Community Development Federal Grant Programs
CDBG, ARC and SCRC

CDBG PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Federal grant program for states funded through U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

- State CDBG program is administered by the Business Incentives & Community Development Division at the SC Department of Commerce.

- Primary purpose is to address essential community development needs of low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons.

CDBG ELIGIBILITY

- Only units of local government that are not entitlement are eligible to apply (cities, towns, counties).

- There are areas of the state that are entitlement and get CDBG funds directly from HUD, so they are not eligible for State CDBG (i.e. larger towns/counties).

Water & sewer authorities are not eligible to apply; however, they may partner with a local government as a subrecipient for project.

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CDBG PROGRAM CATEGORIES/AMOUNTS

Community Infrastructure - $8M in 2025
    Water/sewer/drainage

Community Enrichment - $7.9M in 2025
    Various activities including demolition, downtown streetscape, neighborhood sidewalks, certain types of studies, libraries, childcare facilities, etc.

Local Priorities - $2M in 2025
    Needs not covered in other categories or funded by other HUD partner programs - parks, trails, etc.

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CDBG NATIONAL OBJECTIVES

All projects must meet a HUD national objective:

1. Benefit low- and moderate-income persons
(LMI: those that make 80 % or less of median income).

2. Address slum and blighted conditions, or

3 Address urgent needs which pose hazards or imminent threats to the public health and safety.

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CDBG MATCHING FUNDS

- 10% match required
  - *Match can come from any source*
  - *Can be in form of cash, waiver of fees, in-kind*

- All other funds for the project should be available/committed at the time of CDBG application.

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CDBG APPLICATION REQUESTS/APPLICATIONS

- Locality must request an application from state.

- Typical application request due dates:
  - *Mid-March – Infrastructure*
  - *Mid-August – Community Enrichment/Local Priorities*

- Applications due by specified deadline (if application approved).

CDBG APPLICATION PROCESS

- Application process is <u>competitive</u>.

- Projects are scored on variety of factors including need, citizen participation, other funding, feasibility, costs per unit/person, outcome, sustainability and state priorities.

- For more scoring details, see *CDBG Application Guidelines* posted on cdbgsc.com.

CDBG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Ten (10) regional COG offices or private consultants can help in determining if a project is eligible, in writing an application and in administering the project (if funded).

- CDBG staff may also provide technical assistance *(a CDBG staff listing is available on cdbgsc.com)*.

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APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION (ARC) PROGRAM

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ARC PROGRAM

*Funds only available for projects in <u>7 South Carolina counties</u> – *Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg and Union.*

*SC receives approximately $2M in ARC funds annually.

*Eligible applicants are local governments, state/local agencies, local governing boards and non-profits.

ARC PROGRAM

- Funds only available for projects in <u>7 South Carolina counties</u> – *Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg and Union.*

- SC receives approximately $2M in ARC funds annually.

- Eligible applicants are local governments, state/local agencies, local governing boards and non-profits.

ARC PROGRAM

- Project proposals must address one of the ARC investment priorities identified in the ARC strategic plan (ARC.gov).

  - $1M limit for construction projects
  - $250K limit for non-construction projects

- Match percentage is based upon a county designation which is determined by the Federal Commission *(Greenville-70%, Anderson, Oconee, Pickens & Spartanburg-50%, Cherokee & Union-30%)*.

- The application process is competitive.

ARC PROGRAM CONTACT

For more information, please contact:

Caroline S. Griffin
Deputy Director, Community Development
(803)737-0472
cgriffin@sccommerce.com

SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION (SCRC)

SCRC PROGRAM

- SCRC was created by Public Law 110-246, the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 to focus on addressing issues related to economic development and poverty in 428 counties across the seven (7) southeastern states.

- SCRC's mission is to build sustainable communities and strengthen economic growth across the Southeast Region.

- South Carolina has 39 SCRC designated counties.

SCRC PROGRAM

- SCRC has 3 county economic classifications: *Distressed, Transitional and Attainment.*

- Match percentage is determined by the Federal Commission.

- SCRC's Strategic Priorities: *Invest in Critical Infrastructure, Improve Health & Public Service Access, Strengthen Workforce Capacity, Foster Entrepreneurial & Business Development Activities, Expand Affordable Housing Stock and Promote Environmental Conservation, Preservation & Access.*

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SCRC PROGRAM

- The Commission has released two funding rounds to date.

- South Carolina's allocation is approximately $3M annually.

- The application process is competitive.

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SCRC Program Contact

For more information, please contact:

Caroline S. Griffin
Deputy Director, Community Development
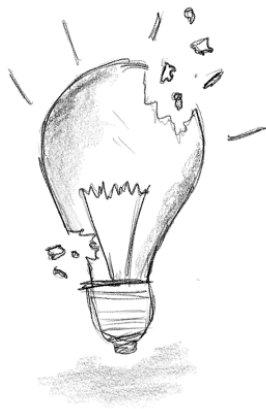*(803)737-0472*
cgriffin@sccommerce.com

ANY QUESTIONS?
THANKS FOR LISTENING

Relentless Challenge
Grant Opportunity

THE RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF TRANSFORMATIONAL IDEAS

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S.C. Commerce:
Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Our PURPOSE – To cultivate the right environment to attract, grow, and retain entrepreneurs and innovation-driven companies in South Carolina.

Our APPROACH – We act as ecosystem architects... identifying gaps in the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem and working with external entities to design and fund programs that close them.

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2026

2 Tracks for Relentless Challenge

- Innovation

- Traditional Small Business

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Grant Goals Per Track

TRADITIONAL SMALL BUSINESS TRACK (Max $50,000/Project. No minimum.)	INNOVATION TRACK (Max $75,000/Project. No minimum)
Goal 1 - Catalyze the development of new traditional small businesses. Goal 2 - Accelerate growth and revenue stability for existing traditional small businesses. Goal 3 - Increase access to funding and funding support for traditional small businesses.	Goal 1- Catalyze high-growth entrepreneurship or the R&D and product development efforts of established companies. Goal 2 - Increase access to risk capital Goal 3 – Foster ongoing collaboration between companies and higher education institutions to accelerate applied research, commercialization, and product development. Goal 4 – Deploy initiatives that attract and land innovation-driven companies in South Carolina.*

Applicants may apply for funding under **only one track** and should select the track that best aligns with their proposed project.

All projects must positively affect **at least one** grant goal for the selected track.

New goal in 2026

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Relentless Challenge Grant

Top-Line Information
- A competitive grant
- Up to $75K/project (Innovation Track) or up to $50K/project (Traditional SB Track)
- 1:1 match non-state appropriated funds
- January to January term
- All work to be completed within 12-month term

Eligible Organizations:
- S.C.-based nonprofit organizations (including Chambers), higher-education institutions, local gov't.
- No fiscal agents. Partnerships!

Eligible Projects:
- Implementation of new programs
- Must support multiple founders/ companies in S.C.

Relentless **cannot fund** individuals, individual innovations, or individual companies/startups.

SC SBDC is not itself eligible but is a fantastic implementation partner!

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More About Match

What is match?
Non-state appropriated dollars from other sources to support the amount requested through this grant. These are **not expenditures** your organization has made, but **actual dollars received** by your organization to **support the same project**.

Is in-kind allowed?
In-kind contribution(s) will be allowed for up to 25% of the total eligible match.
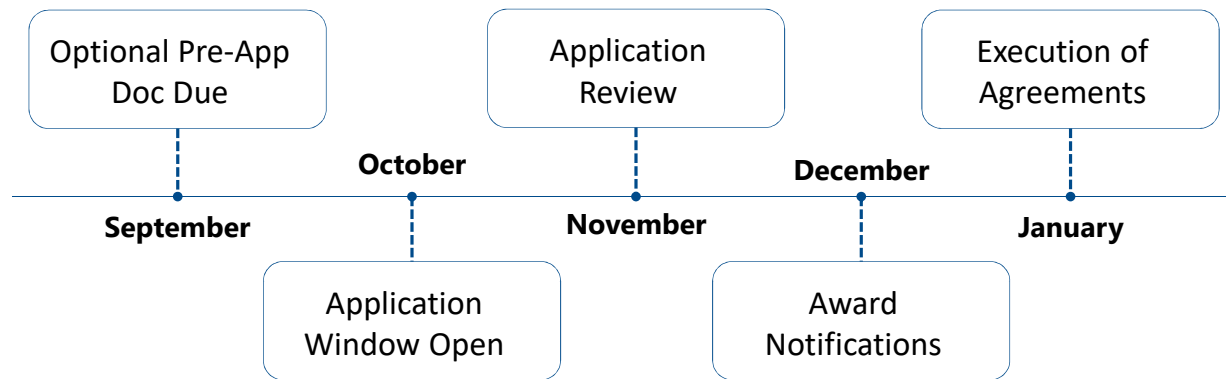
What does not qualify as match?
Salaries, or labor costs, are not conducive to the design of a sustainable innovation program and **cannot be used as a cash or in-kind** match.

What is proof of match?
Redacted bank statements or canceled checks showing (1.) name of payor, (2.) your entity as recipient, (3.) date received (AFTER 10/1/25), and (3.) amount received.

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Application Timeline

September	**October**	**November**	**December**	**January**	

- Optional Pre-App Doc Due
- Application Window Open
- Application Review
- Award Notifications
- Execution of Agreements

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Common Questions

- What types of projects does the grant seek to fund?

- What can grant money be used for?

- What can it *not* be used for?

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The Most Successful Projects…

1. Fill a gap or unmet need in the ecosystem.
2. Are well validated not just with stakeholders, but with those the project seeks to serve (entrepreneurs).
3. Have strong champions & implementation partners

2025 **Funded** Projects & Summaries

Congratulations
COLASTARTS
SPRING 25 COHORT

2025 Traditional Small Business Grant Awardees & Programs

2025 Innovation Grant Awardees & Programs