loan and from city & county sources. Other contributions came from the Friends of the Library, Palmetto Electric Co-op, SCE&G and proceeds from brick sales.

This community-based project is truly the work of many. The new library will benefit over 1,800 people including 53% from low-to-moderate income households.
Good planning makes good decisions. The Planning Department uses data to project future changes in the region and helps local governments secure funding for infrastructure and roadway projects to meet those needs.

**Local Planning Assistance**
Planning staff provides technical assistance to boards, commissions, councils and government staff throughout the Lowcountry region. It’s services help with the creation of:

- Comprehensive plans
- Zoning ordinances
- Grant writing & administration
- Development regulations
- Planning studies
- Hazard mitigation plans

**Transportation**
The SC Department of Transportation has given the responsibility of transportation planning in the Lowcountry Region to the Planning Department. This is accomplished through various programs:

- **Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)** is prepared and implemented using a technical committee made up of planning professionals from each county.
- **The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)** grant and guideshare funds are administered & monitored for regional transportation projects.
- **We work with the Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority (LRTA)/Palmetto Breeze** and others to improve and extend public transportation services within the region.
- **Lowcountry Area Transportation Study & Metropolitan Planning Organization (LATS & MPO)** serves the cities of Beaufort, Hardeeville, Bluffton, Hilton Head & Port Royal. The LCOG’s Planning Department administers the planning process that determines how the federal dollars will be spent. Allocations fund improvements for roads, bridges, public transit and bicycle & pedestrian facilities.

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$160M total value of LATS road & bridge improvements

265K Palmetto Breeze total annual passenger trips

$296M total value of RURAL road & bridge improvements
LCOG Planning, LCOG Workforce & Palmetto Breeze working together to provide new public transit in Walterboro.

Walterboro residents needing transportation to training & jobs in Colleton County will soon have a new option available to them. With a $100K state workforce grant, a color-coded ticket system will allow those attending vocational training free transportation on the bus. Employers will also provide bus tickets at $1 per trip.

The 14-passenger bus that will provide the service was delivered to Palmetto Breeze early this year. Using a smaller bus will help keep operational costs down and is better suited for some of the city’s narrow streets.

Other partners of the initiative include Colleton County Adult Education, Colleton County Economic Development, Vocational Rehabilitation, Community Transportation Association of America and several local businesses.

The general public is invited to ride as well.

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208 Water Quality Management
The Planning Department maintains the Lowcountry Regional 208 Water Quality Management Plan & coordinates its activities. LCOG reviews all wastewater permit applications to ensure they are consistent with the plan. The COG’s approval must be obtained before DHEC will permit a project.

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The People and the Economy of the Lowcountry ★ Map Gallery ★ Water Quality Management Plan
Vanpooling Pilot Project ★ Long Range Transportation Plan ★ Crowd Map ★ Lowcountry Area Transportation Study
US 278 Bus Service Business Plan ★ Sidewalk Inventory ★ Sea Level Rise Maps ★ Commuter Patterns

all reports & data available at
www.lowcountrycog.org

Statewide Transportation Improvement Program ★ Collision Data ★ Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
MCRD Parris Island Joint Land Use Study ★ Social & Environment Data ★ Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing HHI
Traffic Counts ★ Lowcountry Economic Diversification Plan ★ County Health Rankings ★ Lowcountry Population Density
Lowcountry Distribution & Logistics Center Cluster Study ★ Lowcountry Coordinated Transportation Expansion Plan

Wetlands and Wildlife Area Map ★ MCAS Beaufort Joint Land Use Study
Funded through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the Lowcountry Workforce Development Area plans and delivers workforce services for the LCOG region. Offering service in every county, the workforce development system serves both job seekers and local businesses.

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 and other regional partners to provide direct client services and support.

**Adult & Youth Career Counseling**
If you are unemployed, underemployed, or new to the workforce we can guide you down a path to success.

**Advance Job Training**
Training is focused on manufacturing, medical, technology and transportation, distribution & logistics.

**Recruitment**
Help with candidate search, improve job worker readiness, fund pre-hire training, plan training & reimburse wages for OJT hires.

**On the Job Training (OJT)**
For employers, OJT is a way to compensate employers for providing training to individuals for jobs that only hands-on training can teach.

**Incumbent Worker Training**
For employers, reimbursements to train currently employed workers for reasons such as expansion, new technology, retooling, or new services/product lines or layoff aversion.

**SC Works Lowcountry**

**$354,491**
171 clients enrolled in occupational skills training

**$40,653**
7 on the job training contracts

**$36,741**
298 support services provided to 147 clients

**Harris Pillow Supply**
$49,600 incumbent worker training grant

**Crescent Dairy & Beverages**
$34,500 rapid response training grant
Unemployed, underemployed or new to the workforce? Stop by your local SCWorks Center and talk with one of our career counselors about the WIOA Program. Eligible participants could receive grants of up to $5,000 to pay for education support, transportation, childcare, work clothing, physicals & lodging.

**Kyle Darley**
As a primary caregiver for his terminally ill mother and autistic brother, Kyle was unable to finish high school. It took a while but he promised his mom he’d finish school. After completing his GED, Kyle enrolled into the truck driver class at Palmetto Training. He received a CDL Certificate in June 2017 and was hired by Trans Am Trucking less than a month later. Kyle currently works for Cargo Transporters in NC. Career Counselor, Lakelya Haynes, Colleton County.

**Peggy Fredrick**
Peggy has perhaps worked harder than most to achieve her career goal. An older client with a medical disability she first enrolled into the WDA program needing to refresh her basic skill level proficiency. With great determination she was able to turn her challenges into successes. Peggy is now back in school working toward her Patient Care Technician certification. In the mean time, she was recently offered a job as a CNA with Veteran’s Victory House. Career Counselor, Stephanie Ferguson, Colleton County.

**Johnesha Prince**
Johnesha is a single mother who had no transportation when she enrolled in the program. She was determined to be a great role model for her daughter and knew the first step of the process was to obtain her GED. She graduated with honors. Johnesha is now employed full time in an assisted living facility. She is also enrolled at the Technical College of the Lowcountry working on her pre-requisites for the nursing program. WIOA helped her gain skills with financial literacy to be more responsible with money, provided an incentive check that helped her buy a car, gave guidance to complete her FAFSA application, and welcomed her daughter to WIOA appointments when child care was not an option. Career Counselor, Tiffany Lloyd, Beaufort County.

**Angelia Page**
Angelia, a soft-spoken high school graduate without any work experience, was unsure of what she wanted to do. A career aptitude test indicated an interest in manufacturing. She enrolled into the CNC program at Palmetto Training Inc. in Walterboro and graduated in the top of her class. Her certification and new found confidence landed Angelia a full-time job with Bellwight Industries in Summerville as a CNC operator. Career Counselor, Chappella Johnson, Hampton & Jasper Counties.

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**Managed over 150 Hiring Events in all three SCWorks Centers**

**Certifications Awarded**
- 28 Manufacturing
- 46 TDL+
- 14 GED
- 3 Medical
- 1 Technical

**Lowcountry SCWorks Centers received $113K in Technology Upgrades**

**1st statewide WIOA Performance & Data Training facilitated by LCG’s Shelly Campbell**

**Awarded $100K Transportation grant for bus route in Walterboro**
Sources & Uses of FY16/17 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.

Expenditures by Department
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.
# LCOG Staff

## Administration
- Sabrena Graham, Executive Director
- Sherry Smith, Finance Director
- Kathy Lucas, Finance Clerk
- Beverly Neiderhiser, Housekeeping
- Connie Schroyer, Office Manager
- Lakesha Wood, Finance Clerk

## Aging & Disability Resources
- Jordan Newman, Aging Director
- Karen Anderson, Information & Referral Specialist
- Eugenia Beach, Program Specialist
- Tonyetta Bentley, Program Specialist
- Charmaine Concepcion, Home Safety Program
- Claire Glasson, Long-term Care Ombudsman
- Meyoka Griffin, i-CARE Specialist
- Rhonda Hiatt, Family Caregiver Advocate
- Zoe Pepall, Program Specialist
- Ashley Young, Service Coordinator

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

## Planning & Transportation
- Ginnie Kozak, Planning Director
- Lawrence Holdsworth, Planner
- Patricia Wallace, Intern

## Workforce Development
- Michael Butler, Workforce Director
- Sheila Bovain, Youth Workforce Developer
- Shelly Campbell, Performance, Compliance & Data Mgr.
- Kristy Douglas, Customer Service Rep
- Stephanie Ferguson, Adult Workforce Developer
- Althea Graham, Program Assistant
- LaToya Grier, Adult Workforce Developer
- Dennis Hall, Workforce Developer
- Lakelya Haynes, Youth Workforce Developer
- Chappella Johnson, Adult Workforce Developer
- Tiffany Lloyd, Youth Workforce Developer
- Tony Poilien, Business Services
Boards & Committees

Board of Directors
Bennett, Frankie - Town of Estill
Black, Esther - Colleton County
Bonds, Bobby - City of Walterboro
Carroll, John - City of Hardeeville
Covert, Michael - Beaufort County
Cromer, Philip - City of Beaufort
Dawson, Gerald - Beaufort County
Flewelling, Brian - Beaufort County
Flowers, Joseph - Colleton County
Crant, Marc - Town of Hilton Head Is.
Claze, Herbert - Beaufort County
Clover, York - Beaufort County
Hagood, Pete - Town of Hampton
Heyward, Mary Beth - Town of Port Royal
Howard, Alice - Beaufort County
Johnson, Gwen - Jasper County
Johnson, Tom - Jasper County
Lawton, Henry - Jasper County
Malphrus, Joey - Town of Ridgeland
Mann, Tommy - Colleton County
McBride, Bill - Beaufort County
McDomick, Joseph - Beaufort County
Mixson, Ronald - Hampton County
Mixson, Travis - Town of Hampton
Moore, Crawford - Town of Edisto Beach
Phillips, Charles - Hampton County
Robinson, Evon - Colleton County
Shaffer, Nat - Town of Varnville
Whetsell, Cene - Colleton County
*Executive Committee

Lowcountry Aging Advisory Committee
Black, Esther - LCOC Board (C)
*at-large (C)
Brown, Audrey - Dept of Social Services (C)
Dawson, Gerald - LCOC Board
Denmark, Ethel - Council on Aging (H)
Faulkner, Ervena - Senior Citizen (B)
Fennell, Margie - Senior Citizen (B)
Fripp Gordon, Susie - *at-large (B)
Hagood, Pete - LCOC Board (H)
Hodges, Betty - Veterans Affairs (H)
Kidwell, Leah - Council on Aging (B)

Lowcountry Regional Development Corp
Bonds, Bobby - LCOC Exec. Committee (C)
Dawson, Gerald - LCOC Exec. Committee (B)
Flewelling, Brian - LCOC Exec. Committee (B)
Hagood, Pete - LCOC Exec. Committee (H)
Johnson, Tom - LCOC Exec. Committee (J)
Malphrus, Joey - LCOC Exec. Committee (J)
Shaffer, Nat - LCOC Exec. Committee (H)
Whetsell, Cene - LCOC Exec. Committee (C)

Lowcountry Regional Housing Advisory Cmte
Dawson, Gerald (B)
Fulghum, Andrew (J)
Hagood, Pete (H)
Malphrus, Joey (J)
Mixson, Doug (H)
Robinson, Evon (C)

Civil Rights Committee
Anderson, Karen - LCOC Staff
Butler, Michael - LCOC Staff
Concepcion, Charmaine - LCOC Staff
Davis, Rhonda - LCOC Staff
Holdsworth, Lawrence - LCOC Staff
Smith, Sherry - LCOC Staff

LATS Policy Committee
Bennett, David - Town of Hilton Head
Blauch, David - LRTA Board
Clark, Barbara - Jasper County Council
Davis, Tom - State Senator, Dist. 16
Clover, Samuel - SCDOT, District 6
Boards & Committees

LATS Policy Committee
Hamilton, Richard - LRTA Board
Herbersman, William - State Rep, Dist. 118
Keyserling, Billy - City of Beaufort
Murray, Samuel - Town of Port Royal
LATS Policy Committee - CONT’
Parker, C. Clifton - SCDOT
Robbins, Robby - SCDOT
Sommerville, D. Paul - Beaufort County Council
Sulka, Lisa - Town of Bluffton
Williams, Harry - City of Hardeeville

JLUS Policy Committee
Cook, Jerry - Town of Yemassee
Dawson, Gerald - Beaufort County Council
DeLoach, Vernon, Town of Port Royal Council
DeVito, Joe - Metropolitan Planning Comm.
Evans, Bill - Beaufort County School Board
Flewelling, Brian - Beaufort County Council
Keyserling, Brian - City of Beaufort
McBride, William - Beaufort County Council
Murray, Samuel - Town of Port Royal
Semmler, Robert - Beaufort Planning Comm.
Sutton, Mike - Beaufort City Council
Von Harten, Laura - Beaufort County Council

Lowcountry Workforce Development Board
Adams, Michelle - SC Employment & Workforce
Alexander, Kimberly - Universal Distributors
Anderson, Josie - Josie Creations
Avant, Clynis - Spencer Industries
Birdsong, Emily - Colleton Medical Center
Bowers, Lynn - Hampton Regional Medical Center
Entriken, Barbara - Net Solutions Technology Ctr
Gilbert, Greggory - SC Vocational Rehabilitation
Henrickson, Sean - Technical College Lowcountry
Horton, Heyward - Colleton Co. Economic Alliance
Horvath, Chris - Colleton Co. Adult Education
Jamison, Brenda - NALC Branch #6113
Marshall, Sarah - BJEcon. Opportunity Commission
Maynor, Leslie - KBRS Inc.
Morrison, James - IAMAW Dist. 112 Local 2775
Nester, Darlene - Tenet Healthcare Corporation
Pak, Kevin - Pak Net
Palmer, Steve - SCEC
Stanley, Ronnie - NUPI

Workforce Accessibility Committee
Adams, Michelle - SC Employment & Workforce
Gilbert, Greggory - SC Vocational Rehabilitation
Kilter, Allison - SC Vocational Rehabilitation
Walsh, Debbie - SC Disability & Special Needs

Workforce One-Stop Committee
Adams, Michelle - SC Employment & Workforce
Entriken, Barbara - Net Solutions Technology Ctr
Gilbert, Greggory - SC Vocational Rehabilitation
Murrell, Juanita - Beaufort County Adult Education
Pollin, Tony - Lowcountry Workforce Development

Workforce Youth Committee
Deloach, Nancy - Hampton Co. Literacy
Class, Wendy - Colleton Medical Center
Jones, Lynn - Colleton Co. Adult Education
Marshall, Sarah - BJEcon. Opportunity Commission
Murrell, Juanita - Beaufort County Adult Education
Statler, Kim - Lowcountry Regional Education Cntr

"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.” 2005 Mission Statement