

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

**Fiscal Year 2026-27
Agency Budget Plan**

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

OPERATING REQUESTS (FORM B1)	For FY 2026-27, my agency is (mark "X"): ☒ Requesting General Fund Appropriations. ☐ Requesting Federal/Other Authorization. ☐ Not requesting any changes.
NON-RECURRING REQUESTS (FORM B2)	For FY 2026-27, my agency is (mark "X"): ☐ Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations. ☐ Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization. ☒ Not requesting any changes.
CAPITAL REQUESTS (FORM C)	For FY 2026-27, my agency is (mark "X"): ☐ Requesting funding for Capital Projects. ☒ Not requesting any changes.
PROVISOS (FORM D)	For FY 2026-27, my agency is (mark "X"): ☐ Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos. ☐ Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references). ☒ Not requesting any proviso changes.

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

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
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 2026-27 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	<u>Agency Director</u>	<u>Board or Commission Chair</u>
SIGN/DATE:	<i>Bonnie Ammons</i>	<i>Harry Lightsey</i> Harry Lightsey (Sep 24, 2025 14:00:21 EDT)
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Bonnie Ammons	Harry M. Lightsey III

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

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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	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

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	1
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Rural Infrastructure Fund
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$12,000,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$12,000,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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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
	☒	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
	☐	Consulted DTO during development
☐	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
	☒	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.
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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?

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.
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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 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 \$25,870,056 from its current level of \$13,870,056 (\$8,870,056 in state appropriations and \$5 million from Proviso 109.3).

In accordance with Act 244, the Authority received more than \$2 billion in requests for infrastructure funding assistance to address the most immediate needs. Requests for critical projects exceed the available grant funds every year. These additional 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 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. Strategic investment in water and sewer infrastructure not only helps the economy, but it also prepares communities for long term success which is the mission of the Authority.

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

AGENCY PRIORITY	2
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Statewide Water and Sewer Fund
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$12,000,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$12,000,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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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
	☒	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
	☐	Consulted DTO during development
☐	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
	☒	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.
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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?

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.
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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 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 \$20,000,000 from its current level of \$8,000,000.

In accordance with Act 244, the Authority received more than \$2 billion in requests for infrastructure funding assistance to address the most immediate needs. Requests for critical projects exceed the available grant funds every year. These additional 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 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. Strategic investment in water and sewer infrastructure not only helps the economy, but it also prepares communities for long term success which is the mission of the Authority.

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
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AMOUNT	\$1,086,080
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What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.

ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	None.
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How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	Rural Infrastructure Fund - \$266,089, Statewide Water and Sewer Fund -\$240,024, Planning and Technical Assistance - \$149,988 and Matching Funds for State Revolving Loan Funds \$429,979.
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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.
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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	N/A
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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?