



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Healthy People Healthy Communities

FY 2023-24 HWM Budget Hearing

January 18, 2023

Agency Goals



Partner with Stakeholders and Communities:

Promote partnerships to enhance the abilities of our communities across the state to promote and protect healthy people and environments.

Promote Healthy Outcomes:

Improve health outcomes and access to safe, quality health care services for all.

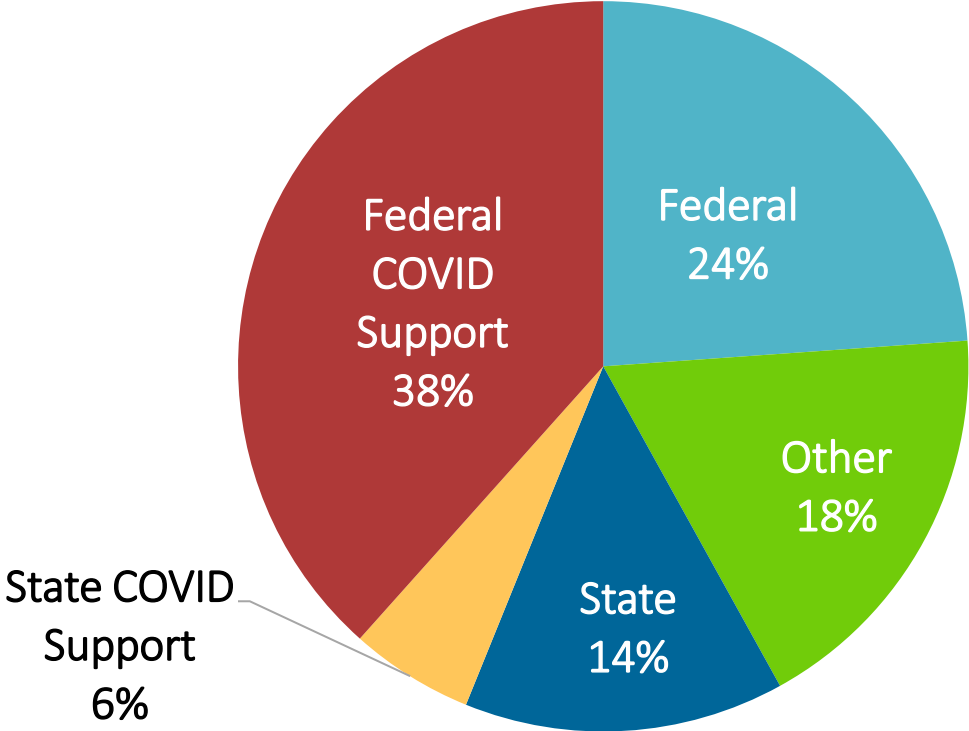
Protect the Environment:

Protect, enhance and restore the environment, while promoting a balance of equitable resource management.

Provide Quality Services:

Advance DHEC's organizational capacity to provide quality internal and external services by focusing on workforce recruitment, retention and engagement; agency funding and investments; and internal process improvements.

Spending by Funding Source



**Source: FY22 Actual Expenditures*

Staffing Summary

Employee Type	#
Total FTEs⁺	3,537
Hourly	369
Temporary Grant/Time Limited	188
TOTAL	4,094

+16.45% of FTE positions are vacant as of 1/5/23

Agency Administrative Overview

FY24 Budget Request



FY24 Budget Request

10 requests for state funds (\$26,216,985)

	Investing in our Workforce	\$5,937,400 (1)
	Supporting Economic Development	\$12,291,776 (6)
	Protecting Health & Safety	\$7,987,809 (3)

***Additional request for \$13M in federal authorization to support infrastructure grants**

Labor Market Challenges

Quick Stats

	October 2019	Sept. 2022	% Change
Average Turnover <i>(previous 12 months)</i>	15%	19%	27%
# of Vacant FTEs	542	661	22%
# Jobs Posted <i>(calendar month)</i>	187	273	46%
Average # of Applicants/Posting	19	8.6	-55%
Postings with 5 or Fewer Applicants	34%	54%	59%

Labor Market Challenges (cont.)

Employee Feedback

- **From employee feedback via focus groups and surveys:**
 - *~55% indicated leaving for higher pay*
 - *~45% left for a better chance of advancement*
- **When asked what would have made them stay:**
 - *~48% specifically mentioned higher pay*
 - *Flexible schedules and increased telecommuting*
 - *Increased career growth pathways/opportunities*

Supporting Our Workforce

- **We are working on:**
 - Expanded recruitment processes, including recruitment at both college and high school levels
 - Newly approved telecommuting policy (reduce from 1 year to 6 month wait)
 - Promotion of alternative work schedules
 - Career pathways, succession planning
- ***Competitive salaries remain an issue for us in meeting our responsibilities***

Critical Salary Increases



Recurring: \$5,937,400

- **Need:** Staff salaries are below state and comparable averages, contributing to high turnover and impacting critical services. Meanwhile, employees with specialized skills are in high demand.
- **Solution:** Increase salaries for **1,380 positions** in **52 targeted classifications**:
 - *Patient Care*
 - *Specially Trained Technical Staff*
 - *Critical IT and Financial Staff*
 - *Local Emergency Planning Staff*

* Represents a **2.5% increase to agency personnel spending**
- **Impact if not received:** Limited-service delivery will continue, including extended permit timeframes and lost public health appointments. We will be unable to retain expertise and qualified staff.

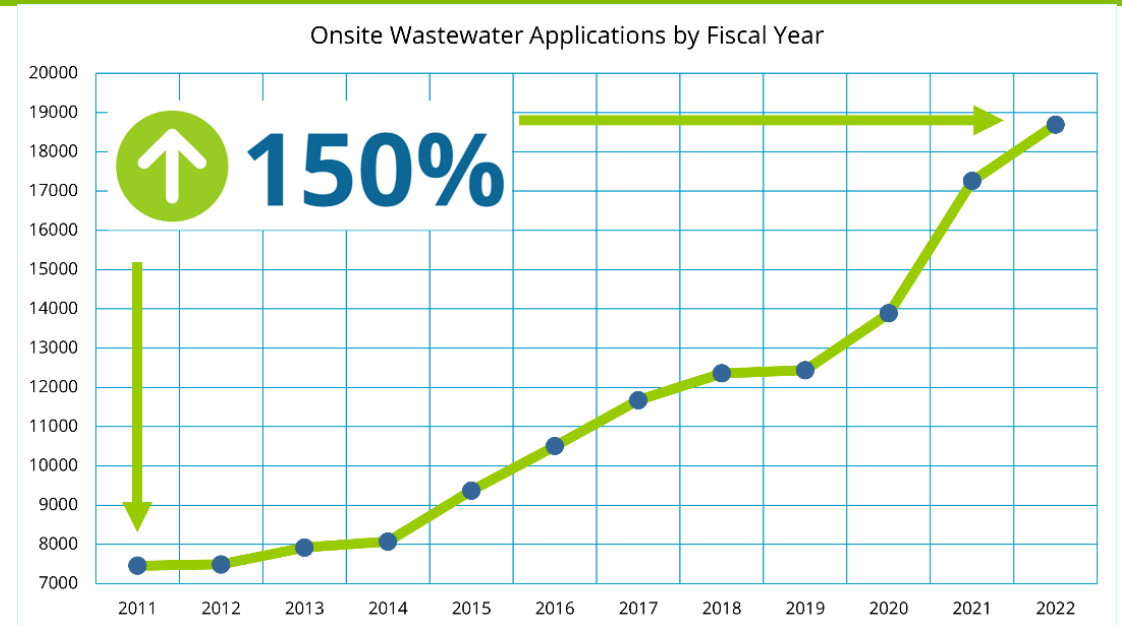
Priority
2

Septic Tank (Onsite Wastewater) Permitting Program



Recurring Request: \$5,230,379 (*funds 44 positions; 25 new, 19 existing*)

- **Need:** High demand and limited staff mean extended timeframes for septic system permits.
 - *Customers want a **15-day turnaround time***
 - *Fee is **\$150**; DHEC cost is **\$500/permit***
 - *Outsourcing costs up to **\$3000/permit***



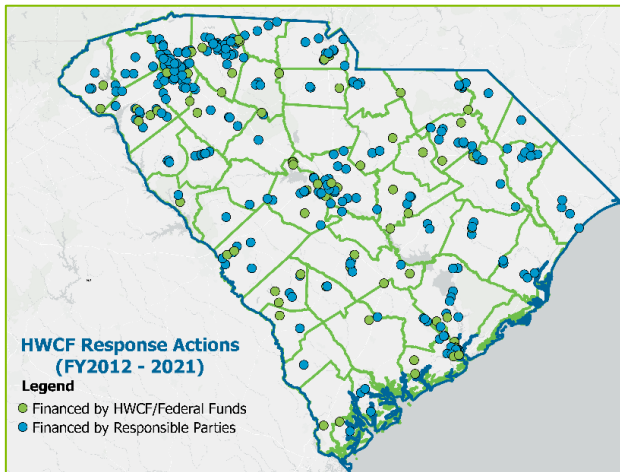
- **Solution:** Add staffing to **reduce permit time** and inspect all system installations.
- **Impact if not received:** Permit turnaround times will continue to increase, further delaying development and property closings.

Priority
3

Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Sites Contingency Fund (HWCF)



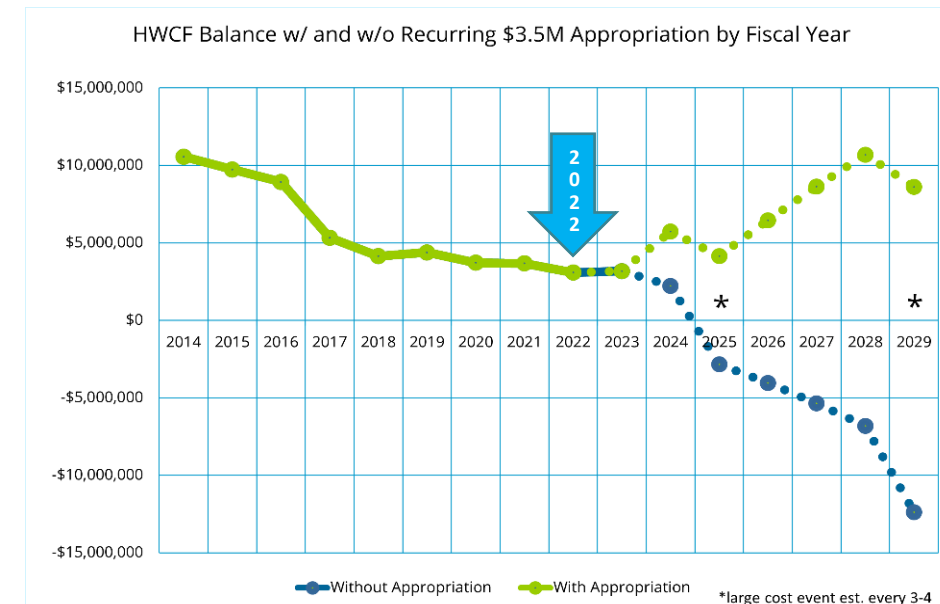
Recurring Request: \$3,500,000



- **Need:** The HWCF balance is insufficient to sustain both ongoing cleanup and response to major emergencies. Routine expenses are **\$1.5M more than revenue each year**.
- **Solution:** To ensure cleanups and oversight can happen, HWCF should be a recurring budget item due to insufficient funding from fees.

• **Impact if not received:** DHEC will be **unable to respond effectively to hazardous waste releases**.

- *Oversight and cleanup at **297 sites** would be eliminated*
- ***19 FTEs** lost*
- *South Carolina could no longer receive Federal Superfund resources for cleanups without required **10% state cost share***



Continuing Obesity Prevention Programs



Recurring Request: \$842,192 *(funds 5 existing positions)*

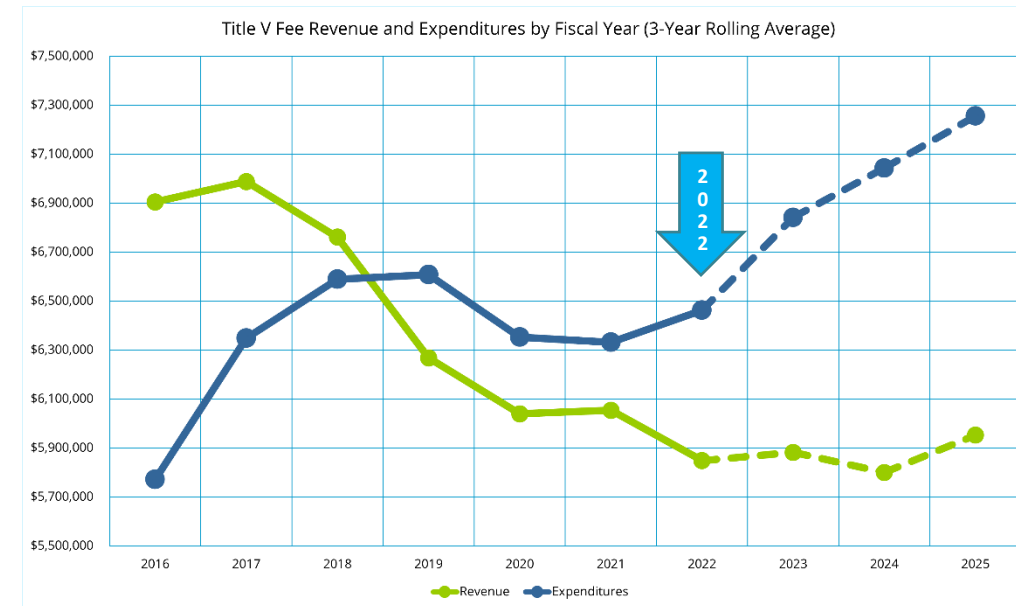
- **Need:** DHEC's obesity prevention program provides data and guidance for local efforts across the state. Grant funds will not support this program past FY 2023.
 - *DHEC provides FitnessGram and data analysis at **no cost** to all school districts, **meeting districts' state statutory requirements***
 - *Program works to support opportunities for healthy eating and active living at the state and local level*
 - *77% of young Americans are ineligible for military service; obesity is the most prevalent reason*
- **Solution:** Provide recurring resources to continue the program and support school districts, data collection and obesity prevention efforts across the state
- **Impact if not received:** **School districts must cover costs** of required data collection and reporting. SC loses leadership and infrastructure to reduce negative health outcomes.

Sustaining SC's Air Quality Program



Recurring Request: \$3,874,209 (funds 38 existing positions)

- **Need:** Federal air emission limits have become stricter, requiring more oversight. At the same time, fee revenue is declining.
 - *Funding is also needed to upgrade and maintain the air monitoring network, which provides critical data to determine attainment status with air quality standards*
 - *Attainment status has a direct impact on business decisions to locate or expand in SC*
- **Solution:** Move a portion of staff funding onto state appropriations and providing funding for monitoring equipment.
- **Impact if not received:** Without accurate air monitoring data supported by a modern network, industries cannot obtain permits and DHEC cannot ensure clean air for South Carolinians.
 - *Without adequate and sustainable funding, EPA may determine that SC is not adequately administering the program*
 - *EPA may withdraw delegation*
 - *Requiring permits and oversight to be transferred to EPA*



Facilitating Local Community Management of Coastal Resources



Recurring Request: \$943,246 (*funds 6 new positions*)

- **Need:** DHEC is required to make critical area line determinations and to provide beach profile data for the state. Determination requests and contractual costs have dramatically increased.
 - *Both programs establish lines of jurisdiction that are used in local planning procedures*
 - *Our limited funding to support this work is no longer adequate*
- **Solution:** Provide dedicated staff to make critical area line determinations and manage beachfront surveys. Provide funding for contractual beach profiles.
- **Impact if not received:** Local community decisions and growth will be delayed, impacting economic growth. Tools and data on beach and marsh changes will be limited.



Sustaining the Resource Conservation & Recovery Act Program (RCRA)



Recurring Request: \$540,125 *(funds 3 positions)*

- **Need:** The RCRA program works to ensure hazardous waste is managed properly. Federal grant reduction, loss of senior staff and complex permit determinations have reduced capacity in the RCRA program.
 - *Permit and review delays increase timeframes for development and place an undue burden on industry*
- **Solution:** Increase staffing levels in the program. This meets industry needs by reducing permit timeframes from **36 to 12 months** and providing regulatory relief.
- **Impact if not received: 32 permits** which expire by 2025 will not be renewed timely.
 - *Impacted industries will remain under older, often more stringent regulations*
 - *Reviews for other permit decisions and regulatory determinations will take longer*
 - *This impacts economic development, particularly in the recycling industry*
 - *Without staff to run the program, we risk losing delegation from EPA*

Priority
8

Expansion of Childhood Lead Protection Program



Recurring Request: \$3,645,617 (*funds 32 new positions*)

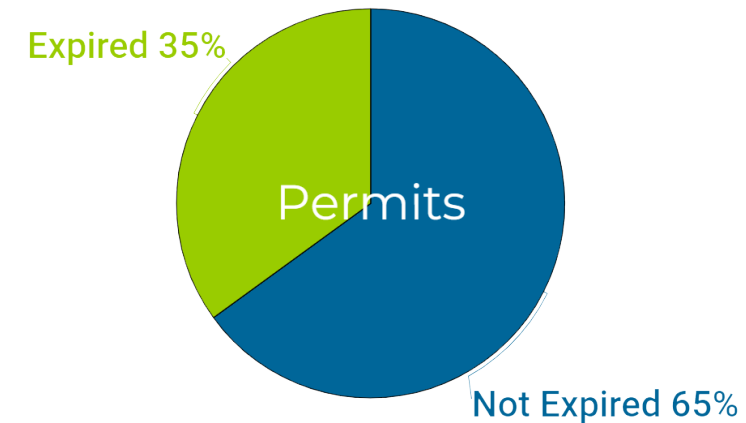
- **Need:** Exposure to lead can cause significant harm to children including irreversible impacts to behavior and development.
 - Even low levels can result in increased healthcare costs for families, state and federally-funded programs
 - DHEC currently serves children with blood lead levels of **10 mcg/dL or higher**
 - National threshold has recently been lowered to **3.5 mcg/dL**
- **Solution:** Provide funding to expand the program, allowing service for all children with blood lead levels of 3.5 mcg/dL or higher.
- **Impact if not received:** **620 children each year** with blood lead levels above reference value will remain untreated and will be at risk for permanent negative effects.

Wastewater Facilities Backlog Reduction



Recurring Request: \$540,529 (funds 5 new positions)

- **Need:** SC is facing a growing backlog of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewals which are required to be renewed every 5 years (Clean Water Act)
 - *This has recently been compounded by an increase in complex and controversial permits, as well as turnover due to a competitive job market*
 - *Federal grants have decreased, and fee revenue remains stagnant, which limits the ability to support current staff and increased costs*
 - **35% of South Carolina's permits** are currently expired
- **Solution:** Add staffing to reduce timeframes for issuance of wastewater permits. This will also eliminate the backlog over a period of 5 years once fully staffed.
- **Impact if not received:** Delayed permit reissuance of existing facilities will limit available stream capacity for new and expanding facilities resulting in negative economic impacts.



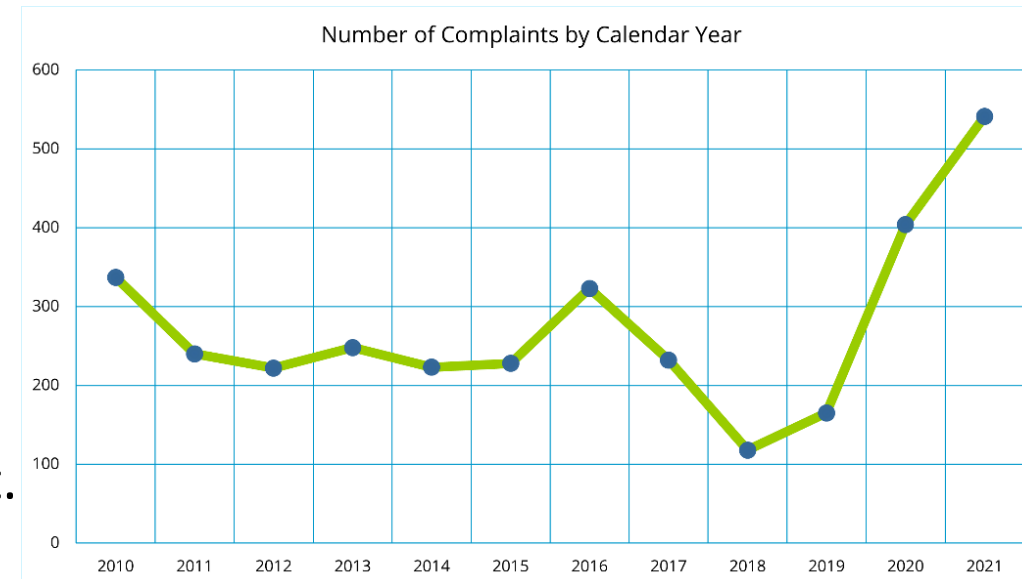
Enhancing Stormwater Permitting & Compliance



Recurring Request: \$1,163,288 (*funds 10 positions*)

Need: The Stormwater program responds to a high volume of complaints as well as routine inspections of construction sites and other facilities. Permits in coastal areas have also become more complex.

- *Complaints have increased dramatically since 2019*
- *Redirecting permit staff to address complaints increases permit issuance timeframes*
- **Solution:** Add **8 dedicated positions** for compliance assistance, training and complaint investigation, and **2 positions** for coastal area permits.
- **Impact if not received:** Lack of dedicated investigators to address complaints and engineers to process permits leads to extended timeframes which impacts development.



Additional Federal Authorization to Support Infrastructure Grants

Federal Spending Authorization Request: \$13,000,000

- Significant new federal investments are being made in both public health and water infrastructure
- Based on information from CDC and EPA, we anticipate additional annual grant spending of:
 - **\$11M** for public health infrastructure from the American Rescue Plan Act
 - **\$2M** for staff support of State Revolving Funds increased under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- We have managed the addition of smaller grants within current authorization, but cannot receive and spend these new resources without an increase

State Request Summary



Investing in our **WORKFORCE**
\$5,937,400

1 request



Supporting **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
\$12,291,776

6 requests



Protecting **HEALTH & SAFETY**
\$7,987,809

3 requests



Total State Request: \$26,216,985

Funds 76 New & 67 Existing Positions

Proviso Requests



Proviso Requests

Add

- Grant Authority
- Dam Safety Emergency Fund
- Deferred Maintenance Account

Amend

- Abstinence-Until-Marriage Emerging Programs (34.42)
- Abstinence Until Marriage Evidence-Based Programs (34.43)

Proviso Requests (cont.)

Delete

- Beach Renourishment and Monitoring and Coastal Access Improvement (34.29)
- Drainage Facilities (34.55)
- Solar Projects (34.56)
- Permit Extension (34.57)
- Poultry Manure Application (34.62)

Codify

- Infectious Waste Contingency Fund (34.16)
- Spoil Easement Areas Revenue (34.18)
- Permitted Site Fund (34.21)



Contact Us:

Bruce C. Busbee, Director

Office of Budgets and Financial Planning

Dr. Edward D. Simmer, Agency Director