



# Funding Opportunity: A New Tool

*Impacting Rural Communities*  
[www.ria.sc.gov](http://www.ria.sc.gov)



# RIA Overview

- Who we are?
- Who is eligible?
- What projects are eligible?
- How much is available?
- How to apply?



# Rural Infrastructure

- Infrastructure supports a high quality of life.
- It protects our health and the environment.
- It connects homes, schools and businesses.



# Growing Gap between Needs and Investment

- Infrastructure has aged and deteriorated.
- Operation and maintenance costs have increased.
- Stagnant incomes and limited resources have made it difficult for communities to invest in necessary improvements and upgrades.
- Deferred maintenance and delayed replacement have negative impacts:
  - Health and safety risks
  - Business disruption
  - Higher costs and wasted resources

# Economic Development Needs

- Rural areas need adequate infrastructure to attract jobs, economic development and new investment.
- An inventory of shovel-ready, available sites with adequate infrastructure is in short supply.



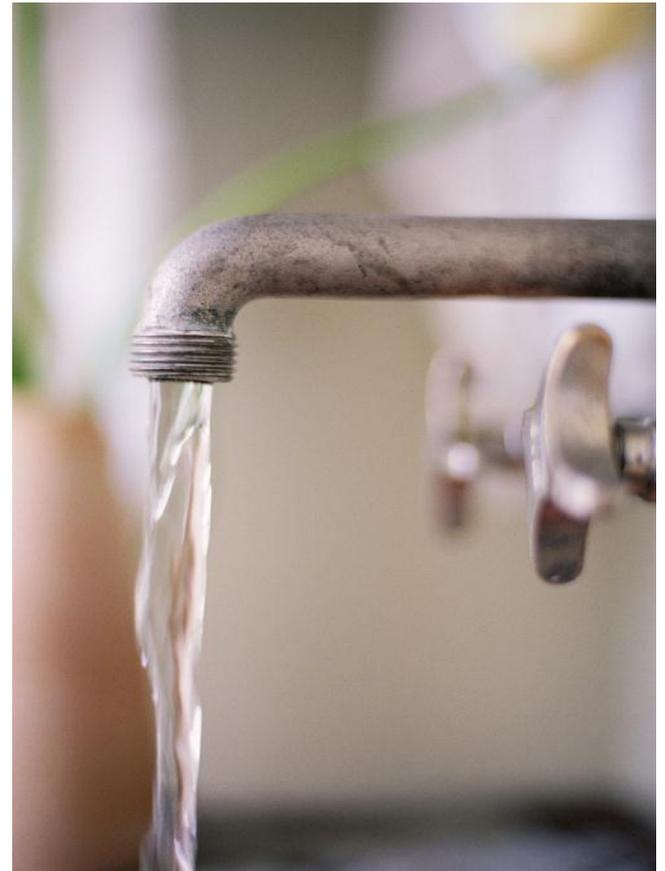
# SC Rural Infrastructure Authority

## Who we are?

- State agency created by the General Assembly
- Governed by a seven member Board

## What we do?

- Assist in financing qualified rural infrastructure projects



# RIA Purpose

**“...to select and assist in financing qualified rural infrastructure...”**

## **Address essential public purposes:**

- ✓ Provide environmental facilities and services that will meet public health and environmental standards.
- ✓ Aid in attracting economic development and employment opportunities.

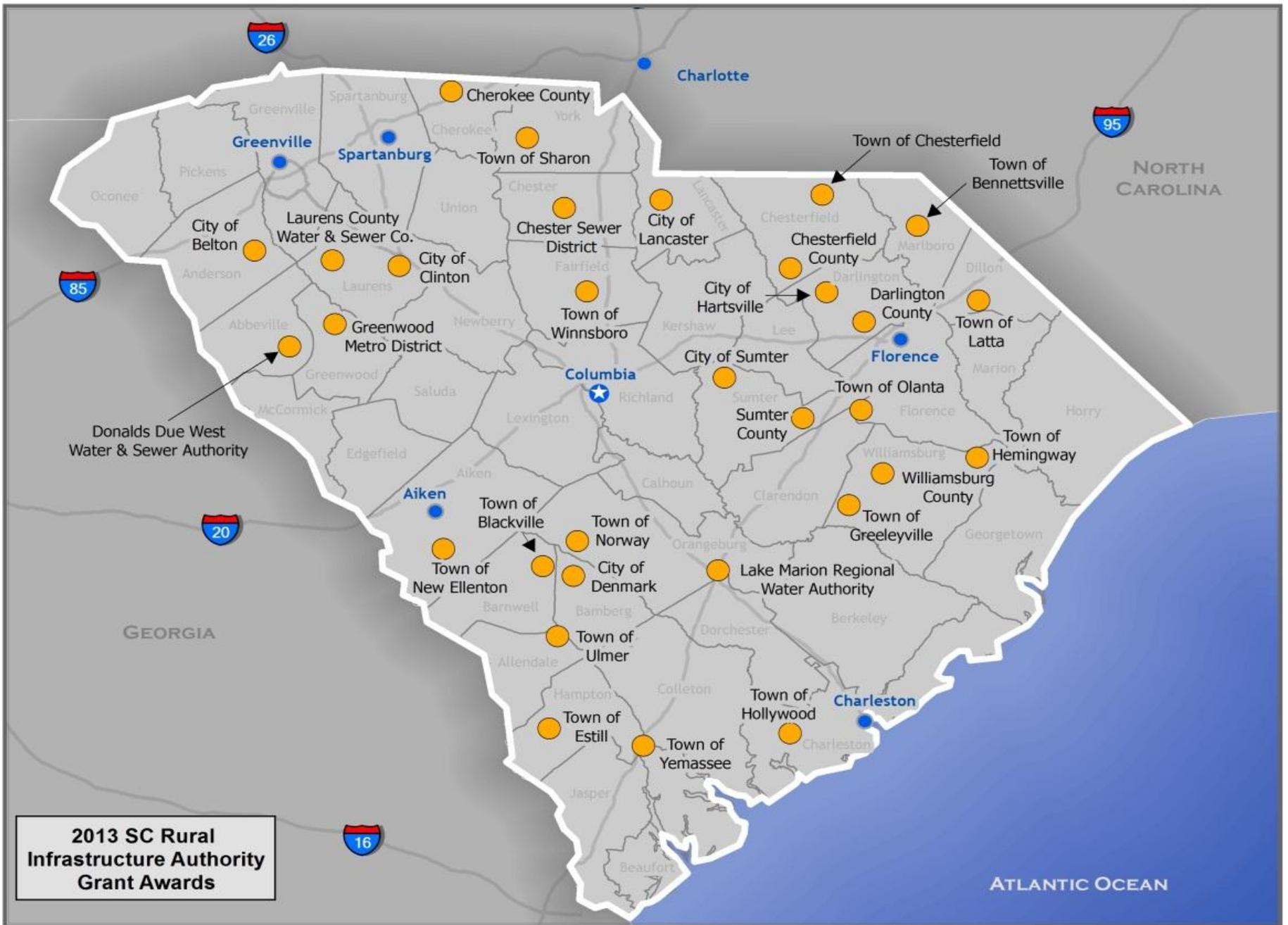


# Objective: Impacting Rural Communities

- Target the most distressed areas that lack adequate resources for infrastructure.
- Address basic infrastructure that does not meet environmental quality standards and poses health concerns.
- Build the capacity of rural areas to provide economic opportunity and sustainability.
- Provide infrastructure to support job creation and economic investment.
- Leverage local efforts and other investments to create the greatest impact.

# Accomplishments

- Awarded over \$10 million in grants
- 34 projects in 25 counties
- 30,000 residents to benefit
- 92% in least and distressed counties
- RIA leveraged \$33 million in other funds



**2013 SC Rural Infrastructure Authority Grant Awards**

ATLANTIC OCEAN



# Rural Infrastructure Authority 2014 Program

- Eligibility
- Grant Categories

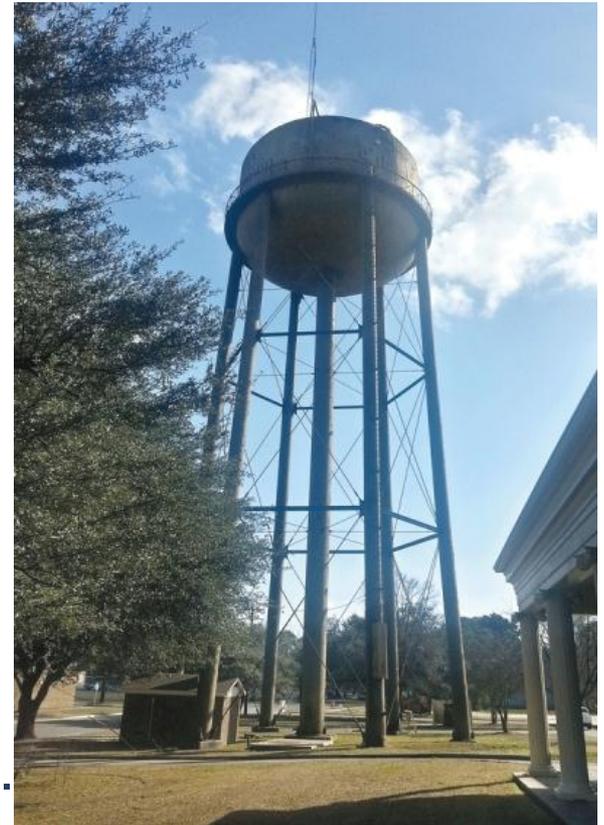


# Who is Eligible?

## Eligible Applicants

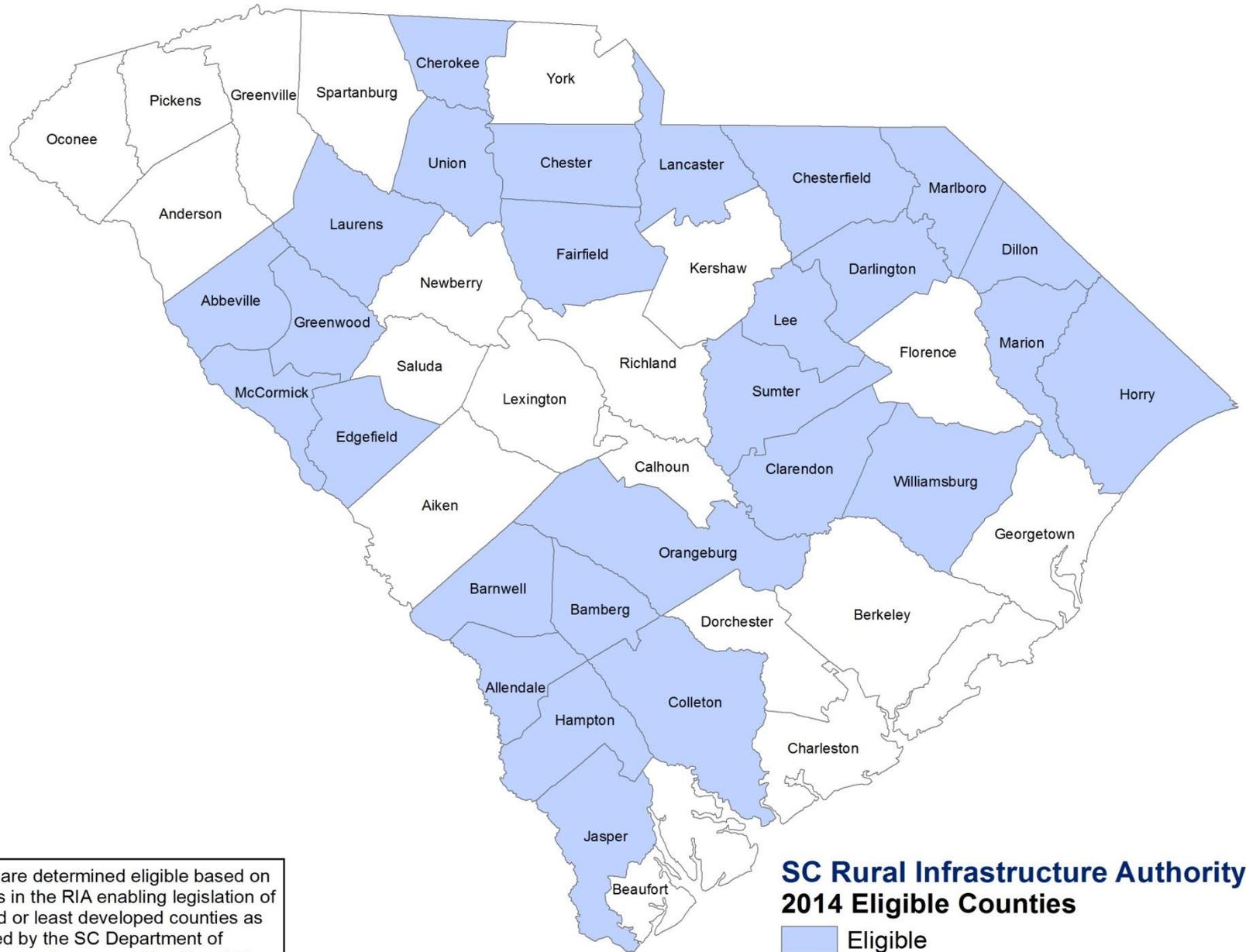
- Local Governments\*
- Special Purpose Districts
- Public Works Commissions
- Public Service Districts

\* A local government may also apply on behalf of a not-for-profit water/sewer company operating within their jurisdiction.



# Project Eligibility

- Projects located in **eligible counties** that are considered to be distressed or least developed
  - Currently designated as Tier III or IV
  - Updated on an annual basis by the SC Department of Revenue



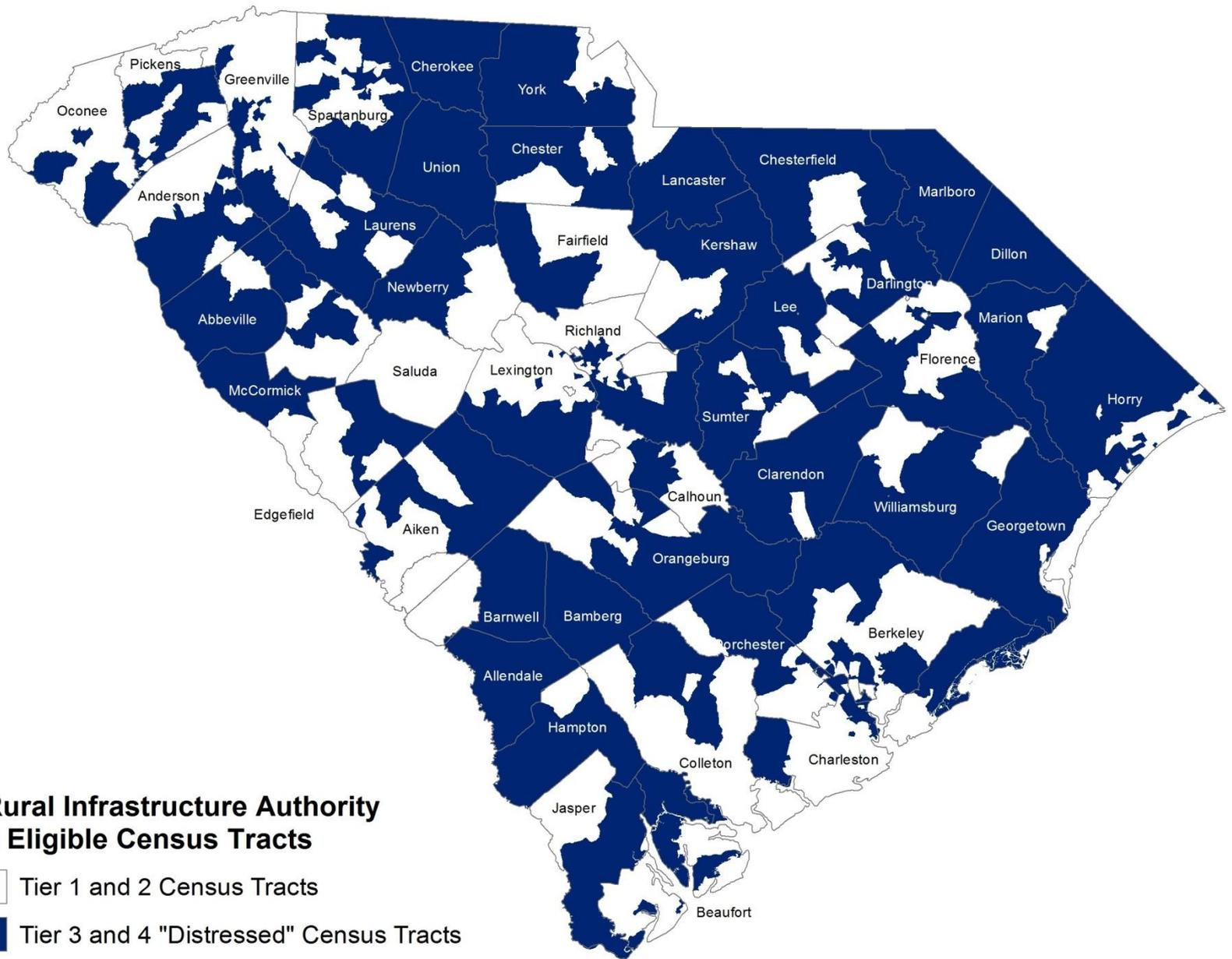
Counties are determined eligible based on definitions in the RIA enabling legislation of distressed or least developed counties as designated by the SC Department of Revenue or by the current Tier III and Tier IV county designation.

**SC Rural Infrastructure Authority  
2014 Eligible Counties**

- Eligible
- Ineligible

# Project Eligibility

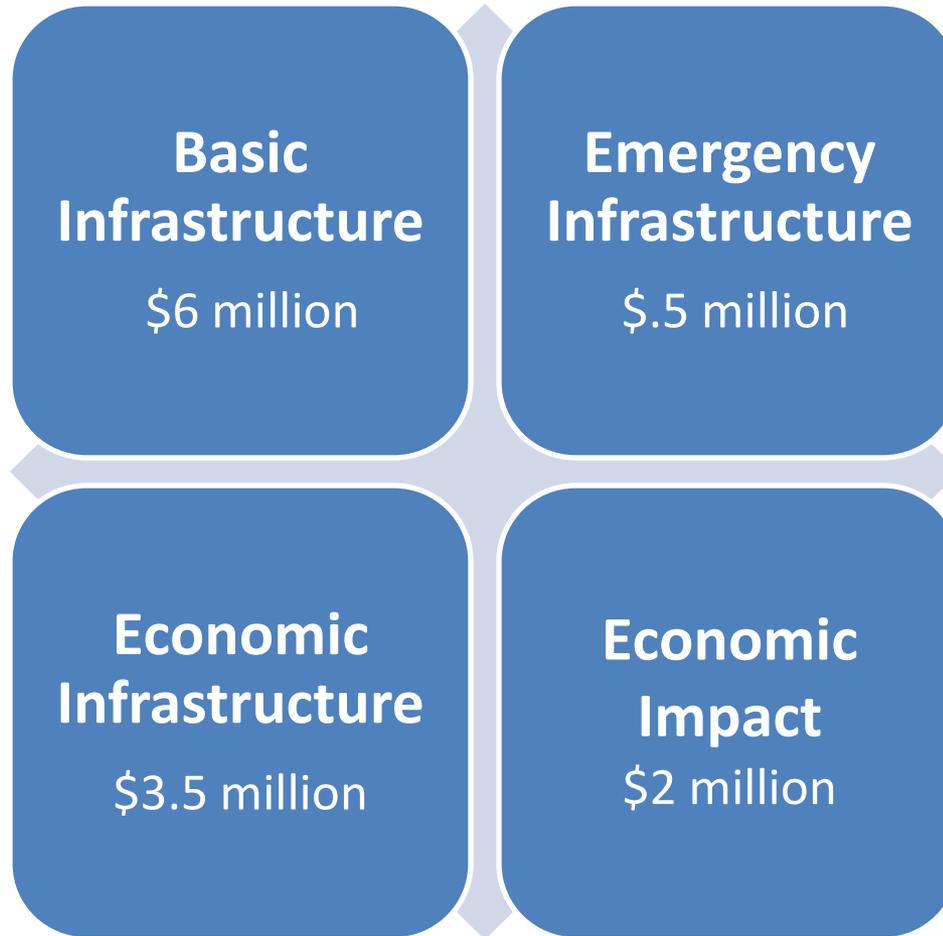
- Projects in **non-distressed** counties may qualify if located:
  - Outside of an urbanized area,  
and
  - In a census tract that meets the same eligibility criteria for distressed/least developed counties;  
or
  - In a service area with a current CDBG or USDA infrastructure grant.



**SC Rural Infrastructure Authority  
2014 Eligible Census Tracts**

- Tier 1 and 2 Census Tracts
- Tier 3 and 4 "Distressed" Census Tracts

# Grant Categories



# Basic Infrastructure

## Purpose:

To bring systems into compliance with environmental quality standards or address public health concerns, both of which contribute to the sustainability of a community.



# Basic Infrastructure Grants

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**Amount Available:** \$ 6 million

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**Grant Amount:** \$ 350,000

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## Matching Requirement:

Eligible County: 100% Non-Construction

Other Eligible Areas: 100% Non-Construction  
+25% Construction Costs

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# Emergency Infrastructure

## Purpose:

To address emergency needs for infrastructure extension OR make repairs to eliminate an imminent health or environmental threat that has occurred in an eligible county within the last 6 months.



# Emergency Infrastructure Grants

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**Amount Available:** \$ 500,000

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**Grant Amount:** \$ 50,000

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## Matching Requirement:

Eligible County Only: 100% Non-Construction

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# Economic Infrastructure

## Purpose:

To build capacity to support economic development through publically-owned infrastructure improvements.



# Economic Infrastructure Grants

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**Amount Available:** \$ 3.5 million

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**Grant Amount:** \$ 350,000

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## Matching Requirements:

Eligible County: 100% Non-Construction  
+25% Construction Costs

Other Eligible Areas: 100% Non- Construction  
+50% Construction Costs

# Economic Impact

## Purpose:

Assist with publically-owned infrastructure or facilities to serve economic development projects that create impact through job creation and significant private investment.



# Economic Impact Grants

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**Amount Available:** \$2 million

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**Grant Amount:** \$500,000

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## Matching Requirement:

Eligible County: 100% Non-Construction  
+25% Construction Costs

Other Eligible Areas: 100% Non- Construction  
+50% Construction Costs

# How to Apply

- Step 1:** Identify your critical infrastructure needs
- Step 2:** Seek technical assistance from RIA staff to determine eligibility and feasibility
- Step 3:** Complete application forms and narrative, attach cost estimates, match commitments and other documentation.

Application forms may be downloaded at:

[www.ria.sc.gov](http://www.ria.sc.gov)



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