



SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION

Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed
Office of the Federal Co-Chair

Overview

Established as a federal-state partnership by the 2008 Farm Bill (page 547, [P.L. 110-234](#)), SCRC was authorized to begin operating with the confirmation of a Federal Co-Chair in December 2021. SCRC's mission is to build sustainable communities and strengthen economic growth across its seven-state region - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Currently, there are 428 counties and municipalities; 166, or 39%, are categorized as persistent poverty. SCRC was established to provide a comprehensive approach to addressing persistent economic distress. The Commission is on track to provide grants to support local and regional planning initiatives as well as economic and infrastructure development projects. Eligible entities for grants will include state, local and Native American governments, and public or non-profit organizations. Working in collaboration with our state partners, grant funds will respond to the following needs in local and regional development: transportation, basic public infrastructure, telecommunications, skill development, entrepreneurship, and business development, basic health care, tourism and recreation aligned with economic development and renewable and alternative energy.

Organizational Structure

As authorized, the SCRC consists of a Federal Co-Chair and participating state governors, of which one is named by the state representatives as state co-chair. Our current States' Co-Chair is Governor Henry McMaster of South Carolina. There is no term limit for the Federal Co-Chair. However, the States' Co-Chair is limited to two consecutive terms, but may not serve a term of less than one year.

Legislative History

The SCRC concept was first introduced by university researchers working on rural development issues in 1990 at Tuskegee University's Annual Professional Agricultural Worker's Conference for 1862 and 1890 Land-Grant Universities. In 1994, the Southern Rural Development Commission Act was introduced in the House Agriculture Committee. The concept was reintroduced in Congress and various non-governmental initiatives sustained discussion and interest in the concept. Supportive legislation was reintroduced in 2002, which led to other legislative efforts until authorization in 2008.