

South Carolina Department of Agriculture
Community Grant Program

Guidelines and Application Packet



South Carolina Department of Agriculture
The Honorable Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner

1200 Senate Street
Wade Hampton Building, Fifth Floor
Columbia, SC 29201-3734

803-734-2210 (phone)

803-734-2191 (fax)

www.agriculture.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) is an equal opportunity employer and through its programs does not discriminate against anyone based on color, race, national origin or disability. All participants in the SCDA Community Grant Program will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the American Disabilities Act of 1990.

INTRODUCTION

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The mission of this program is to support community organizations and businesses working to increase the economic development opportunities of rural South Carolina, or the consumption of fresh, locally grown or produced foods in South Carolina. The program will support projects that increase consumption of nutritious foods through the incorporation of community garden(s), mobile market distribution activities, outreach/educational efforts and jobs/capital investment throughout the state.

The SCDA Community Grant Program (CGP) is a grant program for eligible organizations and businesses, which provide community building opportunities within South Carolina. The actual grant awards are made on a project by project basis.

ELIGIBILITY

Any organization or business which has been actively involved in the fostering and improvement of its citizens' wellbeing may be eligible. SCDA will review each applicant to determine the grant need. To facilitate this review, organization by-laws, tax information, meeting minutes, membership lists, and recent community activities may be requested of the applicant.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

APPLICATION PROCESS

An application for SCDA CGP funds must be complete to be approved. A complete application consists of the following:

1. Project Application
2. Applying organization's W-9 or other official document showing EIN #
3. Statement of Non-Discrimination
4. Proposed deliverables

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

It is the responsibility of the project manager to assure that any development, renovations, or improvements are environmentally sound and that the sole responsibility for corrective action is with the project organization or sponsor.

PROJECT APPLICATION
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

Applicant Information

Requesting Business: County of Orangeburg

Contact Name: Harold M. Young

Address: Post Office Drawer 9000, Orangeburg, SC 29116

Phone: 803-533-6101

Fax: 803-533-6104

Email: hyoung@orangeburgcounty.org

Business Structure: Local Government

Project Information

Project Title: 422 Crossroads

Location of Project: 301/I-26 Orangeburg County

Amount of Funds Requested: \$2,000,000

Description of project for which funding is requested:

Project funding will be used to cover a portion of the costs associated with the development of a Regional Farmers Market to be housed at 422 Crossroads. The Regional Farmers Market will serve small farmers in Orangeburg, Bamberg, Calhoun, Clarendon, Dorchester and surrounding counties. The market will provide an outlet for the public to purchase South Carolina Specialty food products including fresh fruits and vegetables and provide small farmers with an attractive, centrally located venue to sell produce and other wares. In addition, public access to agriculturally related programs and services will be enhanced by the location of Clemson PSA, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and South Carolina Forestry at 422 Crossroads.

Proposed plan with detailed Goals and Objectives and proposed performance measures:

Spur economic and workforce development in Orangeburg, Bamberg, Calhoun, Clarendon and Dorchester counties. The establishment of 422 Crossroads and the proposed regional farmers market to be constructed will take advantage of the Exit 154 & I-26 location on the Global Logistics Triangle. This project will further build on the brand of the Global Logistics Triangle by including I-95 and Highway 301 into the branding, thereby creating the 422 Crossroads. The name 422 Crossroads is derived from combining the number of the affected highways: $301+95++26=422$.

How will this project benefit the South Carolina Department of Agriculture, SC producers and other agriculture organizations in SC:

This project will be beneficial for years to come by providing a venue for small farmers to sell products and access to the public to purchase those products.

Is this project a cooperative effort with or collaboration between more than 1 organization:

Yes, the 422 Crossroads Project is a collaborative effort amongst, Orangeburg County, South Carolina Department of Agriculture, Clemson University PSA, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

Will this project create access to fresh fruits and vegetables, and provide an improved local economy:

Yes, this project will create access to fresh produce. This project will create one FTE and contractual opportunities for small and micro businesses. The potential of other jobs being created rests in the success of the workforce development and long-range goal of actual construction of the two capital projects that are a part of the 422 Crossroads Project.

Please provide additional comments (if any) which support the impact of this project to the local community:

Please see the attachment.

Attachment to SCDA Application: 422 Crossroads

Goal:

Spur economic and workforce development in Orangeburg, Bamberg, Calhoun, Clarendon, and Dorchester counties. The siting of the Gateway project and the proposed regional farmers market to be constructed will take advantage of the Exit 154 & I-26 location on the Global Logistics Triangle. This project will further build on the brand of the Global Logistics Triangle by including I-95 and Highway 301 into the branding, thereby creating the 422 Crossroads. The name 422 Crossroads is derived from combining the number of the affected highways: $301+95+26=422$.

Objectives:

- a) Create an outlet for the general public to purchase South Carolina Certified food products, including fresh fruits and vegetables.
- b) Create a new selling market for local farmers and producers.
- c) Develop and promote activities related to the forestry and agricultural industries.
- d) Develop and promote activities related to agri-tourism.
- e) Enhance the public's access to agricultural services by providing office space to Clemson PSA, South Carolina DNR and SC Forestry Commission.

Performance Measures:

- a) A fully operational regional farmer's market that sells South Carolina Certified products.
- b) A fully operational regional farmer's market that enables farmers to sell their products.
- c) On-site availability of printed and digital materials featuring forestry and agricultural industries. These materials will also be available for dissemination to other audiences as identified.
- d) On-site availability of printed and digital materials featuring agri-tourism. These materials will also be available for dissemination to other audiences as identified.
- e) Develop and assessment to measure the number of people accessing and utilizing the services provided by the agricultural related offices located at 422 Crossroads.

Goal:

Construct 422 Crossroads, a Regional Cultural Visitors Center at the Exit 154 interchange on I-26 and Highway 301.

Objectives:

- a) Establish an educational resource center to provide culturally significant activities, community outreach, and professional development.
- b) Establish a clearinghouse and repository for cultural artifacts, and objects produced by the community outreach activities.
- c) Develop and identify activities related to cultural tourism.
- d) Promote cultural tourism and community education.

Performance Measures:

- a) A fully operational cultural visitor's center that provides culturally significant activities, community outreach, and professional development.
- b) Archival documentation of cultural artifacts and objects produced by community outreach activities.
- c) An active website highlighting cultural tourism and community education activities related to this project.

Additional Comments:

Anecdotal evidence indicates a significant number of vehicles exit off I-26 at 154 onto Highway 301 North, turn around and get back on the Interstate due to the lack of attractions and amenities at that exit. This represents a loss of revenue for Orangeburg County that could be recovered if there were attractions to lure visitors to not only stop but to linger and spend money. When fully developed and operational, it is anticipated that a significant number of tourists off Interstates 26 and 95 will be drawn to the regional farmer's market and cultural visitor's center to be constructed at the 422 Crossroads thereby increasing the revenue for Orangeburg County and the State of South Carolina