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**SOUTHEAST CRESCENT
REGIONAL COMMISSION**

**2023 South Carolina Community Development Association (SCCDA)
Annual Meeting**

May 18, 2023
Myrtle Beach, SC

Presenter: Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed, Federal Co-Chair



**SOUTHEAST CRESCENT
REGIONAL COMMISSION**

Legislative History

- ▶ A renewed interest in the RC concept was pushed by university researchers working on rural development issues at Tuskegee University's Annual Professional Agricultural Worker's Conference for Land-Grant Universities in 1990.
- ▶ In 1994, the Southern Rural Development Commission Act was introduced in the House Agriculture Committee.
- ▶ The concept was reintroduced in Congress and various non-governmental initiatives sustained discussion and interest in the concept.
- ▶ Legislation was reintroduced in 2002; followed by 14 pieces of legislation; authorization in 2008 Farm Bill.
- ▶ Activated in January 2022 upon the confirmation and swearing-in of a Federal Co-Chair.

SCRC Leadership & Oversight

Authorizing legislation, referred to as *the statute*, outlines the two prongs of SCRC's leadership. There is a **Federal Co-Chair**, nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate, and the collective of **Governors** of the seven Southeast Crescent states (Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia).

One Governor is elected **States' Co-Chair** by the Governors of the member states.




Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed
SCRC Federal Co-Chair

Governor Henry McMaster
States' Co-Chair

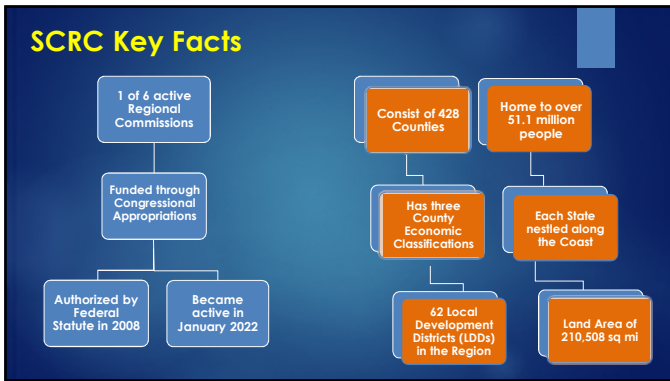
SCRC Governors & Alternates

<p>State of Alabama Governor Kay Ivey Alternate - Kenneth Boswell</p>	<p>State of Georgia Governor Brian Kemp Alternate - Christopher Nunn</p>	<p>State of South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster Alternate - Jordan Marsh</p>
<p>State of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis Alternate - Katherine Russo</p>	<p>State of Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves Alternate - Kristen Windham</p>	<p>State of Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin Alternate - Bryan Horn</p>
<p>State of North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper Alternate - Jim McCleskey</p>		

SCRC Mission:

The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) is an economic development partnership agency. **As a grant making agency**, SCRC's mission is to invest financial resources into community-based projects that will alleviate the effects of poverty and help build sustainable communities across the Southeast Crescent region.

SCRC Key Facts



SCRC Five-Year Strategic Plan and Goals (2023 – 2027)

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

State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program

\$20M Investment

The SEID grant program includes funding from SCRC's annual appropriations and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

- In the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\)](#), infrastructure projects and goals are outlined in more detail to include construction and non-construction projects, such as rebuilding airports, bridges, ports, rail and roads, and provide access to clean drinking water and access to high-speed internet.

State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program

- ❑ Applications must align with the [SCRC Five-Year Strategic Plan](#)
- ❑ Must also consider regional priorities provided in the **State Economic and Development Plan** and **Strategy Statement** of the state(s) where the project will be implemented.

Statutory Requirements

- ❑ **40%** of total allocation must be used for Infrastructure Projects
- ❑ **50%** of total allocation must be spent in Distressed and Isolated Areas of Distress
- ❑ Generally, funds may not be granted within an attainment county, but there are exceptions:
 - Project is located in an Isolated Areas of Distress
 - Projects within an attainment county may be funded if the project is a part of a multi-county project that includes an attainment county and at least one or more distressed or transitional counties. Match for multi-county projects will be the average of the counties that make up the project.

Statutory Requirements (Continued)

SCRC will invest in projects that:

- Develop the transportation infrastructure;
- Develop the basic public infrastructure;
- Develop the telecommunications infrastructure; and
- Assist in obtaining job skills training, skills development, and employment-related education, entrepreneurship, technology, and business development.

Statutory Requirements (Continued)

- Assist severely economically distressed and underdeveloped areas to improve improving basic health care and other public services;
- Promote resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open space in a manner consistent with economic development goals; and
- Promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources.

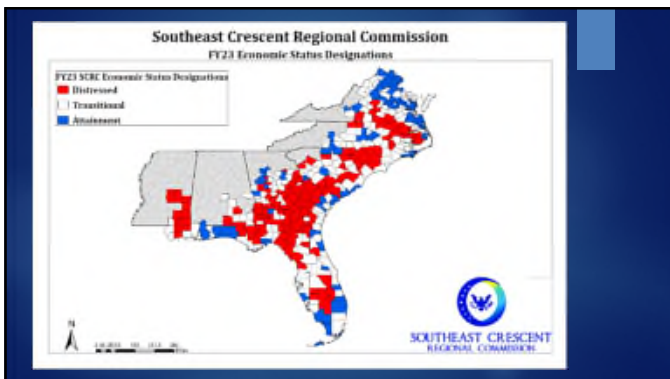
SCRC Three County/County Equivalent Economic Classifications

Distressed counties (166) are the most economically depressed counties, ranking at or below 25% of the nation's counties. These counties are the most severely and persistently economically distressed and undeveloped and have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.

Transitional counties (177) are transitioning between strong and weak economies, ranking between 26% and 74% of the nation's counties. These may have recently suffered or recovering from high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.

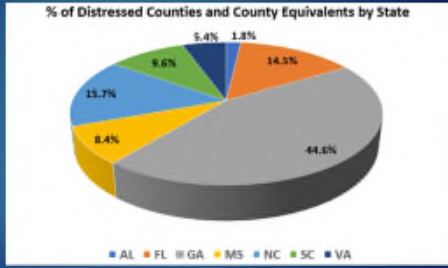
Attainment counties (85) are the strongest counties, economically, ranking in at or above the top 25% of the nation. These counties are neither distressed or transitional.

For a list of county/county equivalents by economic classification and regional maps by state, visit our website, scrc.gov.



FY 2023 Distressed SCRC Counties/County Equivalents

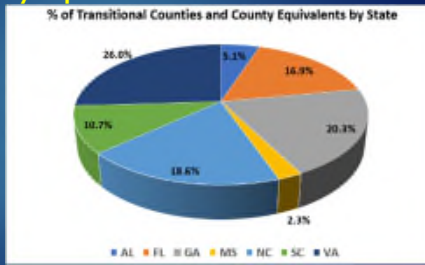
Distressed counties are ranked in the lower 25% of the nation's counties. Many have experienced decades of economic depression.



Sources: U.S. Census and 2021 American Community Survey

FY 2023 Transitional SCRC Counties/County Equivalents

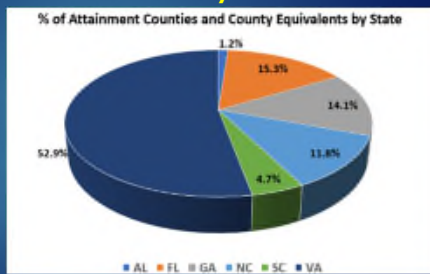
Transitional counties are ranked within a wide range spanning the middle, between the lower 25% and upper 25% of all the nation's counties.



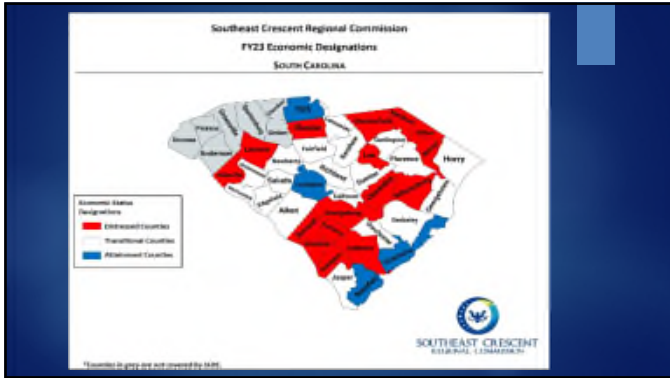
Sources: U.S. Census and 2021 American Community Survey

Attainment SCRC Counties by State

Attainment counties are economically the strongest counties, ranking in the top 25% of the nation's counties.



Sources: U.S. Census and 2021 American Community Survey



SCRC Isolated Areas of Distress

SCRC has identified Isolated Areas of Distress, areas located within attainment counties with high rates of poverty, unemployment, and outmigration.

To determine Isolated Areas of Distress, SCRC evaluated Census tracts within attainment counties using three variables:

- at or above the U.S. median poverty rate of 12.6%;
- below the U.S. median household income of \$46,244; and
- designated as historically-disadvantaged communities.

To be classified as an Isolated Area of Distress, all three variables must be met. For a full list of the 139 **Isolated Areas of Distress** in the SCRC region, please visit the website, scrc.gov.

South Carolina State SEID Allocation for FY23 = \$2.6M

- ❖ Of the 39 SCRC counties in South Carolina
 - 16 are classified as Distressed
 - 19 as Transitional, and
 - 4 as Attainment.
- ❖ There are 23 Isolated Areas of Distress in the four Attainment counties located in South Carolina.

Maximum SEID Grant Awards

These amounts may change based on identified needs and priorities of individual states. Please review the State Plan(s) where your project will be implemented for additional details regarding state specific award criteria.

\$50,000 - \$500,000

Adherence to federal and state compliance regulations are required.

SEID Matching/Cost Sharing Requirements

County economic designations determine the match required for SCRC-funded projects.

- ▶ For projects in Transitional counties or isolated areas of distress, the match requirement is 50%.
- ▶ For projects in Distressed counties, the match requirement is 20%.
- ▶ For multi-county or multi-state projects, the Federal cost share ranges between 60-90%, depending on the counties impacted.

SCRC is a grantmaking agency. We are hiring staff and putting policies, procedures and protocols in place. That includes the processes for disseminating Federal funds through the grant program we are creating from a conceptual framework.

It is priority #1 and we are aiming for a launch in 30 days.

While we are the largest regional commission with 51 million residents in 428 counties or county equivalents covering 210,000 sq mi, we are funded at next to the lowest level.

Closing

**Important Role as
Community Leader & Convenor:**

- Be one of/not the only advocate for economic development in your area;
- Be a catalyst for sustainable changes. Encourage investment that will last long past its funding tenure.
- Help residents NAME what will improve the economic and infrastructure conditions of the community in this order – the What, the Where, the How, the When and lastly, the Who.
- Reach out to your SCRC points of contact. Tina Thomas serves as the SCRC program manager in SC. Ms. Thomas can be reached at tthomas@sccommerce.com.
- Continue to work across sectors to improve economic conditions of your community by leveraging resources and utilizing best practices; and
- SHARE information about the SCRC. Refer to our website.

Thank You!

Southeast Crescent Regional Commission

1901 Assembly Street, Suite 370
Columbia, SC 29201

Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed
Federal Co-Chair
Mobile: 202-599-8310
info@scrc.gov



***Visit our website to sign up for program updates and developments - scrc.gov.**
