



## Increase Southeast Crescent Regional Commission Funding in FY 2023 Appropriations Legislation

Southeast Crescent Regional Commission	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023 NADO Request
SCRC Total Appropriation	\$250 thousand	\$250 thousand	\$250 thousand	\$1 million	\$5 million	\$33 million

### **CONGRESSIONAL ACTION NEEDED**

***Congress should increase Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies appropriations for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission to \$33 million in FY23 appropriations legislation.***

### **What is Southeast Crescent Regional Commission?**

The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) is a federal-state partnership agency originally created by Congress in 2008. SCRC’s service region includes more than 400 counties within a seven-state region that includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. SCRC’s mission is to build sustainable communities and strengthen economic growth across its region.

SCRC was originally established within the 2008 Farm Bill but was unable to operate until December 8, 2021 when the U.S. Senate confirmed SCRC’s first ever Federal Co-Chair, Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed, who was appointed by President Biden to lead the agency. With leadership now in place, the SCRC will begin making investments and fulfilling its Congressionally intended purpose of serving the Southeast Crescent region. Given the SCRC’s design as a federal-state partnership structure, Dr. Reed will work closely with the Governors of each of the seven SCRC states.

### **Current SCRC Funding Levels**

In Spring of 2023, SCRC will open its first competitive grant cycle. SCRC will make investments in basic public infrastructure; transportation infrastructure; telecommunications infrastructure; job skills training; business development and entrepreneurship; basic health care and other public services; conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open space; and

renewable and alternative energy sources. At least 50% of SCRC funds will be invested in economically distressed counties and areas of economic distress.

In 2023, SCRC will make available approximately \$14.5 million, a combined amount aggregated from FY23 appropriations, prior years' appropriations, and funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This will exhaust nearly all of the SCRC's existing resources. This collection of aggregated funds does not amount to even half of the overall funding level that the SCRC was authorized to receive by Congressional authorizers within the most recent 2018 Farm Bill.

SCRC has never received annual appropriations amounting to its full authorized level of \$33 million. In FY22, Congress appropriated \$5 million for SCRC in annual appropriations. The Congressional Appropriations Subcommittees that determine the level of annual appropriated funding for SCRC are the Energy and Water Development Subcommittees in the House and Senate.

## **Congressional Action Needed**

Currently, SCRC is not receiving enough funding to allow the agency to operate with a sufficient staff capacity, nor is the agency receiving enough funds to allow the SCRC's investments to have the full impact that Congress intended. Now that appointed leadership is in place to lead the agency, it is imperative for Congress to ensure that SCRC begins to receive the level of appropriations that the agency is authorized to receive: \$33 million.

***ACTION NEEDED:*** Congress should appropriate \$33 million for SCRC in FY23 appropriations legislation.

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## **Contact NADO**

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) advocates for federal policies and programs that promote economic competitiveness, equitable community development, rural development, economic mobility, and quality of place. For more information, please contact Mirielle Burgoyne, NADO Deputy Executive Director/Director of Government Relations, at [mburgoyne@nado.org](mailto:mburgoyne@nado.org)