



REGIONAL SERVICES • COMMUNITY FOCUSED

ANNUAL REPORT FY2021

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) is a regional planning and intergovernmental coordination agency which serves 45 municipalities and 18 counties in Southern Georgia. For more than 58 years, the SGRC has provided a comprehensive array of services and resources in response to the needs of member local governments. SGRC has a dedicated staff of over 60 professionals, including technical experts in a number of specialized fields. The SGRC utilizes its valuable combination of commitment, passion, and expertise to benefit our communities and partner agencies through programs that improve the quality of life in Southern Georgia.

MISSION STATEMENT

To develop, promote, and provide services that make the Southern Georgia region a better place to live and work.

SGRC REGION

Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Pierce, Tift, Turner, and Ware Counties

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Lisa Cribb

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Chris Strom

OFFICE ADDRESSES: Valdosta Office 1937 Carlton Adams Drive Valdosta, Georgia 31601 (229) 333-5277

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WEBSITE www.sgrc.us



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A MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN JOYCE EVANS

Fiscal Year 2021 was another successful year for the Southern Georgia Regional Commission. This year's Annual Report tells the story of how each division of the SGRC has diligently worked to serve our region. One of the highlights of FY21 was the opening of the new 15,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility in Valdosta. Photos from the ribbon cutting ceremony held on December 11, 2020, are included in this report.

Even though the Coronavirus pandemic continues to be a factor in our lives, the staff of the SGRC persisted in their endeavor to meet the needs of the region and to increase the quality of life in Southern Georgia. The Area Agency on Aging, which has experienced a 52% increase in calls requesting assistance, provided over 40,000 hours of Homemaker, Personal, and Respite Care in FY21. More than \$15 million in loans were made and 658 jobs were created or saved with the assistance of the Lending Division. Workforce Development provided services to 1,064 adults, youth, and dislocated workers. Community and Economic Development oversaw 40 projects totaling more than \$48 million and benefitting nearly 23,000 people. These are just a few of the many accomplishments documented in the FY21 Annual Report.

A testament to the SGRC's commitment to excellence are the numerous awards that were received throughout FY2021. The Transportation and Environmental Division received the 2021 Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Watershed Award from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division for its work to improve water quality in the New River Watershed. The Area Agency on Aging was the recipient of the 2021 Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) AAA Excellence in Sustainability Award recognizing its high level of performance in providing services. Furthermore, the SGRC was the recipient of two NADO Impact Awards in recognition of our work to improve the economic and community competitiveness of the region.

As Chairman of the SGRC Council, I am pleased to present this year's annual report, and invite you to review its informative contents. The achievements reported herein affirm the SGRC's dedication to serving the 18 counties and the 45 municipalities in the region. Undoubtedly, this steadfastness in working for the betterment of our region will be continued into the coming year.



SGRC Chairman Joyce Evans cuts the ribbon marking the opening of the new Valdosta office.



RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY CELEBRATES OPENING OF NEW SGRC VALDOSTA FACILITY

On December 11, 2020, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the opening of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission's new 15,000 square foot office in Valdosta. Executive Director Lisa Cribb thanked the many people who made this state-of-theart facility a reality including SGRC Chairman Joyce Evans, the SGRC Council, City and County officials, the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority, Commercial Banking Company, Ellis Ricket Architects, Lovell Engineering, and Kellerman Construction. Cribb noted that the new facility will enable the SGRC to continue its mission to develop, promote, and provide services that make the Southern Georgia region a better place to live and work.

SGRC Executive Director Lisa Cribb addresses the ribbon cutting attendees.

LENDING | FY2021

The SGRC's Lending division provides financing to small business owners for development of new businesses or expansion of existing businesses through several different loan programs. Lending is setup as two separate non-profit agencies governed by one Loan Board of Directors. The Southern Georgia Area Resource Development Agency (ARDA) operates an over \$6 million-dollar EDA/USDA Rural Development funded revolving loan fund (RLF) and the Southern Georgia Area Development Corporation (ADC) is a Certified Development Corporation with the Small Business Administration charged with making SBA 504 loans for commercial businesses and packaging SBA 7(a) Guaranteed loans on behalf of local lending institutions.









INDUSTRIES SERVED

Furniture Stores

Child Care Facilities

Restaurant and Bar

Commercial Printing

Bridal Boutique

Convenience/Liquor Store

Medical and Mental Health Professional Offices



COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | FY2021

The SGRC's Community and Economic Development division provides technical assistance to local governments in identifying projects to improve community programs and facilities, developing related grant and loan applications, and administering funded projects. Community and Economic Development activities are designed to promote regional economic development, to assist local communities in increasing their economic development capacity, to identify funding to assist with the location and expansion of new and existing industry, and to facilitate activities which encourage business development and job creation in order to enhance the standard of living for area residents.

ALL GRANTS RECEIVED IN FY21

(15 Community Development & 3 Economic Development)

Total Grant Amount **\$18,041,095**

Community Development

\$16,703,117

Economic Development

\$1,337,978

Total
Project Cost **\$22,906,590**

Community Development

\$19,213,789

Economic Development

\$3,692,801*

Total Beneficiaries or Jobs Created/ Retained **20,692**

Community Development

20,598

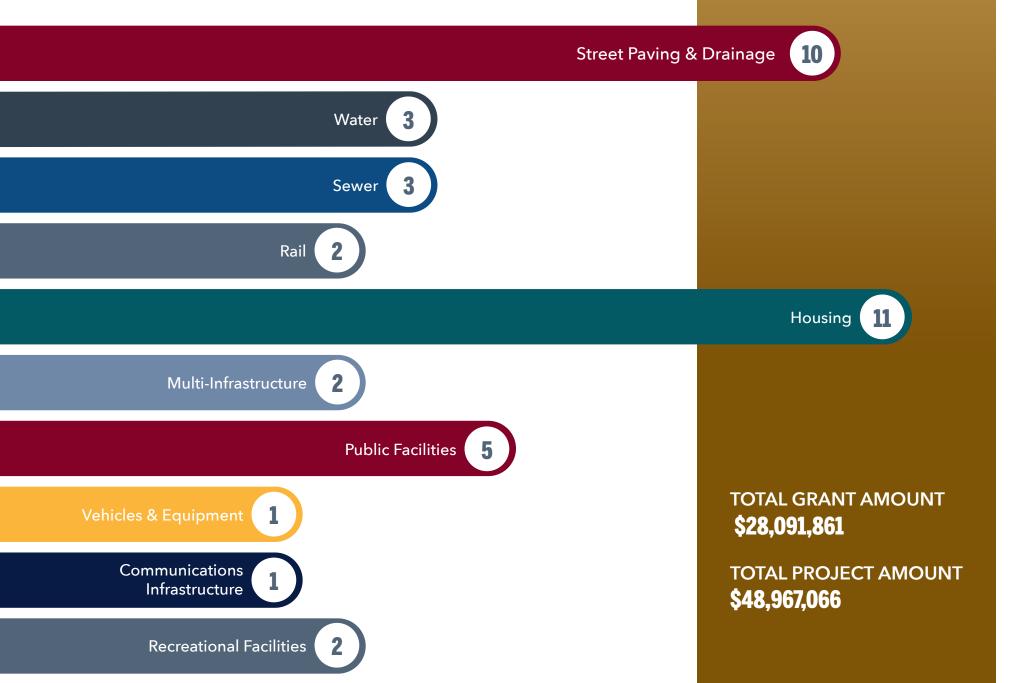
Beneficiaries or Jobs Created/Retained

> Economic Development

> 94
> Jobs Created/
> Retained

* With private investment

FY21 PROJECT ADMINISTRATION: 40 PROJECTS



FY21 PROJECT ADMINISTRATION: 40 GRANTS BY PROGRAM

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

19

CDBG-Employment Incentive Program (EIP)

CDBG-Mitigation (MIT)

4

TOTAL BENEFICIARIES OR JOBS CREATED/RETAINED

22,824

EDA Public Works 1

OneGeorgia Equity

2

USDA Community Facilities

2

Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP)

8

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

PLANNING AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES | FY2021

The SGRC's Planning and Government Services division assists local governments in completing comprehensive plan updates, drafting local development regulations, updating Hazard Mitigation Plans, and providing other specialized planning studies. In addition, planning staff assists with needs identified in adopted Community Work Programs and by hosting training and development workshops. Planning and Government Services provides information and public policy options to local governments based on sound research and analysis. Through continuous outreach, this division helps local governments maintain Qualified Local Government status which allows them to receive state and federal funding. Planning activities focus on fulfilling community and regional visions and goals as well as protecting the region's environmental and cultural resources.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATES AND AMENDMENTS

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATES COMPLETED

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATES IN PROGRESS

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS COMPLETED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE AND AMENDMENT ACTIVITIES

8

Clinch County and the Cities of Homerville, Argyle, DuPont, and Fargo

Turner County and the Cities of Ashburn, Rebecca, and Sycamore

Ben Hill County and the City of Fitzgerald

Charlton County and the Cities of Folkston and Homeland

Brantley County and the Cities of Hoboken and Nahunta

Ware County and the City of Waycross

Lanier County and the City of Lakeland

Echols County

1

Lowndes County and the Cities of Dasher, Hahira, Lake Park, Remerton, and Valdosta 2

Lanier County added a Broadband Element

City of Alma added new Work Program Items 34

13 Public Hearings

21 Workshops

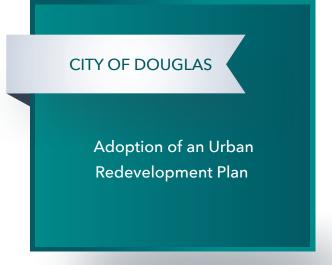
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE

21 Local Governments received Comprehensive Plan Implementation Assistance



PLANNING & ZONING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE









Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Reviews

City of Valdosta

Charlton County

Additional Activities

Completed the Regional Plan Annual Implementation Program Report (RPAIPR)

Held 4 Deep South Solid Waste Authority (DSSWA) meetings

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL | FY2021

The SGRC's Transportation and Environmental division serves local governments in planning activities, delivering vital transportation services to clients, and promoting activities that both protect and promote the region's natural resources. The SGRC is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Valdosta Urbanized Area, carrying out various long- and short-range transportation planning activities around metropolitan Valdosta. This division also provides transportation planning services to rural counties in the region that are primarily focused on rural transit and bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure planning. The Coordinated Human Service Transportation Program serves, on average, 500 trips per day for clients of GA Department of Human Services and other state agencies. The Environmental program partners with the GA DNR-Environmental Protection Division, local governments, and private landowners to develop and implement water quality best management practices along rivers and streams throughout the region.

COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION





DOCUMENTS PRODUCED

FY2021-2024 Valdosta-Lowndes MPO Transportation Improvement Program

FY2021 Lowndes County Annual Crash Report

Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Campaign Marketing Plan

Lowndes County Transportation Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment

Valdosta-Lowndes MPO Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Assessment

School Area Crash Trend Reports: Atkinson, Ben Hill, Bacon, and Tift Counties





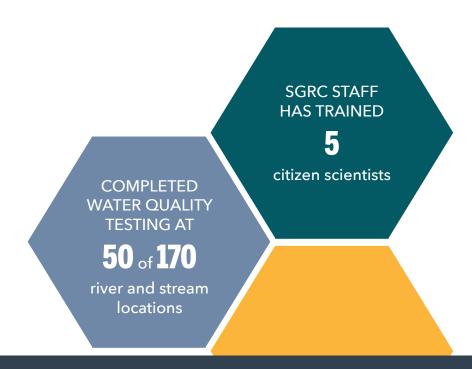
New River Watershed Project Recognized

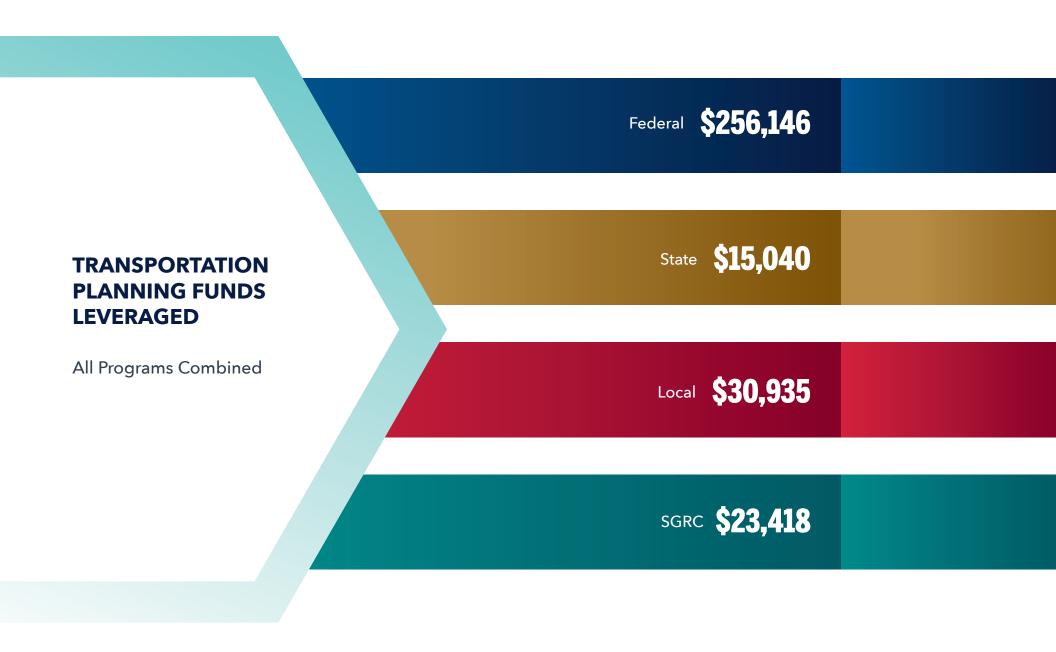
Received 2021 Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Watershed Award from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division. The award was in recognition of the SGRC's projects to improve water quality in the New River Watershed and for the completion of a Regional Water Quality Assessment.

Left: Megan Parker, Environmental Project Manager, 2021 Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Watershed Award

Regional Water Quality Assessment Update:

- Completed Water Quality Testing at 50 of 170 river and stream locations identified as impaired for fecal coliform bacteria, high levels of which reduce the recreational and fishing uses of these waterbodies.
- SGRC staff has trained 5 citizen scientists to assist in collecting water quality samples.







WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FY2021

The SGRC's Workforce Development division's vision is to empower Southern Georgia employers, individuals, and communities to prosper and grow the region's economy through a workforce development system that is inherently customer-centered, seamless, and effective. This division administers the federally funded Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program. WIOA is landmark legislation that is designed to (1) strengthen and improve our nation's public workforce system, (2) help get Americans, including youth and those with significant barriers to employment, into high-quality jobs and careers and (3) help employers hire and retain skilled workers.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

ADULTS

651 Served

130 New Enrollments

285 Exited

DISLOCATED WORKERS

85 Served

72 New Enrollments

12 Exited

YOUTH

328 Served

73 New Enrollments

167 Exited

ADULTS

Quarterly Median Earnings

Goal: \$6,700 Actual: \$8,228

Employed Six (6) Months After Exit

Goal: 87.0% Actual: 90.8% Employed One (1) Year After Exit

Goal: 85.0% Actual: 87.8%

Skill Gains

Goal: 30.0% Actual: 76.0% Earned a Credential

Goal: 78.0% Actual: 83.43%

DISLOCATED WORKERS

YOUTH

Quarterly Median Earnings

Goal: \$4,000 Actual: \$9,642

Employed Six (6)
Months After Exit

Goal: 81.0% Actual: 83.33% Employed One (1) Year After Exit

Goal: 81.0% Actual: 76.92%

Skill Gains

Goal: 29.0% Actual: 73.33% Earned a Credential

Goal: 70.0% Actual: 84.62% Quarterly Median Earnings

Goal: \$2,700 Actual: \$3,746

Employed Six (6) Months After Exit

Goal: 81.0% Actual: 66.54% Employed One (1) Year After Exit

Goal: 78.0% Actual: 80.0%

Skill Gains

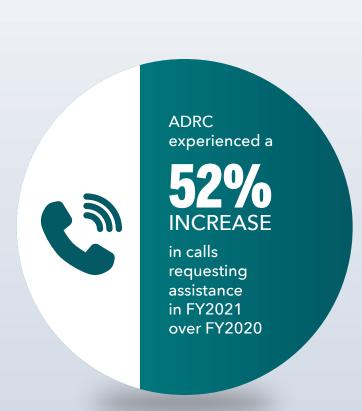
Goal: 30.0% Actual: 29.95% Earned a Credential

Goal: 70.0% Actual: 73.95%

AREA AGENCY ON AGING | FY2021

The SGRC's Area Agency on Aging (AAA) develops, provides, coordinates, and advocates for services that assist older individuals, at-risk adults, persons with disabilities, their families, and caregivers. The vision of the AAA is to assist these individuals in Living Longer, Living Safely, and Living Well. AAA programs and services receive federal and state funding through a contract between the SGRC and the GA Department of Human Services and between the SGRC and the GA Department of Community Health. While some services are provided by AAA staff, most programs are sub-contracted to cities, counties, and other organizations that contribute local monies to provide services directly in their communities.

AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CONNECTION (ADRC) OUTREACH





SGIC
SOUTHERN GEORGIA
REGIONAL COMMISSION
Area Agency on Aging

Informed
hundreds of
seniors, persons
with disabilities,
caregivers, and
community partners
about AAA services
and programs
through a monthly
community
resources flyer

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

125

125 aging services packets distributed across the region to community stakeholders including primary care physicians, hospitals, and convenient care providers.

80

80 Nursing Home Transition Packets delivered to long term care and rehab facilities. 75

75 outpatient medical providers received Community Transitions and Aging Services pamphlets for distribution.

SENIOR HUNGER COALITION ACTIVITIES

AAA staff recognized for

100%

utilization of Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program vouchers 280%

increase in the number of seniors served by the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program in the Region due to prior utilization and relationship building with all stakeholders

Over

90

people attended virtual Senior Hunger Coalition meetings 21%

increase in the number of home-delivered meals over FY2020

CONTINUED RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Provided transportation for seniors to vaccination sites

New services
AAA provided:
Telephone Reassurance,
Consumer Direction,
Material Aid/Assistive
Technology

Provided

50,000

face masks to senior center and home delivered meal sites

COVID-19 FUNDING FOR AGING SERVICES

Expended

\$692,398

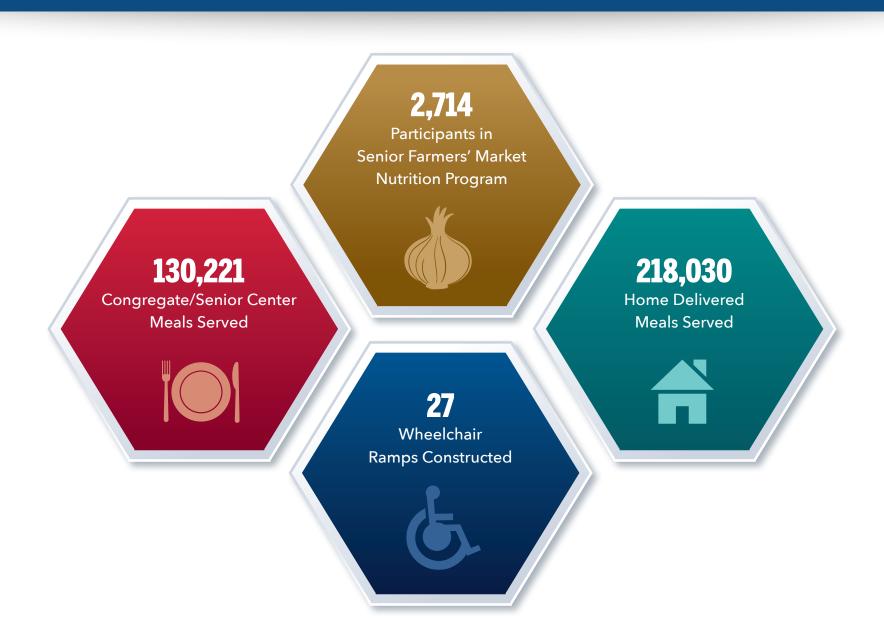
of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act COVID-19 Funding to serve additional clients and provide additional aging services in the region

Expended

\$192,887

in Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) emergency Federal funding for meals

PARTICIPANTS SERVED IN FY2021





PARTICIPANTS SERVED IN FY2021	8,497 Trips Provided through the Georgia Department of Human Services Coordinated Transportation Program	8,497 Trips
	ELAP 137 Elderly and Legal Assistance Program Cases Represented by Georgia Legal Services for 112 Clients	112 Clients
	19 persons assisted through the Nutrition Counseling Program	19 Persons
	467 referrals made for Elderly and Disabled Waiver Program (EDWP) for Community Care Services Program (CCSP)	467 Referrals
	12 referrals made for EDWP-CCSP- Money Follows the Person (MFP)	12 Referrals
	persons assisted through the new Material Aid Program and the Telephone Reassurance Program	103 Persons

AWARDS

2021 AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CONNECTION (ADRC) AAA EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

 The award recognizes excellence in one or more of the following areas: fee-for-service models, fund source development, unique partnerships, administration of several core Division of Aging (DAS) programs, and/or private pay services.



Scott Courson, SGRC AAA Director, with Excellence in Sustainability Award

Southern Georgia AAA and Lead Program Manager Shawn Taylor (right) received a Certificate of Achievement for 100% Redemption Rate of Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) vouchers for Fiscal Year 2021.

2021 IMPACT AWARD

- The award recognizes organizations that worked diligently and beyond the usual scope of operations during the COVID-19 pandemic
- The award was presented by Robyn A. Crittenden, Georgia Department of Human Services Commissioner, and Dr. Kathleen E. Toomey, Georgia Department of Public Health Commissioner.





GIS | FY2021

The SGRC's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) division develops and maintains GIS data and applications for governments in Southern Georgia and other areas. GIS technology is all about making better decisions through query and analysis of spatial data and is used extensively in the Southern Georgia region. Local governments utilize GIS technology and data developed by SGRC to handle everything from monitoring growth and parcel assessment to crime analysis and emergency response planning.

GRANT MAPS



ROADWAY ELEMENT VALIDATION AND MAPPING PROGRAM (REVAMP) PROJECT WITH GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION





Hazards, US (HAZUS)

3 County Reports
delivered to
Georgia Emergency
Management
Agency (GEMA)

Brooks Pierce

Tift

5 COMMUNITIES

Completed Census
Boundary and
Annexation Survey
(BAS) submissions
for 5 communities

Adel

Fitzgerald

Lake Park

Sycamore

Tifton

191 GIS WEB MAPS

Created or maintained 191 Interactive GIS Web Maps for 21 communities within the region

CREATED

2
AND MAINTAINED

2
REGIONAL-WIDE
INTERACTIVE
WEB MAPS

REGIONAL VOTING PRECINCT MAP SGRC REGION FLOOD ZONE MAP

Displays the current and preliminary FEMA Flood Hazard areas.

THE COMMUNITY
BOUNDARY
REVIEW

Aids the BAS process

REGIONAL EMERGENCY CENTER OF OPERATION

Aids emergency management personnel during severe weather and disaster situations

CENSUS & REDISTRICTING HUB

Created and maintained Region-wide Hub

Created 1 and Maintained 3 statewide and 1 area-focused interactive web maps for the Department of Public Health

WelSTROM

Coastal WelSTROM

Chemical Hazards

Public Facilities

South Health District - created an interactive web map for planning site setup and logistics

COVID19 HUB

Continued to maintain the COVID19 Informational Hub

REGIONAL AGRITOURISM

Collaborated with SGRC Planning to create an Interactive AgriTourism web app for the public to view various prominent Agri businesses in our region.

VISION2045 - VALDOSTA/LOWNDES METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

- Updated the valorgis.com/2045transport website to act as a landing page for the public to view the transportation plan as it progressed through various stages.
- Updated the Vision2045 Story Map, an online map that illustrates the plan.



8 MAPS OF

138

PEDESTRIAN INCIDENTS

Mapped the data and created a series of 8 maps to visualize the 138 Pedestrian incidents within the region.

2021 CRASH REPORTS

16 MAPS OF **14,621** VEHICLE CRASHES

Mapped the data and created a series of 16 maps to visualize the 14,621 vehicle crashes within the region.

VLMPO - PROJECT PHASE DASHBOARD

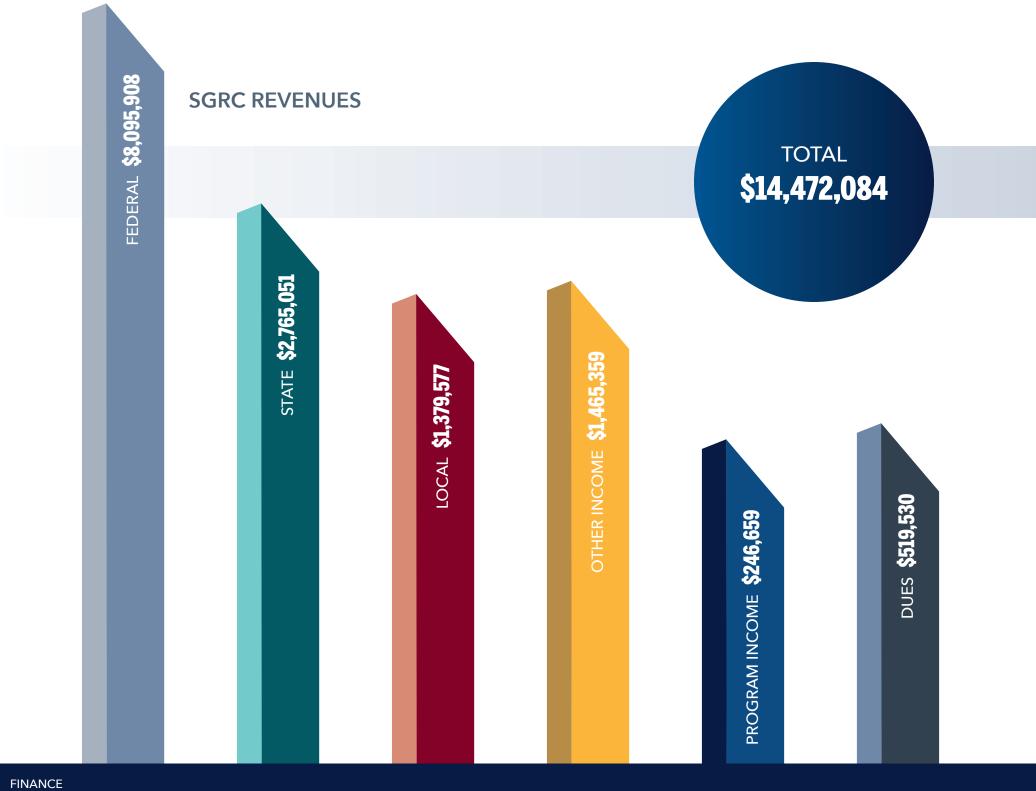
Created Interactive dashboard, an online dashboard that shows current projects and their phases in map form as well as other project information.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT PROJECT

Assisted the Environmental Department on research and project development, retrieving and developing data, analyzing data for scoring results on 16 categorical factors.

FINANCE | FY2021

The SGRC Finance division oversees a multi-million dollar budget comprising funds from over a dozen Federal and State agencies. The Finance department is responsible for the maintenance of accounting records and financial reporting in compliance with complex government rules, regulations, and contractual requirements for every dollar received by the SGRC.



SGRC EXPENDITURES

PLANNING AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES | \$486,322

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | \$718,478

TOTAL \$14,427,732

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL | \$1,098,512

GIS | \$701,718

AGING | \$7,352,627

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT | \$3,327,090

LENDING | **\$241,635**

ITS | **\$463,188**

MISCELLANEOUS | \$38,162

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Local Government Dues of \$519,530

Leveraged **\$13,952,554**

in Federal, State, and Local funding.

For every **\$1** of dues

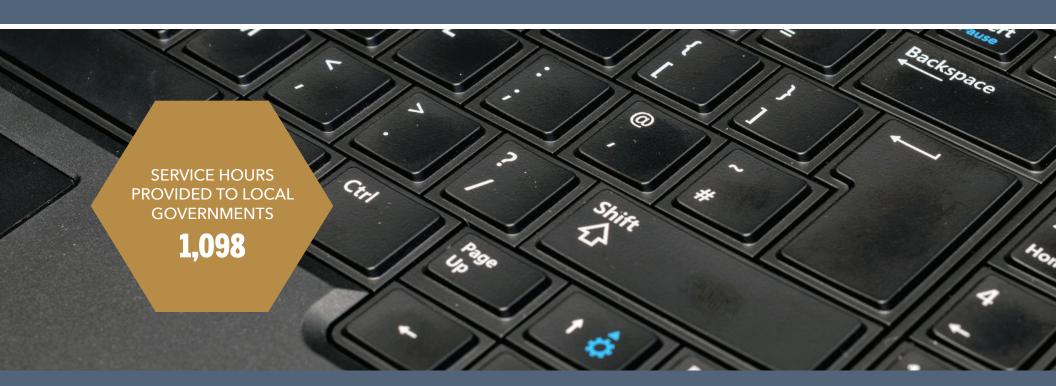
SGRC region received

\$26.86

in Federal, State, and Local funding.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY | FY2021

The Information Technology (IT) division provides valuable services to local governments in the region. This division offers professional support for computers, servers, and networks. In addition, IT can assist local governments with the purchase of hardware and software at State contract pricing.



SGRC COUNCIL MEMBER LIST

The SGRC leadership and staff are thankful for the excellent guidance and unfailing support of our Council. The dedicated service of each Council member enables the accomplishments of the SGRC's programs and activities throughout the region.

ATKINSON

Lace Futch Robert Johnson Janice McKinnon

BACON

Vacant Larry Taylor Lisa Coley

BEN HILL

Steve Taylor Jim Puckett Jason Dunn

BERRIEN

Ronnie Gaskins John Clayton Lisa Smart

BRANTLEY

Skipper Harris Barbara Maefield Vacant

BROOKS

Patrick Folsom Nancy Dennard Zurich Deshazior

CHARLTON

James Everett Lee Gowen Dana O'Quinn

CLINCH

Roger Metts Willie Hardee, Jr. Vacant

COFFEE

Oscar Paulk Tony Paulk Adam Smith

COOK

Audie Rowe Buddy Duke Derry Bennett

ECHOLS

Bobby Walker Cheryl Garner

IRWIN

Scott Carver Matt Seale Mona Paulk

LANIER

Dennis Fender Bill Darsey John Fitton

LOWNDES

Joyce Evans Vivian Miller-Cody Anthony Payton

PIERCE

Neal Bennett Keith Brooks Andy Brannen

TIFT

Tony McBrayer Julie Smith Vacant

TURNER

Dana Whiddon Sandra Lumpkin Vacant

WARE

Elmer Thrift Michael-Angelo James Barbara King

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Norman "Bo" Lovein III Guy Daughtrey Jonathan Jones

LT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Keith Stone

SPEAKER'S OFFICE

Vacant

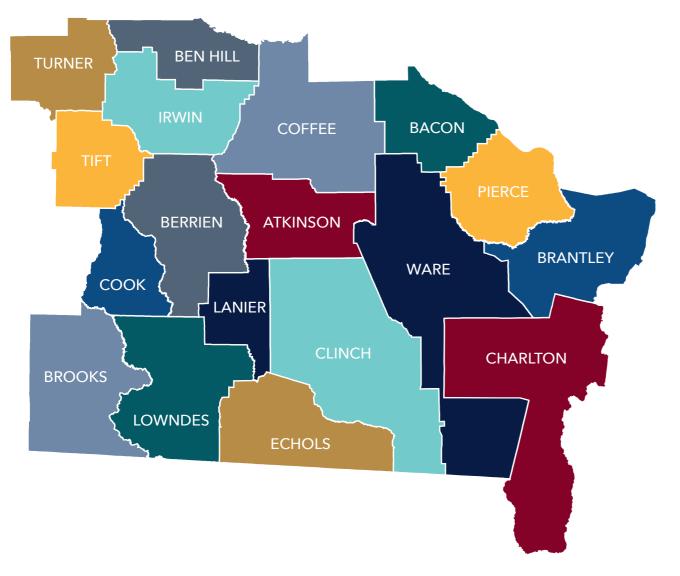
SGRC'S 2021 NADO IMPACT AWARDS

The National Association of Development Organizations' (NADO) Impact Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and their partners for improving the economic and community competitiveness of the nation's regions and local communities.

CERTIFIED AARP
AGE-FRIENDLY STATES
AND COMMUNITIES
ENROLLMENT FOR
SGRC REGION

CITY OF VALDOSTA, PUBLIC WORKS FINDINGS SOLUTION







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