



# **2023 Annual Accountability Report**

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**Rural Infrastructure Authority**

**Agency Code: P450**

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# Table of Contents

Agency’s Discussion and Analysis .....	1
Agency Organization Chart .....	7
Reorganization and Compliance .....	8
Strategic Plan Results .....	10
Strategic Plan Development .....	13
Budget Data .....	15
Legal Data .....	16
Services Data.....	20
Partnerships Data.....	21
Reports Data .....	22
Submission Form.....	23

<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	<b>Rural Infrastructure Authority</b>		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	<b>P450</b>	<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>054</b>

## **AGENCY’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

### **Infrastructure Finance Programs – Summary of Efforts and Results**

The S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) makes grant and loan financing available for qualified infrastructure projects (drinking water, sanitary sewer and storm water drainage facilities) statewide. Financial assistance is made available to eligible applicants including local governments, special purpose districts and public works commissions. By working in partnership with local communities, these financial investments are designed to address the key objectives of protecting public health, addressing environmental quality standards and preparing communities for economic opportunities. RIA assistance helps close financial gaps for areas in need of reliable infrastructure. In addition, RIA collaborates with stakeholders to identify and coordinate additional resources for infrastructure improvements and to strengthen utility viability in the long term through planning and regional partnerships.

RIA’s financial assistance typically totals approximately \$25 million in grants and \$75-\$100 million in loans annually. Significantly, over \$1.4 billion in federal grant funds were allocated to RIA from the General Assembly in the last two years to assist with financing of qualified infrastructure projects. And additional federal funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act otherwise known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is being made available to states from EPA over the next five years.

#### **Grant Programs**

At the end of FY 22, the General Assembly allocated \$900 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to RIA for distribution through competitive grants for water, wastewater and stormwater. With these funds, RIA created the SC Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP). This once in a generation commitment of funding for infrastructure was designed to have a transformational impact on small and large communities across the state including those in rural areas and those in growing parts of the state.

Most SCIIP funds were offered as grants of up to \$10 million that required a match of local and other investments. Large communities of more than 30,000 population were required to provide a 25% match to the grant request while smaller communities under 30,000 population or those located in a Tier III or IV county (as designated by the SC Department of Revenue) had a 15% match requirement for capital improvement projects. To leverage SCIIP funds further, some applicants pledged local and other funds to increase the impact of projects. For applicants serving less than 3,300 people, a planning fund was created and no match was required. RIA used its state grant funds in support of this one-time federal funding program opportunity to allow greater access for small and disadvantaged communities and those in Tier III and IV counties.

Significant outreach efforts were undertaken to encourage applicants, particularly in the state’s rural areas, to apply for this unique funding opportunity. Such efforts included a webinar, regional meetings, newsletters, a telephone outreach campaign, project technical assistance, FAQs and other resources posted on the website. The response was significant with more than \$2 billion in requests. Recognizing the demand for such funds was great, the General Assembly allocated a second tranche of the ARPA

<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	<b>Rural Infrastructure Authority</b>		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	<b>P450</b>	<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>054</b>

SLFRF funding in April 2023, providing an additional \$586 million for applications already received by RIA and further multiplying the long-term impacts.

Over \$1.4 billion in SCIIP funds were awarded for 219 projects and every county benefitted. Additionally, \$15.2 million in state grant funds for 37 projects were awarded in conjunction with the SCIIP program. See Figures 1, 2 and 3.



Figure 1. SCIIP Funding Summary

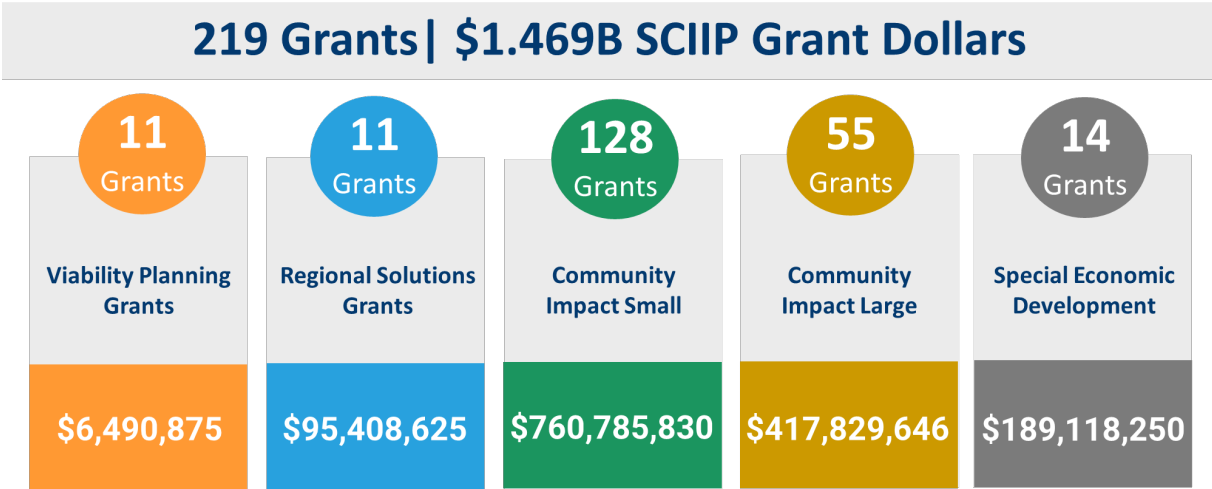


Figure 2. SCIIP Breakdown by Grant Type

<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	<b>Rural Infrastructure Authority</b>		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	<b>P450</b>	<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>054</b>

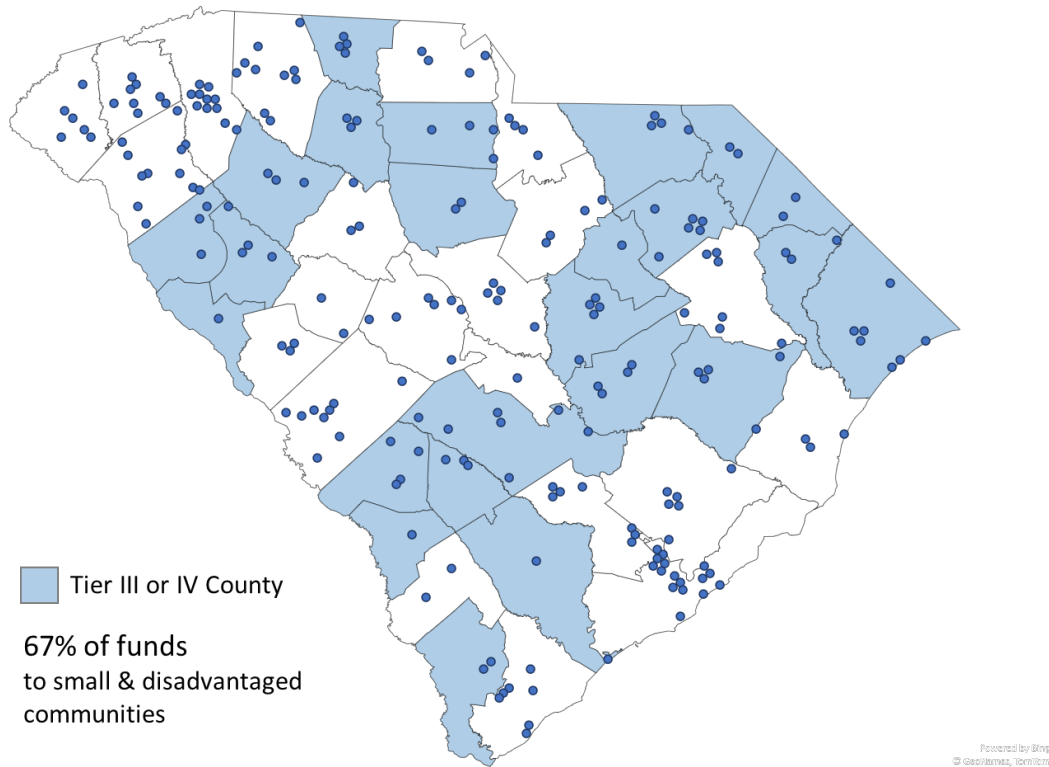


Figure 3. Map of all SCIP Awards

### State Revolving Funds Loan Programs

Low cost loan financing is provided through two federally capitalized State Revolving Funds (SRF) for Drinking Water and Clean Water (sewer). The SRF has been annually capitalized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since 1989. The program was transferred to RIA in 2015. The state program is administered jointly with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). DHEC prioritizes projects, handles the technical aspects of the program and ensures compliance with EPA requirements. The RIA’s Office of Local Government (OLG) manages the financial component including credit reviews, loan agreements, closings and disbursement of funds as well as loan repayments and administration.

The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provided additional funding for SRF loans and principal forgiveness over five years. This bill provided additional funds to address lead service lines and emerging contaminants for drinking water. This year, BIL provided the state with an additional \$47 million for financing with \$26 million of those funds being directed for all principal forgiveness (APF) loans primarily to benefit small and disadvantaged communities.



<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	<b>Rural Infrastructure Authority</b>		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	<b>P450</b>	<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>054</b>

The SRF program offers below market interest rates for major water, wastewater and storm water improvement projects throughout the state. This low-cost financing means savings for borrowers and customers.

This year, \$121 million in loans were closed, which represents the fourth highest amount in program history. See Figure 4.

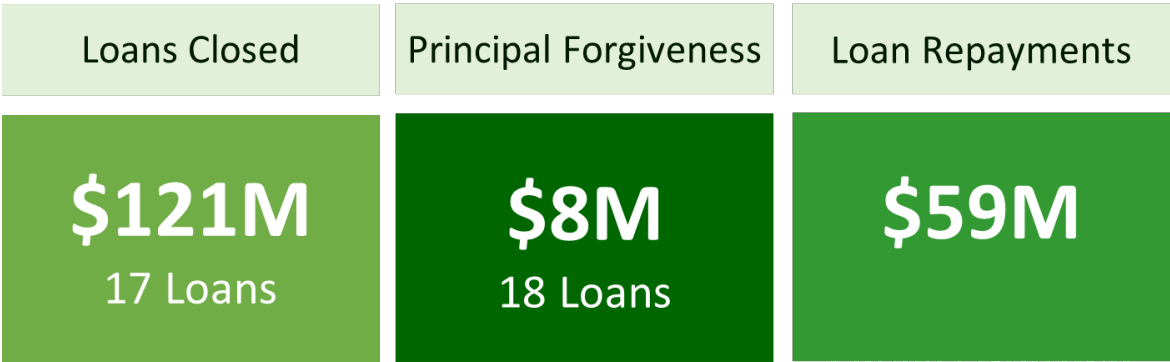


Figure 4. SRF Program Summary, FY 23

**Factors Impacting Performance and Future Plans**

The availability of substantial federal funds for infrastructure investment has had a tremendous impact on the state. However, federal funds also have additional compliance requirements and one of the most significant is the need to have all the ARPA SLFRF funds expended by December 31, 2026. Since infrastructure projects by their nature take several years from funding approval to project construction completion, this deadline will be challenging. Additionally, supply chain delays with material, a shortage of contractors and increased costs will also play a factor in completion of these projects. However, applicants for SCIIP funds were made aware of the expenditure requirement and were required to have a feasible implementation plan. Further, RIA staff will be monitoring progress and offering technical assistance throughout the implementation period.

The influx of federal funds also impacted the performance of RIA’s existing grant and loan programs. Receipt of additional ARPA funds allowed the agency to far exceed the goals for federal grants, but the focus on this new program resulted in the award of fewer state-funded grants than planned. The additional SRF funding received through BIL affected loan program activities. While these are only short-term impacts on performance, significant staff will be required to administer these new funds until 2026.

In FY 22 RIA completed a study of the challenges facing smaller utilities, particularly in rural and disadvantaged areas. RIA’s pilot planning and regional solutions programs using state funds led to the creation of similar grant opportunities using SCIIP funding. RIA also used the Viability Tool created as part of the study to evaluate capacity and readiness to carry out SCIIP projects and comply with program requirements. This tool will be used to inform future state funding programs as well.

<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	<b>Rural Infrastructure Authority</b>		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	<b>P450</b>	<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>054</b>

Additionally, RIA has plans to develop a robust technical assistance initiative designed to enhance the financial strength and operational capacity of such utilities in the future.

For FY 24, RIA has increased the state grant amount available for individual projects to \$1 million, from a previous amount of \$500,000. In addition, the amount available for an individual planning grant increased from \$100,000 to \$250,000. These increases were made due to market conditions, with prices higher than in previous years. In addition, RIA received \$15 million in non-recurring funds for competitive grants in FY 24.

### **Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies**

One of the biggest risks to the federal ARPA/SCIIP program is the potential loss of funds if expenditure deadlines are not met. The large scale of projects coupled with federal compliance and timely expenditure requirements pose a particular challenge for smaller communities. The impact associated with a loss of funds would greatly challenge the state’s ability to overcome public health and environmental concerns associated with clean drinking water, sanitary sewer and storm drainage protection. Further, there may be missed or delayed economic opportunities which depend on reliable and affordable infrastructure.

For this reason, the General Assembly allocated \$5,000,000 of ARPA SLFRF funds to the Councils of Government to assist with project development and implementation. Further, \$6,000,000 of the federal funds were also allocated to DHEC to enhance their ability to issue the permits required for such projects.

To mitigate challenges that are the result of cost overruns, projects may have to be scaled back or additional project funding identified to complete projects in a timely manner.

RIA has added staff and developed online program guidelines to help manage the program and monitor progress. Technical assistance will be provided to address time and budget concerns and to help identify solutions so that projects can be completed in a timely manner. RIA will be developing a strategy to utilize any unobligated ARPA/SCIIP dollars as they become available to help address funding gaps and complete projects by the federal expenditure deadline.

Although these one-time federal dollars represented a significant investment in South Carolina’s infrastructure, the need for further investment is staggering. This is evidenced by the receipt of over \$2 billion in applications for projects that could be completed in the short term. To keep up with the critical demands to address aging infrastructure, new emerging contaminants and long-term growth and economic development, it will be necessary for the state to continue its commitment to invest in infrastructure needs, to continue to provide for technical assistance to utilities struggling to operate efficiently, and to provide incentives for regional cooperation among utilities to help ensure long-term viability.

<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	<b>Rural Infrastructure Authority</b>		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	<b>P450</b>	<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>054</b>

## **Agency Organization**

The RIA is governed by a Board of Directors that includes six members who reside in or represent distressed and/or least developed counties. The Secretary of Commerce serves as Chairman.

The RIA has an Executive Director and 16 full time staff positions (See Organizational Chart). Additional grant staff have been added to administer the new federal funding programs and ensure technical assistance is provided to applicants and grantees. RIA divisions are organized by grant and loan programs. In order to foster administrative collaboration, RIA contracts with Commerce to provide office space, legal, financial, human resources and other administrative support services. This agreement allows for more efficient use of staff and resources available to the RIA.



**AGENCY NAME:**

**Rural Infrastructure Authority**

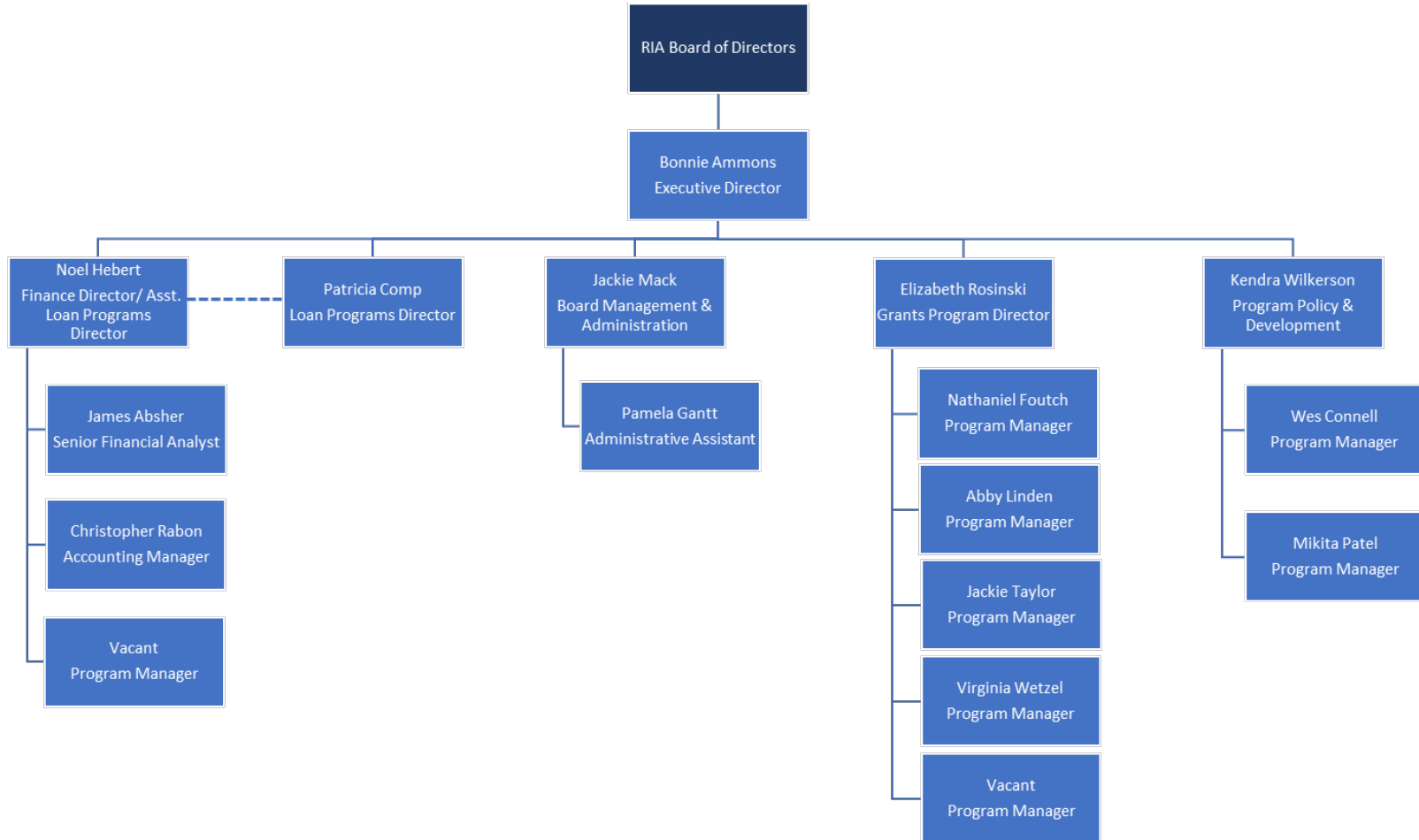
**AGENCY CODE:**

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**SECTION:**

**054**

## AGENCY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# 2023

## Reorganization and Compliance

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

### P450 - Rural Infrastructure Authority

#### Primary Contact

First Name	Last Name	Role/Title	Email Address	Phone
Kendra	Wilkerson	Program Policy & Development Manager	kwilkerson@ria.sc.gov	803-413-6807

#### Secondary Contact

First Name	Last Name	Role/Title	Email Address	Phone
Bonnie	Ammons	Executive Director	bammons@ria.sc.gov	803-737-0390

#### Agency Mission

Adopted in:

2022

To provide resources for strategic investments that will strengthen and modernize critical community infrastructure.

#### Agency Vision

Adopted in:

2022

All South Carolina communities have the infrastructure necessary to protect public health and the environment as well as lay the groundwork for economic success.

#### Recommendations for reorganization requiring legislative change:

None

#### Agency intentions for other major reorganization to divisions, departments, or programs to allow the agency to operate more effectively and efficiently in the succeeding fiscal year:

None

#### Significant events related to the agency that occurred in FY2023

Description of Event	Start	End	Agency Measures Impacted	Other Impacts
Act 6 of 2023 significantly increased the allocation of federal ARPA funds to be used for RIA's SC Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) grants. This increased the number of federal grants awarded and delayed their announcement.	April	April	Award at least the target value of federal grants to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure	
Act 6 of 2023 significantly increased the allocation of federal ARPA funds to be used for RIA's SC Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) grants. This increased the number of federal grants awarded and delayed their announcement.	April	April	Assist at least the target number of communities through federal grants to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure	
Act 6 of 2023 significantly increased the allocation of federal ARPA funds to be used for RIA's SC Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) grants. This increased the number of federal grants awarded and delayed their announcement.	April	April	Award at least the target value of federal grants to support economic opportunities	
Act 6 of 2023 significantly increased the allocation of federal ARPA funds to be used for RIA's SC Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) grants. This increased the number of federal grants awarded and delayed their announcement.	April	April	Assist at least the target number of communities through federal grants to support economic opportunities	

Act 6 of 2023 significantly increased the allocation of federal ARPA funds to be used for RIA's SC Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) grants. This increased the number of federal grants awarded and delayed their announcement.	April	April	Award at least the target value of federal grants to address long-term viability	
Act 6 of 2023 significantly increased the allocation of federal ARPA funds to be used for RIA's SC Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) grants. This increased the number of federal grants awarded and delayed their announcement.	April	April	Assist at least the target number of communities through federal grants to address long-term viability	
Act 6 of 2023 significantly increased the allocation of federal ARPA funds to be used for RIA's SC Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) grants. This increased the number of federal grants awarded and delayed their announcement.	April	April	Award at least the target value of federal grants to address regional solutions	
Act 6 of 2023 significantly increased the allocation of federal ARPA funds to be used for RIA's SC Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) grants. This increased the number of federal grants awarded and delayed their announcement.	April	April	Assist at least the target number of communities through federal grants to address regional solutions	
Federal funding for the state revolving loan program has increased as the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of November 2021 was implemented.	July	June	Close at least the target value of loans	
Federal funding for the state revolving loan program has increased as the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of November 2021 was implemented.	July	June	Assist at least the target number of communities through loans closed	
<b>Is the agency in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. § 2-1-220, which requires submission of certain reports to the Legislative Services Agency for publication online and the State Library? (See also S.C. Code Ann. § 60-2-20).</b>				Yes
<b>Reason agency is out of compliance: (if applicable)</b>				
<b>Is the agency in compliance with various requirements to transfer its records, including electronic ones, to the Department of Archives and History? See the Public Records Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 20-1-10 through 20-1-180) and the South Carolina Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 26-6-10 through 26-10-210).</b>				Yes
<b>Does the law allow the agency to promulgate regulations?</b>				No
<b>Law number(s) which gives the agency the authority to promulgate regulations:</b>				
<b>Has the agency promulgated any regulations?</b>				No
<b>Is the agency in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-120 (J), which requires an agency to conduct a formal review of its regulations every five years?</b>				Yes
(End of Reorganization and Compliance Section)				

# FY2023

## Strategic Plan Results

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

P450 - Rural Infrastructure Authority

Goal 1 Improve or Address infrastructure needs to protect public health and the environment

Goal 2 Provide infrastructure necessary to support and expand economic opportunities

Goal 3 Build long term infrastructure capacity and viability

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
<b>1.1 Use state grants to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure</b>											<b>State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development</b>			
1.1.1	Award at least the target value of state grants to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure	\$ 25,090,687	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 15,264,635	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual value of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	Due to a very large, one-time federal grant program, state grants were targeted to smaller communities to match federal dollars, which resulted in fewer eligible projects.
1.1.2	Assist at least the target number of communities through state grants to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure	56	40	37	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual number of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	Due to a very large, one-time federal grant program, state grants were targeted to smaller communities to match federal dollars, which resulted in fewer eligible projects.
<b>1.2 Use federal grants to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure</b>											<b>State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development</b>			
1.2.1	Award at least the target value of federal grants to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure	\$ -	\$ 683,000,000	\$ 1,178,615,475	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual value of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	2600.102500X000	Additional federal grant funds were allocated to RIA for this purpose during FY23.
1.2.2	Assist at least the target number of communities through federal grants to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure	0	75	183	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual number of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	2600.102500X000	Additional federal grant funds were allocated to RIA for this purpose during FY23.
<b>1.3 Provide affordable loan financing to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure</b>											<b>State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development</b>			
1.3.1	Close at least the target value of loans	\$ 80,572,366	\$ 120,000,000	\$ 121,276,516	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Value of loans executed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions as well as not-for-profit water and sewer systems (Drinking Water only)	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000	

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes	
1.3.2	Assist at least the target number of communities through loans closed	17	14	17	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of loans closed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions as well as not-for-profit water and sewer systems (Drinking Water only)	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000		
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Use state grants to increase infrastructure capacity and support job creation</b>							<b>State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development</b>							
2.1.1	Award at least the target value of state grants to support economic opportunities	\$ 5,605,875	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 2,109,309	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual value of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	Due to a very large, one-time federal grant program, state grants were targeted to smaller communities to match federal dollars, which resulted in fewer eligible projects.	
2.1.2	Assist at least the target number of communities through state grants to support economic opportunities	8	10	1	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual number of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	Due to a very large, one-time federal grant program, state grants were targeted to smaller communities to match federal dollars, which resulted in fewer eligible projects.	
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Use federal grants for strategic investments to enhance economic development</b>							<b>State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development</b>							
2.2.1	Award at least the target value of federal grants to support economic opportunities	\$ -	\$ 100,000,000	\$ 189,118,250	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual value of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	2600.102500X000	Additional federal grant funds were allocated to RIA for this purpose during FY23.	
2.2.2	Assist at least the target number of communities through federal grants to support economic opportunities	0	3	14	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual number of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	2600.102500X000	Additional federal grant funds were allocated to RIA for this purpose during FY23.	
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Use state grants for utility planning assistance to address long term needs</b>							<b>State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development</b>							
3.1.1	Award at least the target value of state grants to address long-term planning	\$ 352,360	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 100,000	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual value of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	Due to a very large, one-time federal grant program, state grants were targeted to smaller communities to match federal dollars, which resulted in fewer eligible projects.	
3.1.2	Assist at least the target number of communities through state grants to address long-term planning	5	10	1	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual number of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	Due to a very large, one-time federal grant program, state grants were targeted to smaller communities to match federal dollars, which resulted in fewer eligible projects.	
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Use federal grants to support viability planning for smaller systems</b>							<b>State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development</b>							

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
3.2.1	Award at least the target value of federal grants to address long-term viability	\$ -	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 6,490,875	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual value of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	2600.102500X000	Demand for these grants was lower than expected because more applicants were able to qualify for capital improvement grants to support health and environmental needs.
3.2.2	Assist at least the target number of communities through federal grants to address long-term viability	0	20	11	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual number of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	2600.102500X000	Demand for these grants was lower than expected because more applicants were able to qualify for capital improvement grants to support health and environmental needs.
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Use federal grants to support regional solutions for long term infrastructure needs</b>										<b>State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development</b>			
3.3.1	Award at least the target value of federal grants to address regional solutions	\$ -	\$ 80,000,000	\$ 95,408,625	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual value of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	2600.102500X000	Additional federal grant funds were allocated to RIA for this purpose during FY23.
3.3.2	Assist at least the target number of communities through federal grants to address regional solutions	0	8	11	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual number of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	2600.102500X000	Additional federal grant funds were allocated to RIA for this purpose during FY23.
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Provide training and technical assistance to build capacity to address infrastructure needs</b>										<b>State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development</b>			
3.4.1	Assist applicants and potential applicants with at least the target number of potential projects or project issues	1,560	750	1,502	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of training participants and individual technical assistance	RIA data	Internal files	Direct benefit to customers by increasing knowledge of agency programs and coordination of additional funds for water and sewer improvements and direct benefit to agency for leveraging available state dollars.	Direct customers and agency staff	0100.000000.000, 3003.010000.000	Widespread outreach efforts were undertaken with the availability of federal funds, including those provided by professional organizations not documented herein as direct agency efforts.

# FY2024

## Strategic Plan Development

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

P450 - Rural Infrastructure Authority

Goal 1 Improve or Address infrastructure needs to protect public health and the environment

Goal 2 Provide infrastructure necessary to support and expand economic opportunities

Goal 3 Build long term infrastructure capacity and viability

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes	
<b>1.1 Use state grants to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure</b>													<b>State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development</b>	
1.1.1	Award at least the target value of state grants to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure	\$ 15,264,635	\$ 26,000,000	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual value of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000		
1.1.2	Award at least the target number of state grants to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure	37	26	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual number of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000		
<b>1.2 Provide affordable loan financing to address water quality and replace aging infrastructure</b>													<b>State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development</b>	
1.2.1	Close at least the target value of loans	\$ 121,276,516	\$ 190,000,000	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Value of loans executed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions as well as not-for-profit water and sewer systems (Drinking Water only)	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000		
1.2.2	Close at least the target number of loans	17	20	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of loans closed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions as well as not-for-profit water and sewer systems (Drinking Water only)	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000		
<b>2.1 Use state grants to increase infrastructure capacity and support job creation</b>													<b>State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development</b>	
2.1.1	Award at least the target value of state grants to support economic opportunities	\$ 2,109,309	\$ 7,700,000	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual value of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000		



Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes	
2.1.2	Award at least the target number of state grants to support economic opportunities		1	7	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual number of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	
<b>3.1 Use state grants for utility planning and other assistance to address long term needs</b>													<b>State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development</b>	
3.1.1	Award at least the target value of state grants to address long-term planning	\$ 100,000	\$ 4,500,000	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual value of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000		
3.1.2	Award at least the target number of state grants to address long-term planning		1	15	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Actual number of approved grant requests	RIA grant	Customer relations database maintained by RIA staff	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	0100.000000.000, 2600.101000X000, 2600.101500X000	
<b>3.2 Use principal forgiveness loan funds to assist utilities with long term needs</b>													<b>State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development</b>	
3.2.1	Close at least the target value of principal forgiveness loans	\$ 8,121,464	\$ 20,000,000	Dollar Amount	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Value of principal forgiveness loans closed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000		
3.2.2	Close at least the target number of principal forgiveness loans		18	20	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of principal forgiveness loans closed	SRF loans closed	Internal files	Direct benefit to agency customers by improving water and sewer infrastructure	Direct customers: Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	3003.010000.000, 3003.050000X000	
<b>3.3 Provide training and technical assistance to build capacity to address infrastructure needs</b>													<b>State Objective: Public Infrastructure and Economic Development</b>	
3.3.1	Assist applicants and potential applicants with at least the target number of potential projects or project issues	1,502	450	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Number of training participants and individual technical assistance	RIA data	Internal files	Direct benefit to customers by increasing knowledge of agency programs and coordination of additional funds for water and sewer improvements and direct benefit to agency for leveraging available state dollars.	Direct customers and agency staff	0100.000000.000, 3003.010000.000		

# 2023

## Budget Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

### P450 - Rural Infrastructure Authority

State Funded Program No.	State Funded Program Title	Description of State Funded Program	(Actual) General	(Actual) Other	(Actual) Federal	(Actual) Total	(Projected) General2	(Projected) Other	(Projected) Federal4	(Projected) Total
0100.00000.000	Administration	To administer the Rural Infrastructure Authority and its grant programs	-	\$ 392,493.00	\$ -	\$ 392,493.00	-	\$ 1,020,000.00	-	\$ 1,020,000.00
2600.101000X000	SC Rural Infrastructure Fund	To provide financial assistance for infrastructure and other activities to the state's rural areas that enhance economic growth and development. It can be used for job creation and/or product development.	\$ 7,781,696.00	\$ 8,216,105.00	\$ -	\$ 15,997,801.00	\$ 7,870,056.00	\$ 20,000,000.00	-	\$ 27,870,056.00
2600.101500X000	Statewide Water and Sewer Fund	Established by proviso, the Statewide Water and Sewer Fund assists qualified infrastructure projects not eligible for the Rural Infrastructure Fund.	\$ 6,760,733.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,760,733.00	\$ 8,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,000,000.00
3003.010000.000	Office of Local Government	To administer the loan programs offered by the Rural Infrastructure Authority.	\$ -	\$ 438,727.00	\$ -	\$ 438,727.00	\$ -	\$ 696,000.00	\$ -	\$ 696,000.00
3003.050000X000	Loans	To provide loan programs for qualified water and waste water infrastructure projects.	\$ 6,165,600.00	\$ 79,866,704.00	\$ -	\$ 86,032,304.00	\$ 6,165,600.00	\$ 104,000,000.00	\$ 700,000.00	\$ 110,865,600.00
9500.050000.000	State Employer Contributions	The state funded program used to record employer contributions for the agency.	\$ -	\$ 266,314.00	\$ -	\$ 266,314.00	\$ -	\$ 498,000.00	\$ -	\$ 498,000.00
9801.270000X000	Local Government Grant Fund	Non-recurring appropriations that can be utilized for local government grants or administrative activities of the agency.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
9814.210000X000	RURL INFRASRCTRE FD	non-recurring appropriations for the SC Rural Infrastructure Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2600.102500X000	South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP)	The South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) is a major one-time initiative to improve water, wastewater and stormwater systems throughout the state using federal funds allocated by the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).	-	-	\$ 11,896,610.00	\$ 11,896,610.00	-	-	\$ 420,245,000.00	\$ 420,245,000.00
2600.102000X000	Planning & Technical Assistance - Small	To provide planning grants and technical assistance supporting sustainable long-term solutions for local utilities.	\$ 291,366.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 291,366.00	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000,000.00

# 2023

## Legal Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

P450 - Rural Infrastructure Authority

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2023
1-11-20	State	Statute	Division Transfers - Transfers the Local Government Division, Water Resources Coordinating Council membership, and Division of Regional Government from the Budget and Control Board to RIA.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
1-11-25	State	Statute	Local Government Division - Establishes the Local Government Division and outlines grant responsibilities.	Requires a service	Grant administration	No Change
1-11-26	State	Statute	Local Government Division - Outlines rules for use of grant funds and provides penalties for violations.	Requires a service		No Change
11-37-200	State	Statute	Water Resources Coordinating Council - Names the RIA Director as a member of the Water Resources Coordinating Council.	Board, commission, or committee on which someone from our agency must/may serve		No Change
11-40-250	State	Statute	SC Infrastructure Facilities Authority - Requires RIA to staff and assist the SC Infrastructure Facilities Authority.	Requires a service	Loan administration	No Change
11-40-40	State	Statute	SC Infrastructure Facilities Authority- provides necessary authority to fund, use and administer the SC Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
11-42-10	State	Statute	SC Comprehensive Infrastructure Development Act - Names this chapter the "South Carolina Comprehensive Infrastructure Development Act."	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-42-20	State	Statute	Regional Development Division - Lays out the legislative purpose for establishing the Division of Regional Development.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-42-30	State	Statute	Regional Development Division - Defines terms related to the Division of Regional Development.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-42-40	State	Statute	Regional Development Division - Establishes the Division of Regional Development within RIA.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-42-50	State	Statute	Regional Development Division - Lists powers and duties of the Division of Regional Development.	Requires a service	Creation of a state infrastructure development plan, coordination of regional infrastructure development plans, and coordination of state programs and resources that impact or affect infrastructure development	No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2023
11-42-60	State	Statute	Regional Development Division - Lists administrative powers of the Division of Regional Development.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-10	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Names this chapter the "South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Act."	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-100	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Outlines authorizations related to financing agreements.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-110	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Exempts RIA from taxes.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-120	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Outlines procedures related to loan defaults.	Requires a service	Notification of the State Treasurer regarding loan defaults	No Change
11-50-130	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Limits liability of RIA and its board members and employees.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-140	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Allows RIA to act without additional notices, proceedings, or publications.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-150	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Requires all RIA funds to be deposited with the State Treasurer.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-160	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Requires RIA to submit multiple annual reports and have an annual audit by an independent CPA.	Requires a service	Agency reports	No Change
11-50-170	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Requires liberal construction of the chapter and approval of loans by the public entities that control applicable ad valorem taxes for general operating purposes.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-180	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Establishes severability of any provision held unconstitutional or invalid.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-20	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Outlines legislative findings related to the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Act.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2023
11-50-30	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority- Provides for the selection of qualified infrastructure projects for loans or other financial assistance through the Rural Infrastructure Fund and provides necessary authority to fund, operate and administer the functions of the agency.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
11-50-40	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Defines terms related to the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Act.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-50	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Outlines terms, qualifications, and appointing authorities of the members of the RIA board of directors.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-55	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Allows the RIA board to hire a director.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-60	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Outlines RIA's powers.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
11-50-65	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Requires the SC Department of Commerce to provide administrative support to RIA.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-70	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Outlines sources of revenue that may be used by the Rural Infrastructure Fund.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-80	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Establishes procedures for earnings on balances in the Rural Infrastructure Fund.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
11-50-90	State	Statute	SC Rural Infrastructure Authority - Requires RIA to select and administer eligible loan and other financial assistance for projects.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
33 USC 1383	Federal	Statute	Title VI of the Clean Water Act - Provides necessary authority and program requirements for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Program.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
42 USC 300j-12	Federal	Statute	Safe Drinking Water Act - Provides necessary authority and program requirements for the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Program.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
48-5-30	State	Statute	Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority- Provides necessary authority to fund, invest, use, and administer the clean water fund, the drinking water fund, and other authorized activities permitted by the Safe Drinking Water Act.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2023
Proviso 54.1	State	FY23-24 Proviso	Rural Infrastructure Fund Carry Forward - Allows the carry forward of funds in the Rural Infrastructure Fund from the prior fiscal year to the current fiscal year.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
Proviso 54.2	State	FY23-24 Proviso	Carry Forward Local Government Assistance - Allows the carry forward of funds appropriated for the purpose of matching federal funds from the prior fiscal year to the current fiscal year.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
Proviso 54.3	State	FY23-24 Proviso	Carry Forward Calculation - Allows for certain funds to be excluded from the calculation of the carry forward authority.	Not related to agency deliverable		No Change
Proviso 54.4	State	FY23-24 Proviso	State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund - Allows any state funds remaining after fully matching federal grants for the State Revolving Funds under the Clean Water Act or Safe Drinking Water Act to be deposited into the South Carolina Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund established pursuant to Section 11-40-50.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
Proviso 54.5	State	FY23-24 Proviso	Statewide Water and Sewer Fund - Funds allocated for the Statewide Water and Sewer Fund to assist qualified Infrastructure projects not otherwise eligible for the Rural Infrastructure Fund. Projects will be selected for assistance based on the same procedures and guidelines established for the Rural Infrastructure Fund. Funds allocated may carry forward from the prior fiscal year to any current fiscal year.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
Joint Resolution Act 244	State	Statute	Authorizes the expenditure of federal funds disbursed to the state in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021	Requires a service		No Change
Proviso 118.19	State	FY23-24 Proviso	Appropriates funds to the agency for specific projects and the State Revolving Fund match for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds	Distribute finding to another entity		Added
Act 6 of 2023	State	Statute	Authorizes the expenditure of additional federal funds disbursed to the state in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021	Funding agency deliverable(s)		Added
Public Law 117-58	Federal	Statute	Increases funding for the State Revolving Fund loan program (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)	Funding agency deliverable(s)		Added

# 2023

## Services Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

P450 - Rural Infrastructure Authority

Description of Service	Description of Direct Customer	Customer Name	Others Impacted by Service	Division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Description of division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Primary negative impact if service not provided.	Changes made to services during FY2023	Summary of changes to services
RIA offers grant funding for water quality improvement projects as well as timely and responsive technical assistance to customers.	The agency offers grants to public water and sewer providers.	Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	Customers of public water and sewer utilities	Grant Program	Grant program managers provide technical assistance for project development as well as assist customers with implementation of grant projects.	If infrastructure is not improved, it becomes increasingly difficult for the water or sewer system to protect public health and the environment or attract economic development.	No Change	
RIA offers below-market financing through its loan programs for water quality improvement projects.	The agency offers loans to public water and sewer providers	Public water and sewer providers such as units of local government, special purpose districts and public works commissions	Customers of public water and sewer utilities	Loan Program	The loan program staff responsibilities include credit reviews, loan agreements, disbursements and repayments.	If infrastructure is not improved, it becomes increasingly difficult for the water or sewer system to protect public health and the environment.	No Change	



# 2023

## Partnerships Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

**P450 - Rural Infrastructure Authority**

Type of Partner Entity	Name of Partner Entity	Description of Partnership	Change to the partnership during the past fiscal year
State Government	Department of Commerce	RIA has an administrative support agreement with Commerce and collaborates with the agency on providing infrastructure support for community development, industrial site development as well as economic development.	No Change
State Government	Department of Health and Environmental Control	1 - RIA jointly administers the State Revolving Funds with DHEC, who manages the technical aspects of the program while RIA oversees the financial functions of SRF; 2 - RIA shares information on regulatory issues and coordinates with DHEC's Office of Rural Water on provision of technical assistance.	Amend
Federal Government	Infrastructure Funders (federal and state agencies)	RIA participates in informal collaboration with federal and state agencies to leverage resources, streamline processes where feasible and provide technical assistance for customers.	No Change
Local Government	SC Councils of Governments	With appropriations from American Rescue Plan Act funds, the COGs are providing grant administration services to RIA grantees identified by RIA.	Add

# 2023

## Reports Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

P450 - Rural Infrastructure Authority

Report Name	Law Number (if applicable)	Summary of information requested in the report	Date of most recent submission DURING the past fiscal year	Reporting Frequency	Type of entity/entities	Method to access the report	Direct access hyperlink or agency contact (if not provided to LSA for posting online)	Changes to this report during the past fiscal year	Explanation why a report wasn't submitted
Agency Accountability Report	§1-1-810	The report "must contain the agency's or department's mission, objectives to accomplish the mission, and performance measures that show the degree to which objectives are being met." Agencies must "identify key program area descriptions and expenditures and link these to key financial and performance results measures."	September 2022	Annually	Governor or Lt. Governor AND Legislative entity or entities	Available on agency's website	<a href="https://ria.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/FY22-RIA-Accountability-Report.pdf">https://ria.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/FY22-RIA-Accountability-Report.pdf</a>	Amend	
Agreed Upon Procedures	§11-50-160	Review of accounting records and internal controls	June 2023	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website	<a href="https://osa.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Rural-Infast.-Authority-P4523-Final-Report.pdf">https://osa.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Rural-Infast.-Authority-P4523-Final-Report.pdf</a>	Amend	
Annual Report	§11-50-160	The report highlights the activities and accomplishments of the agency during the last fiscal year. Annual Report for FY22 will be posted online October 1, 2022.	October 2022	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Available on agency's website	<a href="https://ria.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/FY22-RIA-Annual-Report.pdf">https://ria.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/FY22-RIA-Annual-Report.pdf</a>	Amend	
Fines and Fees Report	Proviso 117.70	A report of all aggregate amounts of fines and fees that were charged and collected by that state agency in the prior fiscal year.	September 2022	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Available on agency's website	<a href="https://ria.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/P450-Fines-and-Fees-Report_FY22.pdf">https://ria.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/P450-Fines-and-Fees-Report_FY22.pdf</a>	Amend	
Single Audit	§11-50-160	Schedule of expenditures of federal awards.	March 2023	Annually	Entity within federal government	Available on another website	<a href="https://osa.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/STATE-OF-SOUTH-CAROLINA-SINGLE-AUDIT-REPORT.pdf">https://osa.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/STATE-OF-SOUTH-CAROLINA-SINGLE-AUDIT-REPORT.pdf</a>	Amend	

<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	Rural Infrastructure Authority		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	P450	<b>SECTION:</b>	054

**2023  
Accountability Report**

**SUBMISSION FORM**

I have reviewed and approved the data submitted by the agency in the following templates:

- Data Template
  - Reorganization and Compliance
  - FY2023 Strategic Plan Results
  - FY2024 Strategic Plan Development
  - Legal
  - Services
  - Partnerships
  - Report or Review
  - Budget
- Discussion Template
- Organizational Template

I have reviewed and approved the financial report summarizing the agency’s budget and actual expenditures, as entered by the agency into the South Carolina Enterprise Information System.

The information submitted is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

<b>AGENCY DIRECTOR</b> <i>(SIGN AND DATE):</i>  <i>(TYPE/PRINT NAME):</i>	<b>SIGNATURE ON FILE</b>	<b>Signature Received:</b> 9/07/2023 4:27 PM
	Bonnie Ammons	

<b>BOARD/CMSN CHAIR</b> <i>(SIGN AND DATE):</i>  <i>(TYPE/PRINT NAME):</i>	<b>SIGNATURE ON FILE</b>	<b>Signature Received:</b> 9/07/2023 4:27 PM
	Harry M. Lightsey III	