AGENCY NAME:	Rural Infrastructure Authority		
AGENCY CODE:	P450	SECTION:	54

Fiscal Year 2027-28 Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

	For FY 2027-28, my agency is (mark "X"):	
OPERATING REQUESTS *(FORM B1)*	X	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
		Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
		Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2027-28, my agency is (mark "X"):	
NON-RECURRING REQUESTS *(FORM B2)*		Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
		Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
	X	Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2027-28, my agency is (mark "X"):	
CAPITAL REQUESTS *(FORM C)*		Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
	X	Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2027-28, my agency is (mark "X"):	
PROVISOS *(FORM D)*		Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
		Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	X	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	Name	*Phone*	*Email*
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Bonnie Ammons	(803) 734-1390	bammons@ria.sc.gov
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Noel Hebert	(803) 737-9873	nhebert@ria.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2027-28 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	Agency Director	*Board or Commission Chair*
SIGN/DATE:	Bonnie Ammons	Harry Lightsey
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Bonnie Ammons	Harry M. Lightsey III

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

Agency Name:	Rural Infrastructure Authority
Agency Code:	P450
Section:	54

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Rural Infrastructure Fund	12,000,000	0	0	0	12,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Statewide Water and Sewer Fund	12,000,000	0	0	0	12,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			24,000,000	0	0	0	24,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Agency Name:	Rural Infrastructure Authority		
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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

1

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Rural Infrastructure Fund

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $12,000,000

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $12,000,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
X	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
X	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This funding would assist the Authority with improving the quality of life by addressing infrastructure that impacts public health and the environment, creating opportunities for economic impact by providing infrastructure capacity and enhancing long-term community sustainability for small and rural areas.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

Grantees are made up of local governments, special purpose districts, public service districts and public works commissions. Grants are distributed through a competitive process based on eligibility that is consistent with the enabling statute.

FUNDS	

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	The Board of the Rural Infrastructure Authority is seeking to increase the Rural Infrastructure Fund by $12,000,000 to address immediate local funding needs for water, wastewater and stormwater improvements in small and rural communities. This request would bring total funding available for small and rural communities to $26,870,056 from its current level of $14,870,056 ($9,870,056 in state appropriations and $5 million from Proviso 109.3). In 2026 the American Society of Civil Engineers released a report evaluating the condition of South Carolina's Infrastructure as if it were a school report card. South Carolina's Drinking Water and Clean Water Systems received a D, citing $15 billion in future investment need. South Carolina has taken steps to strengthen its infrastructure investment, however challenges still remain. Aging infrastructure and increasing demand due to rapid population growth continue to strain existing capacity. These funds will address the significant demand for financial assistance to build the infrastructure capacity necessary to promote growth opportunities and compete for jobs and investment as well as replace aging and outdated infrastructure affecting residential and business customers. Such funds serve as a reliable source of assistance for local utilities, who have experienced significant increases in construction costs. Further, it enhances the affordability and dependability of services for its customers while helping to foster future economic growth. A 2025 study by ACEC-SC, conducted in partnership with the University of South Carolina, found that every dollar invested in infrastructure generates $1.70 in economic output, highlighting the broad and meaningful impact these investments have on communities across South Carolina.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Rural Infrastructure Authority		
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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

2

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Statewide Water and Sewer Fund

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $12,000,000

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $12,000,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
X	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
X	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This funding would assist the Authority with improving the quality of life by addressing infrastructure that impacts public health and the environment, creating opportunities for economic impact by providing infrastructure capacity and enhancing long-term community sustainability for areas not qualifying as rural or distressed.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

Grantees are made up of local governments, special purpose districts, public service districts and public works commissions. Grants are distributed through a competitive process based on eligibility that is consistent with the enabling statute.

FUNDS	

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	The Board of the Rural Infrastructure Authority is seeking to increase the Statewide Water and Sewer Fund by $12,000,000 to address local funding needs for water, wastewater and stormwater improvements in areas that do not qualify as rural. This request would bring total funding for the Statewide Water and Sewer Fund to $21,000,000 from its current level of $9,000,000. In 2026 the American Society of Civil Engineers released a report evaluating the condition of South Carolina's Infrastructure as if it were a school report card. South Carolina's Drinking Water and Clean Water Systems received a D, citing $15 billion in future investment need. South Carolina has taken steps to strengthen its infrastructure investment, however challenges still remain. Aging infrastructure and increasing demand due to rapid population growth continue to strain existing capacity. These funds will address the significant demand for financial assistance to build the infrastructure capacity necessary to promote growth opportunities and compete for jobs and investment as well as replace aging and outdated infrastructure affecting residential and business customers. Such funds serve as a reliable source of assistance for local utilities, who have experienced significant increases in construction costs. Further, it enhances the affordability and dependability of services for its customers while helping to foster future economic growth. A 2025 study by ACEC-SC, conducted in partnership with the University of South Carolina, found that every dollar invested in infrastructure generates $1.70 in economic output, highlighting the broad and meaningful impact these investments have on communities across South Carolina.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

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FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
AMOUNT	$1,146,080 *What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.*
ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	None. *How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?*
PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	Rural Infrastructure Fund - $296,147 Statewide Water and Sewer Fund -$270,016 Planning and Technical Assistance - $149,907 Matching Funds for State Revolving Loan Funds $430,010 *What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?*
SUMMARY	For the Rural Infrastructure Fund, Statewide Water and Sewer Fund and Planning and Technical Assistance, RIA would have less funds available to help communities with financing for qualified infrastructure projects. If the funds appropriated for the Matching Funds for the State Revolving Loan Funds are not sufficient to match the federal grants available to our state, then the funds would need to be transferred from the State Infrastructure Revolving Fund to ensure the state can access the federal funds.

Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS

N/A

What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than $50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?