

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



Fiscal Year FY 2021-2022

Agency Budget Plan

**FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY**

<b>OPERATING REQUESTS</b> <i>(FORM B1)</i>	For FY 2021-2022, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

<b>NON-RECURRING REQUESTS</b> <i>(FORM B2)</i>	For FY 2021-2022, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

<b>CAPITAL REQUESTS</b> <i>(FORM C)</i>	For FY 2021-2022, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

<b>PROVISOS</b> <i>(FORM D)</i>	For FY 2021-2022, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any proviso changes.

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

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
<b>PRIMARY CONTACT:</b>	Bonnie Ammons	(803) 734-1399	bammons@ria.sc.gov
<b>SECONDARY CONTACT:</b>	Chris Huffman	(803) 737-0462	chuffman@scommerce.com

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2021-2022 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	<i>Agency Director</i>	<i>Board or Commission Chair</i>
<b>SIGN/DATE:</b>	<i>Bonnie Ammons 9/23/20</i>	<i>R. M. Hitt</i>
<b>TYPE/PRINT NAME:</b>	Bonnie Ammons	ROBERT M. HITT

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

Agency Name:	Rural Infrastructure Authority
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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	4,129,944	0	0	0	4,129,944	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B2 - Non-Recurring	Water and Sewer Regionalization Fund	5,000,000	0	0	0	5,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Other Fund Authority	0	0	0	90,000	90,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			9,129,944	0	0	90,000	9,219,944	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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## **FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	<b>1</b>
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Rural Infrastructure Fund</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>General: \$4,129,944</b> <b>Federal: \$0</b> <b>Other: \$0</b> <b>Total: \$4,129,944</b>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2021-2022? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	<b>0.00</b>
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p>This funding would assist the Authority with improving the quality of life by addressing infrastructure that impacts public health or the environment, create opportunities for economic impact by providing infrastructure capacity and enhance community sustainability.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"></div>
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*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?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF</b>	<p>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.</p>
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**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 has committed to making \$25,000,000 in assistance available for basic infrastructure and economic development projects. These additional funds would provide financial assistance to build the infrastructure capacity of distressed, rural areas to compete for jobs and investment. During the current fiscal year, the Authority has only \$20,870,056 (\$5,000,000 in Other Funds, \$7,870,056 in State Appropriations for the Rural Infrastructure Fund and \$8,000,000 in State Appropriations for the Statewide Water and Sewer Fund) in recurring revenue. In order to provide the financial stability necessary for the Authority to carry out its mission, the Board has requested that its recurring state appropriations for the Rural Infrastructure Authority be increased to \$12,000,000 from its current level of \$7,870,056. Without additional resources, the Board may need to reduce the grant funding level for FY2021-22.

*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 B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	<b>3</b>
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Other Fund Authority</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>General: \$0</b> <b>Federal: \$0</b> <b>Other: \$90,000</b> <b>Total: \$90,000</b>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2021-2022? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	<b>0.00</b>
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority # 2	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p>This funding requests supports the Authority's strategy to build strong partnerships with communities that need technical and financial support to achieve greater sustainability. It will be evaluated by the number of communities provided technical assistance to identify potential projects and resources.</p>
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*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?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF</b>	<p>Typical operating costs such as staff, employer contributions and other operating costs.</p>
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**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**

Needed additional authority to conduct the statewide assessment of the key issues impacting rural water and sewer systems.

*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 B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	2
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	Water and Sewer Regionalization Fund
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	\$5,000,000
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2021-2022? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p>This funding requests supports the Authority's strategy to build strong partnerships with communities that need technical and financial support to achieve greater sustainability. It will be evaluated by the number of communities provided technical assistance to identify potential projects and resources.</p> <p>In addition, these funds will be used to promote regional efforts to improve infrastructure that impacts the quality of life for residents as well as creates economic opportunities. This strategy encourages the efficient use of grant resources and will be measured by the number of communities assisted to address infrastructure needs that protect public health and the environment or that build the capacity necessary for economic development.</p>
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*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?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS</b>	Grantees are made up of local governments, special purpose districts, public service districts and public works commissions.
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*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*

**JUSTIFICATION  
OF REQUEST**

Many small and rural public water and sewer utilities across South Carolina face unique challenges in providing safe drinking water and complying with water quality standards with limited financial, technical and managerial resources. The Authority is undertaking a statewide assessment of the key issues impacting these water and sewer systems. With scarce local resources available, the need to explore and implement new partnerships will be critical to achieving long-term sustainability. Protecting public health, complying with increasing regulatory standards, building capacity for economic development opportunities and building system sustainability are the key objectives of this request.

Provide financial assistance to eligible water and sewer systems, through a competitive process, to encourage regionalization. Such assistance, in the form of grants, would be used to support planning and feasibility studies or infrastructure improvement projects that are necessary to implement sustainable, regional infrastructure solutions.

*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**

<b>TITLE</b>	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
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<b>AMOUNT</b>	\$661,070
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*What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.*

<b>ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS</b>	None
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*How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?*

<b>PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT</b>	Rural Infrastructure Fund – \$236,102, Statewide Water and Sewer Fund - \$240,000 and Matching Funds for State Revolving Loan Funds \$184,968.
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*What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?*

<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>For the Rural Infrastructure Fund and Statewide Water and Sewer Fund, RIA would have less funds available to help communities with financing for qualified infrastructure projects.</p> <p>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.</p>
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*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**

The Rural Infrastructure Authority has limited operating expenses beyond personnel and employer contributions. RIA and the SC Department of Commerce have a shared resources agreement whereby Commerce provides certain back-office services.

*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?*

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## **FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS**

<b>TITLE</b>	N/A
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS</b>	Not Applicable
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*What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeal or revision of regulations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

<b>METHOD OF CALCULATION</b>	Not Applicable
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*Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.*


<b>REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES</b>	Not Applicable
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*Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?*

<b>REDUCTION OF REGULATION</b>	Not Applicable
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*Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?*

<b>SUMMARY</b>	Not Applicable
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*Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?*