



SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION

2023 South Carolina Community Capital Alliance Conference

**May 3, 2023
Rock Hill, SC**

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



SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION

Legislative History

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

SCRC Leadership & Oversight

Authorizing legislation, referred to as *the statute*, outlines the two prongs of SCRC's leadership. There is a ***Federal Co-Chair***, nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate, and the collective of ***Governors*** of the seven Southeast Crescent states.

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



Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed
SCRC Federal Co-Chair

Governor Henry McMaster
States' Co-Chair

SCRC Governors & Alternates

State of Alabama

Governor Kay Ivey
Alternate - Kenneth Boswell

State of Georgia

Governor Brian Kemp
Alternate - Christopher Nunn

State of South Carolina

Governor Henry McMaster
Alternate - Jordan Marsh

State of Florida

Governor Ron DeSantis
Alternate - Katherine Russo

State of Mississippi

Governor Tate Reeves
Alternate - Kristen Windham

State of Virginia

Governor Glenn Youngkin
Alternate - Bryan Horn

State of North Carolina

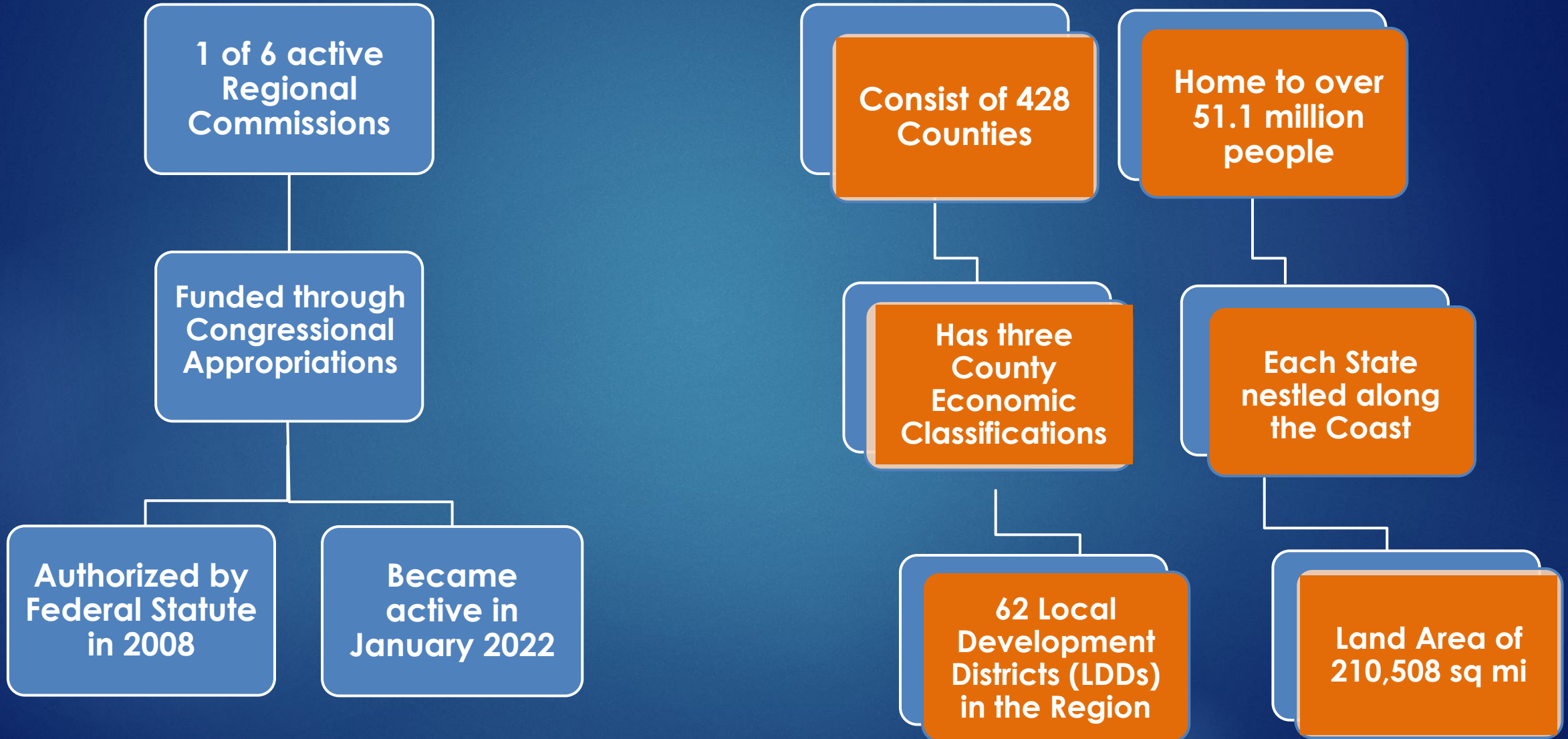
Governor Roy Cooper
Alternate - Jim McCleskey

SCRC Mission:

The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) is an economic development partnership agency of the federal government and state governments of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

As a grant making agency, SCRC's mission is to invest financial resources in community-based projects that will alleviate the effects that poverty has had and help build sustainable communities by boosting and strengthening economic growth across the Southeast Crescent region.

SCRC Key Facts



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

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

State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program

\$20M Investment

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

- Tackle basic public infrastructure, telecommunications, and transportation.
- In the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) infrastructure projects and goals are outlined in more detail to include construction and non-construction projects, such as rebuilding airports, bridges, ports, rail and roads, and provide access to clean drinking water and access to high-speed internet.

State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program

- Applications must align with the SCRC Five-Year Strategic Plan
- Must also consider regional priorities provided in the **State Economic and Development Plan** and **Strategy Statement** of the state(s) where the project will be implemented. These plans prioritize SCRC economic development activities for each state.

Statutory Requirements

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

Statutory Requirements (Continued)

SCRC will invest in projects that:

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

Statutory Requirements (Continued)

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

SCRC Three County/County Equivalent Economic Classifications

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

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




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

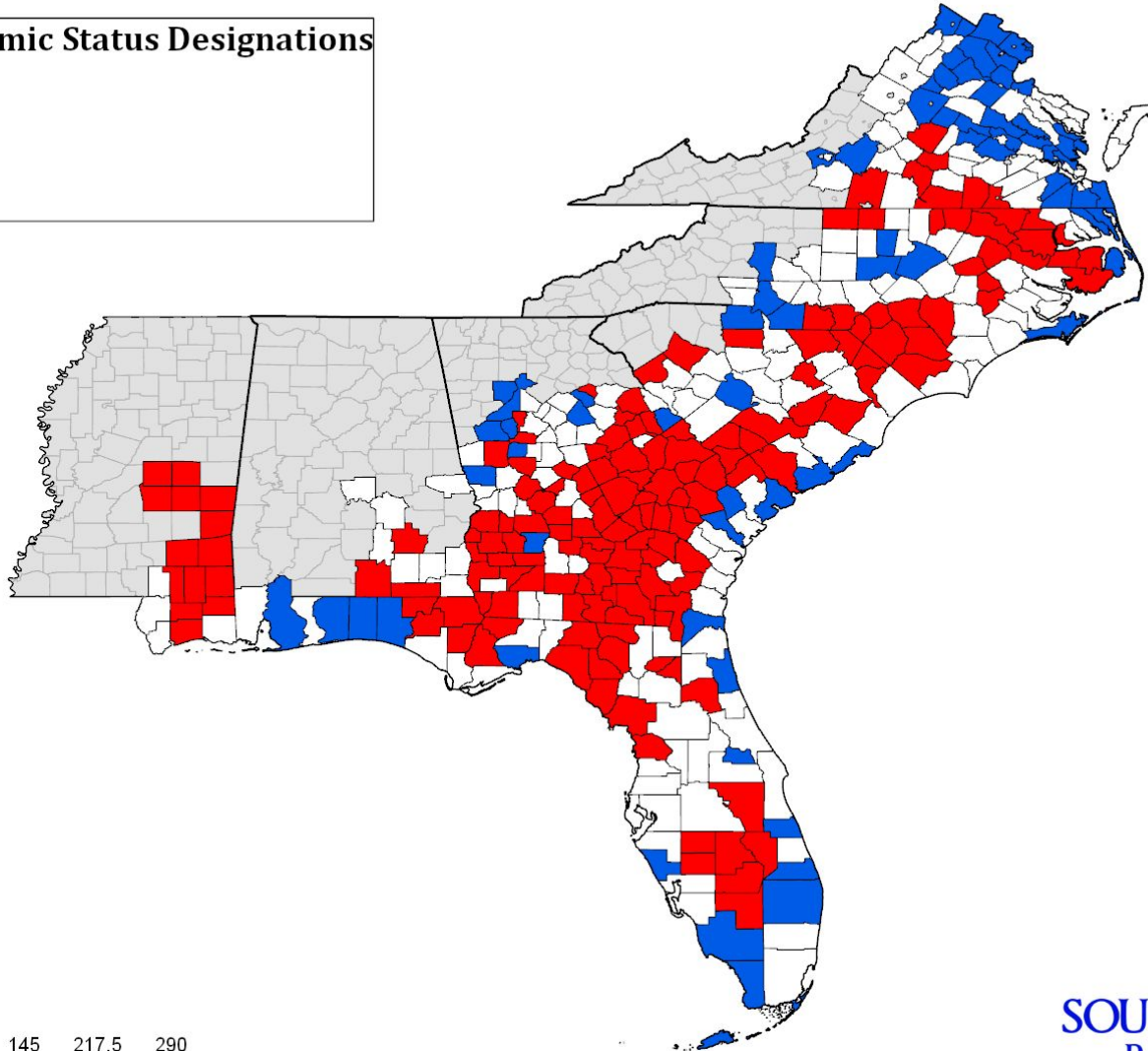
For a list of county/county equivalents by economic classification and regional maps by state, visit our website, scrc.gov.

Southeast Crescent Regional Commission

FY23 Economic Status Designations

FY23 SCRC Economic Status Designations

-  Distressed
-  Transitional
-  Attainment



0 36.25 72.5 145 217.5 290
Miles



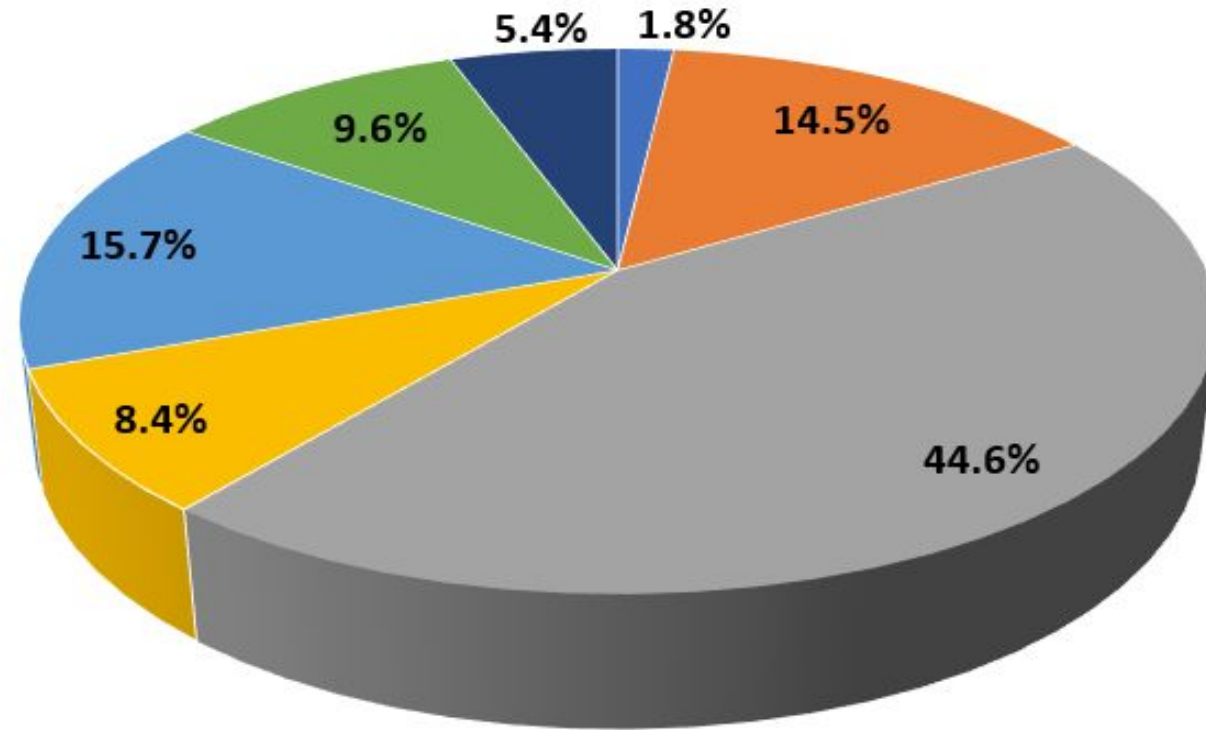
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FY 2023 Distressed SCRC Counties/County Equivalents

Distressed counties

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

% of Distressed Counties and County Equivalents by State

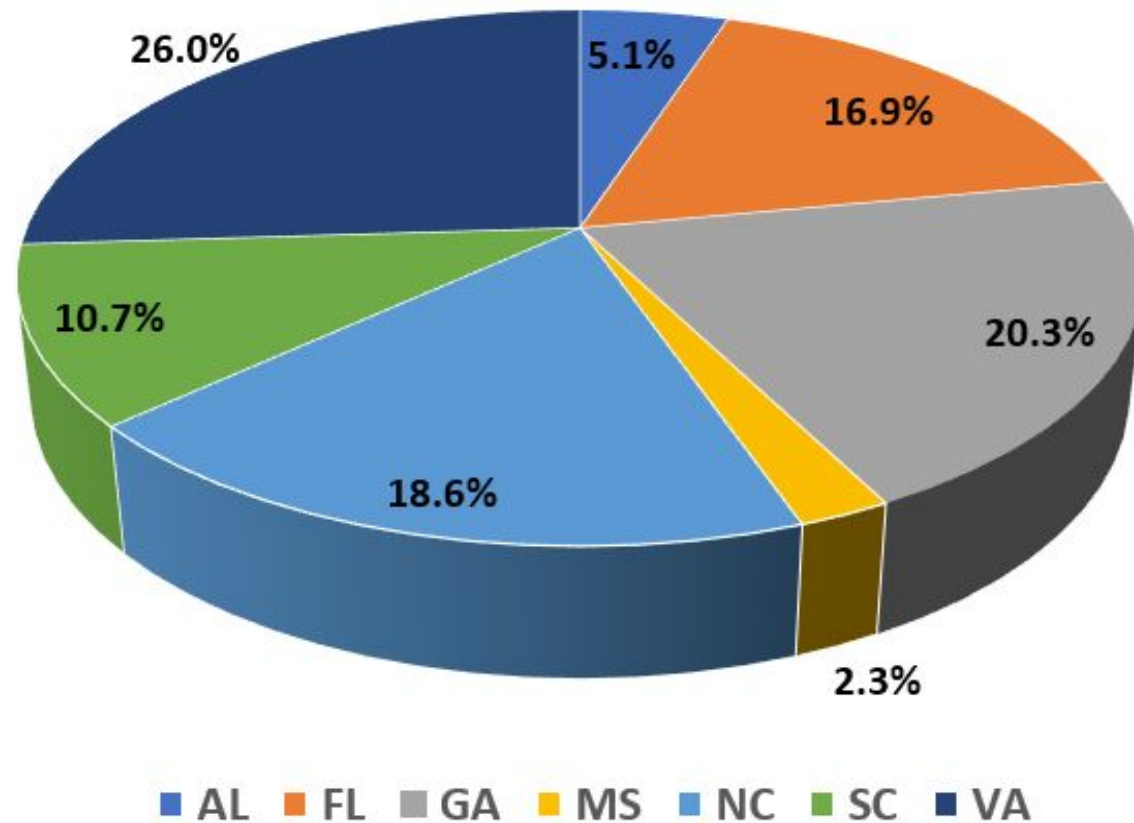


■ AL ■ FL ■ GA ■ MS ■ NC ■ SC ■ VA

FY 2023 Transitional SCRC Counties/County Equivalents

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

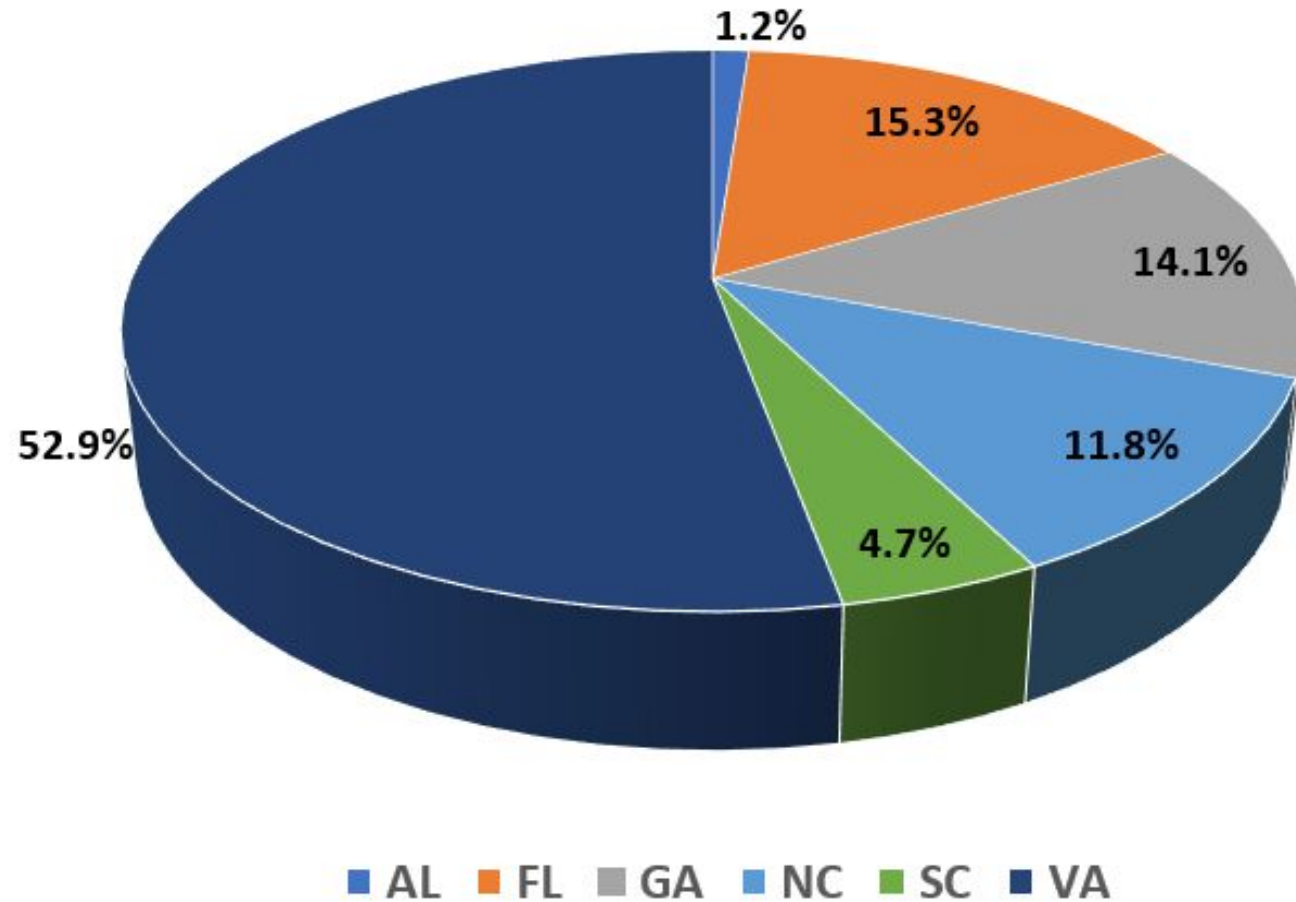
% of Transitional Counties and County Equivalents by State



Attainment SCRC Counties by State

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

% of Attainment Counties and County Equivalents by State

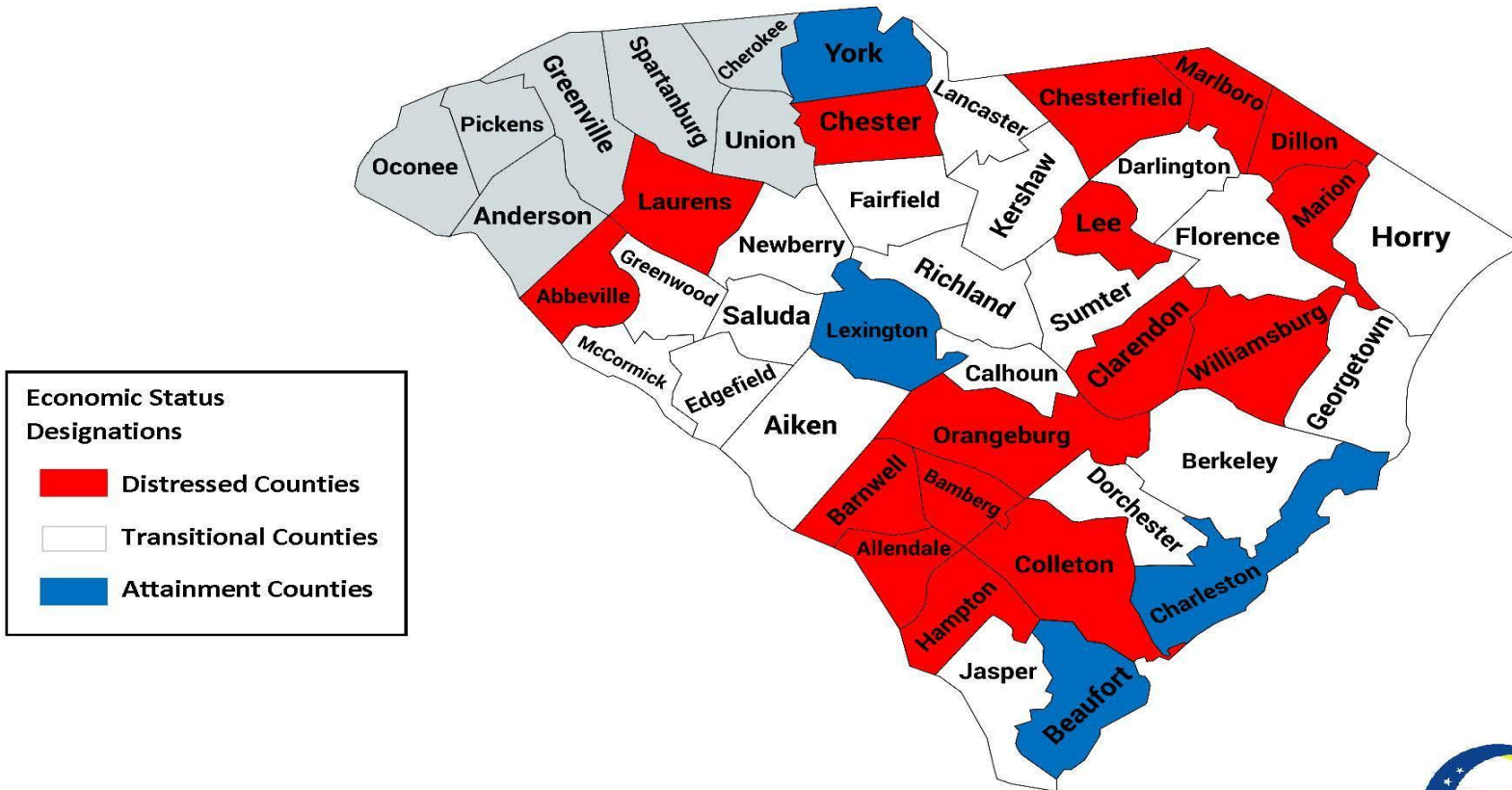


Sources: U.S. Census and 2021 American Community Survey

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FY23 Economic Designations

SOUTH CAROLINA



Economic Status Designations

- Distressed Counties
- Transitional Counties
- Attainment Counties



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**Counties in grey are not covered by SCRC.*

SCRC Isolated Areas of Distress

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

To determine isolated areas of distress, SCRC evaluated Census tracts within attainment counties using three variables:

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

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

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

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

Maximum SEID Grant Awards

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

Infrastructure Categories

(Non-Construction or Gap Construction) Maximum: \$350,000

Non-Infrastructure Categories

(Non-Construction or Gap Construction) Maximum: \$200,000

Multi-State/Multi-County Awards

(Non-Construction or Gap Construction) Infrastructure Maximum: \$500,000
Non-Infrastructure Maximum: \$350,000

Projects considered for Gap Construction funding are near completion and require additional funds to close the project. Adherence to federal compliance regulations are required.

SEID Matching/Cost Sharing Requirements

County economic designations also determines the percent of match required for SCRC-funded projects. SCRC expects a SEID grant recipient to contribute resources to a project and to seek additional non-SCRC funding assistance if needed.

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

National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health

One of SCRC's strategic goals is to improve health and support services access and outcomes throughout our region. SCRC is also a member agency of the Nutrition Interagency Policy Council and has as a priority the implementation of President Biden's National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health to fulfill his goal of ending hunger and reducing diet-related diseases by 2030.

To meet this goal, SCRC is incorporating the five pillars of the national strategy as a part of our focus to improve the health of the Southeast region. As a requirement for entities seeking SEID funding to support health and support services, one or more of the pillars must be addressed in the SEID application for funding.

[White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health Details | health.gov](https://www.health.gov/white-house-conference-on-hunger-nutrition-and-health)

National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health

1. Improve food access and affordability,
2. Integrate nutrition and health,
3. Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices,
4. Support physical activity for all, and
5. Enhance nutrition and food security research.

SCRC is also a partner agency in the Rural Partners Network (RPN) – an alliance of 22 federal agencies committed to transforming how the federal government partners with rural communities to spur inclusive, sustainable economic growth.

The goals of the RPN are to (1) create avenues to expand rural prosperity through job creation, infrastructure development, and community improvement; and (2) improve equitable access to federal programs and funding, and help drive local economic development.

Find additional information, please visit the RPN website: rural.gov or scrc.gov

RPN's Email Address:
RuralPartnersNetwork@usda.gov

Rural Partners Network (RPN)

For additional RPN Rural Resources, click highlighted links below:

Community & Economic Development Programs

This listing focuses on funding and technical assistance programs for community improvement.

Assistance for Individuals and Families

Learn about programs developed for rural residents, families, veterans, seniors, small businesses, farmers, ranchers, and others looking for assistance.

Tribal Programs and Resources

The programs and resources listed here were developed exclusively for Tribes, Native Americans, and Alaska Natives.

Rural Partners Network (RPN)

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

It is priority #1 and we are aiming for a launch in 60 days.

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

Closing

Important Role as Community Leader & Convenor:

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

Thank You!

Southeast Crescent Regional Commission

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Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed

Federal Co-Chair

Mobile: 202-599-8310

info@scrc.gov

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



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