

S.C. REGIONAL COUNCILS



Local governments in all 46 counties of South Carolina are working together through regional councils. The State is divided into 10 regions, sometimes called planning districts, with local governments in each region served by a regional council.

WHAT SERVICES DO THESE REGIONAL COUNCILS PROVIDE?

The regional councils provide a variety of services requested by their local governments, including planning, grants administration, economic development assistance and management assistance. The services vary from region to region, depending on local needs and priorities. Regional councils are not another layer of government; they do not pass legislation, enforce laws or levy taxes. Their goal is to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of existing government.

WHAT TYPES OF STRUCTURE DO THESE REGIONAL COUNCILS HAVE?

Each regional council has a policy board that sets the council's work program and budget. The enabling legislation creating the councils requires that all the governing boards be comprised of more than 50 percent local elected officials. To further ensure public accountability, all board members are also appointed by and responsible to their respective local elected officials.

HOW ARE THESE COUNCILS FUNDED?

Financial support of the regional councils is provided by local, state and federal governments. Although the amount varies in each region, county councils and, in some cases, municipalities make an annual appropriation to their regional council.

The General Assembly divides its allocation among 10 councils. Even though a substantial portion of the operating funds come from state and federal governments, the regional councils are not under state or federal control. They were created by and work at the direction of local governments in South Carolina.

WHAT IS SCARC?

Policy board members and executive directors from each regional council work together through the **South Carolina Association of Regional Councils** (SCARC). The Association represents the interests of local governments to state and federal agencies and officials, and works to promote regional cooperation across the state.

S.C. REGIONAL COUNCILS

BERKELEY-CHARLESTON-DORCHESTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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CATAWBA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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CENTRAL MIDLANDS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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PEE DEE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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SANTEE-LYNCHES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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UPPER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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