

South Carolina Association of Regional Councils

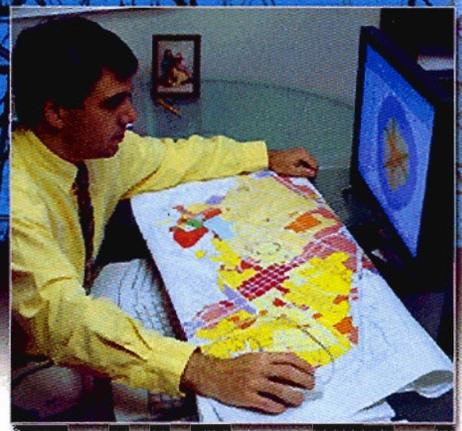
1. Appalachian Council of Governments | www.scacog.org
2. Upper Savannah Council of Governments | www.uppersavannah.com
3. Catawba Regional Council of Governments | www.catawbacog.org
4. Central Midlands Council of Governments | www.centralmidlands.org
5. Lower Savannah Council of Governments | www.lscog.org
6. Santee Lynches Regional Council of Governments | www.slrcog.org
7. Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments | www.peedecog.org
8. Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments | www.wrcog.org
9. Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments | www.bcdco.com
10. Lowcountry Council of Governments | <http://www.lowcountrycog.sc.gov>

Launched more than three decades ago by visionary state leaders, today there are 10 Councils of Governments (COGs) in South Carolina. Each represents a multi-county planning district. Each of the state's 46 counties falls within a COG region.

COGs are partnerships of – and provide resources to – the local counties cities and towns in their regions. The Councils are also partners with numerous Federal and state agencies, obtaining and administering grants for a variety of community-based programs and economic development initiatives.

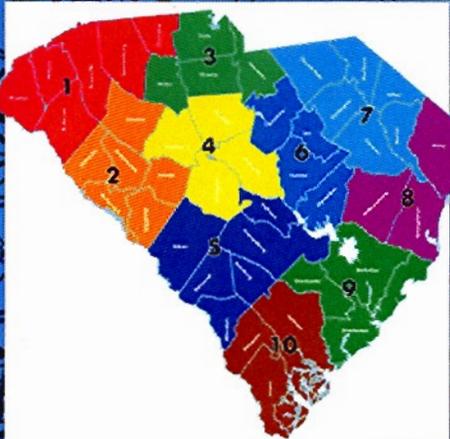
COGs are recognized for their fiscal responsibility and outstanding capabilities in professional program management. As a result, thousands of state residents today depend on COG services and capabilities for a host of critical functions that affect quality of life and economic development. From extension of water and sewer lines in rural areas to providing ready transportation to the doctor and government offices to overseeing compliance with clean water standards, COG programs are filling vital community needs.

For general information, please contact info@sccogs.org



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History

South Carolina's first Councils of Governments were formed in 1967 when Governor Robert E. McNair signed legislation dividing the state into ten official planning districts.

As the Governor officially introduced the state's citizens to this new regional concept, he described new entities created to provide a "uniform geographical framework within which the planning, programming and delivery of services by state, federal and local government might be undertaken with maximum efficiency and effectiveness."

Even their formative years, the state's new Councils of Governments did not disappoint. Their earliest missions focused on regional planning, keeping track of all types of statistical information, obtaining and administering grants and supporting regional economic development.

Our earliest Federal partners included the Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Health Education and Welfare (HEW), the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Economic Development Administration. These agencies or their successors remain key allies today, even as our list of partners has grown along with the needs and expectations of our regions.

Today, COG missions, programs and partnerships have been broadened to address today's challenges (See Services), but the founding principle remains the same: To work cooperatively with local governments in all 46 counties, enhancing their capacity to guide growth and development and improving the quality of life for all South Carolina residents.

The early charge to achieve "efficiency and effectiveness" still lies at the heart of the COG mission and has become the defining hallmark of all ten Councils.



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