Military Enhancement Fund
Grant Award Letter

October 1, 2026

Dr. Kim Moore
Superintendent, Richland School District Two
124 Risdon Way
Columbia, SC 29223

Re: Award of Military Enhancement Fund Grant

Dear Dr. Moore,

The South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs (SCDVA) is pleased to inform you that a Military Enhancement Fund Grant has been approved in the amount of $990,000.00 for the Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub project.

This letter and the attached Agreement contain the terms and conditions of accepting our Grant. Please read the Agreement carefully, sign, and return no later than October 31, 2026. After we receive your signed Agreement, SCDVA will disburse your Grant funds via SCEIS. Please contact SCDVA if you require assistance in registering as a vendor in SCEIS.

The Grant funds must be used specifically for the Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub project. You may submit a written request to change the scope of the Grant as described in the Agreement. Unexpended funds must be returned to the Military Enhancement Fund. You must file the attached Quarterly Accounting Report with SCDVA until all Grant funds are exhausted. If you delegate any requirements to a subawardee, you remain responsible for assuring they are completed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sandy Claypoole at 803-683-1361 or sandy.claypoole@scdva.sc.gov.

Sincerely,

Todd B. McCaffrey
Major General, U.S. Army (Ret)
Secretary, South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs

Military Enhancement Fund
Grant Award Agreement

This Grant Award Agreement (Agreement) is made and entered into as of **October 5, 2026** by and between the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs (SCDVA) and **Richland School District Two.**

1. Grant Amount
SCDVA agrees to grant to the County and the County agrees to accept from SCDVA a grant in the amount of **$990,000.00** from the Military Enhancement Fund.

2. Purpose of Grant
The purpose of this Grant is for the **Global and Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub Project.**

3. Disbursement of Grant Funds
SCDVA will disburse the total funds of **$990,000.00** to the County via SCEIS following the signing of this agreement.

4. Use of Grant Funds
The County shall use the Grant funds solely for the purpose of the **Global and Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub Project.** The County shall not use the Grant funds for any other purpose. If the funds are disbursed to a subawardee, the County remains responsible for ensuring the funds are used for **Global and Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub Project.** Failure to do so may result in recoupment of the grant amount, disqualification from future Grant applications, or both.

5. Reporting Requirements
The County shall submit to SCDVA quarterly progress reports on the designated Quarterly Accounting Form. The County shall submit the Quarterly Accounting Form until such time as the Grant funds are exhausted. If the funds are disbursed to a subawardee, the County remains responsible for ensuring the Quarterly Accounting Form is submitted. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from future Grant applications.

6. Audit and Inspection Requirements
The County shall allow SCDVA, the State Auditor's Office, or any designee to audit the use of the Grant funds at any time until the Grant funds are exhausted and for a period of three years thereafter. If the funds are disbursed to a subawardee, the County remains responsible for ensuring the records are maintained. The County shall also allow SCDVA or its designee to conduct inspections of the project.

7. Grant Amendment
Awards may be amended in scope. The County must return unexpended funds resulting from any amendment to SCDVA. SCDVA will not approve increases to the Grant amount.

8. Unexpended Funds
Any unexpended Grant funds remaining after the **Global and Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub Project** shall be returned to the Military Enhancement Fund. If the funds are disbursed to a subawardee, the County remains responsible for the return of unexpended funds.

9. Delegation
If Grant funds are passed through to a subawardee, you remain responsible for assuring requirements in this Agreement are met.

10. Termination
SCDVA may terminate this Grant and request the return of unspent funds if the County fails to comply with any of the terms of this Agreement, or funds are not used in the timely manner stated in the proposal.

11. Publicity
The County may publicize the Grant in recognition of Military Enhancement Fund support. SCDVA and the County may each disclose the other party's name and the amount of the Grant in internal and external communications. Neither party may use any other public communications related to the Grant without the prior written consent of the other party.

12. Governing Law
This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of South Carolina.

13. Scope of Agreement
This agreement governs only the award of the Grant under the Military Enhancement Fund. This agreement does not govern any other relationships between SCDVA and the County.

14. Entire Agreement
This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior agreements, representations, and understandings between the parties, whether written or oral.

15. Severability
If any provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable, such provision shall be struck from this Agreement and the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

16. Waiver
No waiver of any provision of this Agreement shall be effective unless in writing and signed by both parties.

17. Notices
All notices and other communications under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be delivered via email.
If to SCDVA: Sandy Claypoole sandy.claypoole@scdva.sc.gov

If to the County: [Name] Richland School District Two
[Email Address] mhuhtanen@richland2.org
or to such other email address as either party may designate in writing from time to time.

18. Headings
The headings in this Agreement are for convenience only and shall not affect its interpretation.

19. Counterparts
This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the Effective Date.

For SCDVA:

Signature _____

Printed Name: Todd B. McCaffrey

Title: Secretary, South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs

For the County: Richland School District Two

Signature _____

Printed Name Kim D. Moore

Title Superintendent

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT TWO

August 25, 2026

Secretary Todd McCaffrey
SC Department of Veterans Affairs
1800 St. Julian Place, Suite 305
Columbia, SC 29204

Dear Secretary McCaffrey:

On behalf of Richland School District Two, we respectfully submit this request for $990,000 through the Military Enhancement Plan Grant to support renovations of the Decker Collective Compass Site and the establishment of the Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub in partnership with Serve and Connect.

This initiative will create a centralized destination where military families, veterans, students, international families, and community members can access resources, build meaningful relationships, and engage in opportunities that strengthen quality of life, improve installation resilience, and enhance the long-term military value of the Fort Jackson region.

Richland School District Two Serves a uniquely diverse and highly military-connected population. Within Richland School District Two are Fort Jackson, the U.S. Army's largest Initial Entry Training installation, South Carolina Army and Air National Guard members, Army Reserve personnel, Department of War civilians, contractors, military retirees, and veterans who live and work throughout the Midlands.

As one of South Carolina's leading Purple Star districts, Richland Two serves approximately 3,500 military-connected students, representing nearly 12 percent of the district's enrollment. Within the immediate Decker Boulevard corridor and surrounding attendance zones alone, over 400 military-connected students attend district schools in the area.

This proposal reflects a strategic investment in both military readiness and community resilience. Providing a dedicated space for connection, support, and access to resources will strengthen military family support systems and reinforce the Midlands as an outstanding community for service members and their families.

Please see the following detailed proposal that shows how this project will enhance military value, strengthen installation resilience, improve military family quality of life, and make a lasting community impact.

Sincerely,

Kim D. Moore, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Kim D. Moore, Ed.D.
Superintendent
kimmoore@richland2.org
www.richland2.org

Visit at: 763 Fashion Drive, Columbia, SC 29229 ~ Mail to: 124 Risdon Way, Columbia, SC 29223
PHONE 803.738.3236 ~ FAX 803.738.7393

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT TWO

Mark Huhtanen <mhuhtanen@richland2.org>

[-EXTERNAL-] SCDVA Military Enhancement Proposal

1 message

Carl Blackstone <cblackstone@columbiachamber.com> Tue, Aug 18, 2026 at 12:59 PM
To: "mhuhtanen@richland2.org" <mhuhtanen@richland2.org>
Cc: "Sandy Claypoole (sandy.claypoole@scdva.sc.gov)" <sandy.claypoole@scdva.sc.gov>

Col,

Appreciate your time today in briefing me on Richland Two's SCDVA Military Enhancement proposal. I appreciate the thoroughness of the proposal and the number of stakeholders that you have partnered with on this project.

Per our conversation, because this project is located in Richland County, I cannot vote on it. I am happy to report to the group and answer any high level questions they may have.

Thanks again for your time.

Carl

CARL W. BLACKSTONE

President & CEO

COLUMBIACHAMBER

cblackstone@ColumbiaChamber.com

@CarlBlackstone

DIRECT 803.733.1111 | CELL 803.429.3637

1225 Lady Street, Suite 100 | Columbia, SC 29201

Visit us online at COLUMBIACHAMBER.COM

Save Contact Information

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY TRAINING CENTER AND FORT JACKSON
2400 JACKSON BOULEVARD
FORT JACKSON SC 29207-5015

July 20, 2026

Secretary Todd McCaffrey
SC Department of Veterans Affairs
1800 St. Julian Place, Suite 305
Columbia, SC 29204

Dear Secretary McCaffrey:

The purpose of this letter is to acknowledge Richland School District Two's request for Military Enhancement Funds to support renovations of the Decker Collective Compass Site in partnership with Serve and Connect. These renovations will serve to improve outreach to military families at a location that is close to Fort Jackson, with easy access for many military families that reside off the installation. It is my understanding these renovations will provide a location for educational outreach as a dedicated resource hub for military connected families outside the installation. This location will allow for a smooth transition of military families in and out of the district and therefore improve their quality of life as they serve.

While this letter is not a federal endorsement it does serve as acknowledgment that I am aware of the project, and Fort Jackson appreciates the support it receives from our community partners.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact COL Robin Husted, Army Training Center and Fort Jackson Deputy Commander at 803.751.2356 or robin.d.husted.mil@army.mil.

HOOD.DARYL.ONEAL.1064927465 Digitally signed by HOOD.DARYL.ONEAL.1064927465 Date: 2026.07.21 09:03:50 -04'00'

DARYL O. HOOD
Major General, USA
Commanding

Richland County Sheriff's Department

LEON LOTT
Sheriff

July 16, 2026

South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs
Military Enhancement Fund Review Committee

Re: Letter of Support for the Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub

Dear Members of the Review Committee:

On behalf of the Richland County Sheriff's Department, I am pleased to offer our strong support for Richland School District Two's application to the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs Military Enhancement Fund for the Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub, developed in partnership with Serve & Connect.

The Richland County Sheriff's Department has enjoyed a longstanding and productive partnership with both Richland School District Two and Serve & Connect, working together to strengthen public safety, build trust, and improve outcomes for families throughout our community. Through years of collaboration, we have seen firsthand how coordinated partnerships between education, nonprofit organizations, and law enforcement create safer, more resilient communities by connecting residents with the resources and relationships they need to thrive.

The proposed Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub represents an important investment in both community safety and community resilience. With Richland School District Two serving as the lead applicant and Serve & Connect providing its proven expertise in community engagement and resource coordination, this initiative will establish a centralized location where military-connected families, veterans, and newcomers can access services, build meaningful connections, and receive coordinated support. Located just three miles from Fort Jackson, the Center is ideally situated to serve the military community while strengthening the broader Richland County community.

5623 Two Notch Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29223
Office: (803) 576-3000 Fax: (803) 576-3197
WWW.RCSD.NET
SHERIFF@RCSD.NET

Fort Jackson is one of South Carolina's most important military installations, and the readiness of our service members is closely tied to the well-being of their families. Ensuring that military members, veterans, and their loved ones can easily connect to essential services, educational opportunities, and community support strengthens not only their quality of life but also the long-term military value of Fort Jackson. The Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub directly advances the goals of the Military Enhancement Fund by enhancing the community infrastructure that supports those who serve our nation.

As a law enforcement agency committed to prevention, partnership, and community engagement, the Richland County Sheriff's Department is proud to support this collaborative effort. We believe this initiative will enhance our collective ability to serve military members, veterans, and their families while fostering stronger partnerships among schools, public safety agencies, local government, nonprofit organizations, and community stakeholders. These connections are essential to building a safer, more resilient Richland County for generations to come.

I respectfully encourage the Review Committee to give this proposal its full and favorable consideration. Richland School District Two and Serve & Connect have consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership and an unwavering commitment to strengthening our community through collaboration. We are confident the Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub will become a lasting asset that improves the lives of military-connected families, veterans, and the entire Richland County community.

Thank you for your continued commitment to supporting South Carolina's military installations, service members, veterans, and their families.

Sincerely,

Leon Lott
Sheriff

7.15.26

South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs
Military Enhancement Fund Review Committee

Re: Letter of Support for the Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub

Dear Members of the Review Committee:

As Military Co-Chair of the Midlands Veteran Engagement Council (MVEC), I am pleased to offer my enthusiastic support for Richland School District Two's application to the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs Military Enhancement Fund for the **Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub**, developed in partnership with Serve & Connect.

The Midlands Veteran Engagement Council is committed to strengthening the network of organizations that serve veterans, service members, and their families throughout the Midlands. Through collaboration, resource sharing, and coordinated referrals, MVEC works to ensure that those who have served our nation can more easily access the support and services they need to thrive. We have been proud to partner with both Richland School District Two and Serve & Connect in advancing this shared mission, and we believe this initiative represents a significant opportunity to further strengthen our collective impact.

The Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub will provide an accessible, centralized location where military-connected families, veterans, transitioning service members, and newcomers can connect with trusted organizations, educational resources, and community services. By bringing together public agencies, schools, nonprofit organizations, and veteran-serving partners under a coordinated framework, the Center will reduce barriers to access, improve resource navigation, and strengthen the referral network that is so essential to supporting military and veteran families.

For organizations like MVEC, the value of this initiative lies in its ability to bridge existing resources rather than duplicate them. The Welcome Center will create new opportunities for collaboration among veteran-serving organizations, enabling partners to make more effective referrals, share information, identify service gaps, and ensure individuals are connected to the right resources at the right time. This coordinated approach will enhance outcomes for veterans while making the overall support system more responsive and efficient.

Located just three miles from Fort Jackson, the Center is strategically positioned to support one of South Carolina's largest military populations. As service members transition to civilian life and families relocate to the Midlands, having a welcoming, trusted point of connection will make a

meaningful difference in helping them establish community ties, access available benefits, and successfully navigate the many services available throughout the region.

The Midlands Veteran Engagement Council strongly believes that supporting veterans and military families requires intentional partnerships and sustained collaboration across sectors. Richland School District Two and Serve & Connect have consistently demonstrated their commitment to bringing organizations together to solve complex challenges, and the Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub builds upon that proven foundation.

We respectfully encourage the Review Committee to give this proposal its full and favorable consideration. This investment will strengthen the network of care for veterans and military families, improve coordination among community partners, and reinforce South Carolina's commitment to those who have served our nation.

Thank you for your continued dedication to supporting South Carolina's military installations, veterans, service members, and their families.

Sincerely,

Lamont 'CHRIS' Christian
Military Co-Chair
Midlands Veterans Engagement Counsel

LRADAC
Improving Lives. Improving Communities.

LRADAC.ORG

P.O. Box 50597
Columbia, SC 29250

June 26, 2026

Military Enhancement Program Review Committee

RE: Letter of Support for Richland School District Two's Global Welcome Center and Family Wraparound Services Initiative

Dear Review Committee Members:

On behalf of LRADAC, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Richland School District Two's Military Enhancement Plan grant application to establish and expand the Global & Military Welcome Center and the Family Wraparound Services Hub initiative.

As the region's leading provider of substance use prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery support services, LRADAC recognizes the unique challenges faced by military-connected children and families. Frequent relocations, deployments, family separations, transitions between school systems, and the stressors associated with military life can create barriers to family stability, student success, and overall well-being. These challenges affect not only individual families but also military readiness and community resilience.

Richland Two serves more than 3,500 military-connected students. The proposed Global & Military Welcome Center will serve as a centralized resource hub that helps all families quickly connect to educational, behavioral health, and community resources upon arrival in the Columbia area. By reducing barriers to services and strengthening family support systems, the Center will enhance the quality of life for all families, including military-connected families, and contribute to a more resilient community.

LRADAC is committed to partnering with Richland Two to provide prevention, intervention, and support services that will strengthen family stability and improve outcomes for youth and families. Through this partnership, LRADAC intends to support the initiative through:

- Providing evidence-based substance use prevention programming for youth, families, and community members.
- Delivering educational workshops and awareness activities focused on substance misuse prevention, healthy coping skills, resilience, and protective factors.
- Providing screening, referral, and resource coordination services for individuals and families who may benefit from prevention or treatment supports.
- Expanding access to behavioral health and prevention resources through on-site services, outreach activities, and community engagement opportunities.
- Providing harm-reduction education and resources, including overdose prevention education and access to lifesaving resources when appropriate.

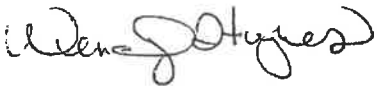
- Collaborating with Richland Two and community partners to identify emerging needs among military-connected students and families and develop responsive prevention strategies.

This initiative represents an important investment in military family quality of life by creating a coordinated system of care that supports families before challenges become crises. By increasing access to prevention services, reducing barriers to care, and strengthening community connections, the Global & Military Welcome Center and Family Wraparound Services model will help m families establish stability more quickly, improve student well-being and school engagement, and enhance the overall resilience of the Richland Two community.

Strong communities contribute to strong military installations. When military families have access to high-quality schools, trusted community resources, and coordinated support systems, service members are better positioned to focus on mission requirements with confidence that their families are supported.

LRADAC fully supports Richland School District Two's Military Enhancement Program proposal and looks forward to collaborating in the implementation of this important initiative.

Kind regards,



Wendy Hughes, President & CEO
LRADAC

FOREST ACRES

5209 North Trenholm Road
Forest Acres SC 29206
803.782.9475

Thomas E. Andrews III
MAYOR

COUNCIL
H Haskell Kibler
David D Black
Ryan W Newton
Stephen E Oliver

William C Dillard Jr.
CITY ATTORNEY

Shaun M Greenwood
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

August 7, 2026

South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs
Military Enhancement Fund Review Committee

Re: Letter of Support for the Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub

Dear Members of the Review Committee:

On behalf of the City of Forest Acres, I am pleased to offer our strong support for Richland School District Two's application to the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs Military Enhancement Fund for the Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub, developed in partnership with Serve & Connect.

Although the proposed Welcome Center is located outside the municipal boundaries of Forest Acres, its proximity to our community and its strategic location near Fort Jackson make it an important regional investment. The City of Forest Acres has long recognized that supporting military families and veterans is a shared responsibility that extends beyond jurisdictional boundaries. The success of Fort Jackson and the well-being of those who serve our nation benefit the entire Midlands region, including our residents, businesses, and community partners.

The proposed Welcome Center will be located along the Decker Boulevard corridor, an area that serves as a key gateway for many military families and visitors traveling to and from Fort Jackson. Continued investment and revitalization along this corridor are essential to ensuring that our region remains welcoming, connected, and supportive of military personnel, veterans, and their families. Creating a centralized hub where individuals can easily access resources, build community connections, and receive coordinated support enhances not only quality of life but also the overall military friendliness and competitiveness of our region.

The City of Forest Acres values the collaborative leadership demonstrated by Richland School District Two and Serve & Connect. By bringing together education, nonprofit organizations, local governments, and community partners, the Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub will strengthen the network of support available to military-connected families while encouraging continued investment in one of the region's most important corridors.

As neighboring communities, our futures are interconnected. Investments that strengthen the Decker Boulevard corridor, improve access to services, and foster stronger community partnerships have positive impacts that extend well beyond a single jurisdiction. This project

represents the type of regional collaboration that enhances economic vitality, promotes community resilience, and reinforces the Midlands' reputation as one of the nation's premier military-friendly communities.

The City of Forest Acres respectfully encourages the Review Committee to give this proposal its full and favorable consideration. We are confident the Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub will provide lasting benefits for military families, veterans, and the entire Midlands region while strengthening the partnerships that make our communities better places to live, work, and serve.

Thank you for your continued commitment to supporting South Carolina's military installations, service members, veterans, and their families.

Sincerely,

FOREST ACRES CITY COUNCIL

Mayor

Mayor Pro Tempore

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

ARCADIA LAKES
Seven Lakes. One Town.

Janet Holland, *Mayor*
Linda Jackson, *Mayor Pro Tem*
Peter Chesney
Wrenn Barrett
George Floyd

Town Clerk
Elizabeth S. Krajewski

August 12, 2026

South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs
Military Enhancement Fund Review Committee

Re: Letter of Support for the Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub

Dear Members of the Review Committee:

On behalf of the Town of Arcadia Lakes, I am pleased to offer our strong support for Richland School District Two's application to the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs Military Enhancement Fund for the Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub, developed in partnership with Serve & Connect.

As a community neighboring Fort Jackson, the Town of Arcadia Lakes has long recognized the vital role the installation plays in the economic vitality, quality of life, and identity of our region. We are proud to be part of a community that welcomes service members, veterans, and their families, and we value initiatives that strengthen the support systems they rely upon throughout their military journey.

While the proposed Welcome Center will be located just outside the Town's boundaries, its location along the Decker Boulevard corridor places it within one of the most important gateways to Fort Jackson and in close proximity to our community. Investments in this corridor benefit the entire region by enhancing the experience of military families, improving access to coordinated services, and reinforcing the Midlands' reputation as a welcoming and military-friendly place to live, work, and serve.

The Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub will provide a centralized location where military-connected families, veterans, transitioning service members, and internationally connected families can access trusted resources, educational opportunities, and community support. By bringing together Richland School District Two, Serve & Connect, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and other community partners, this initiative will improve coordination, reduce barriers to services, and strengthen the network of support available to those who have sacrificed in service to our nation.

The Town of Arcadia Lakes also recognizes the importance of continued investment and revitalization along the Decker Boulevard corridor. Strengthening this area through community-centered development and expanded services not only improves quality of life for nearby residents but also enhances the long-term military value of Fort Jackson by ensuring military families are welcomed into a connected, vibrant, and supportive community.

We commend Richland School District Two and Serve & Connect for their collaborative leadership and shared vision for this project. Their partnership reflects the type of regional cooperation needed to address the evolving needs of military families while building stronger, more resilient communities throughout Richland County.

The Town of Arcadia Lakes respectfully encourages the Review Committee to give this proposal its full and favorable consideration. We are confident the Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub will become a valuable regional asset that strengthens support for military families, veterans, and the broader Midlands community while reinforcing South Carolina's longstanding commitment to those who serve.

Thank you for your continued dedication to supporting South Carolina's military installations, service members, veterans, and their families.

Sincerely,

Janet Holland, Mayor
Town of Arcadia Lakes

Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub Proposal

Executive Summary:

Richland School District Two proposes the further development and expansion of a Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub at Greg's Place, a centralized destination designed to strengthen quality of life, improve installation resilience, and reduce barriers to access for military families and students. This initiative will create a coordinated entry point where resources and relationships can be accessed to enhance the long-term military value of the Fort Jackson region.

Military families often navigate complex and highly personal circumstances that require a **safe, private, and confidential environment** to discuss their needs and receive appropriate support. The Global & Military Welcome Center will provide dedicated space where individuals can access resources and information while also having the privacy to share concerns, ask questions, and receive individualized guidance in a professional and supportive setting.

The proposed initiative focuses on the comprehensive renovation of two facilities encompassing 5,000 square feet leased from Serve & Connect, creating a specialized environment tailored to the needs of the Fort Jackson community. Currently, many military-connected families and students face significant geographic and logistical barriers to accessing the central District office, often resulting in support services being coordinated in informal, public settings like restaurants or coffee shops that lack necessary privacy. By establishing **dedicated offices, private consultation areas, and instructional spaces**, the proposed renovations will create a secure, welcoming, and accessible environment where military families and veterans can engage with District personnel, military representatives, and community service organizations to explore essential resources, educational opportunities, and support services. The project will also prioritize **ADA compliance and accessibility**, while creating a visible and coordinated entry point to District services. These improvements will reduce barriers to accessing support, protect the privacy and dignity of those seeking assistance, and foster a stronger sense of **belonging, connection, and trust** for military-connected families and veterans.

Situated within the Serve & Connect campus, this site provides a centralized destination for more than 400 military-connected families and students, positioned strategically between Fort Jackson and the central District office. The location ensures high visibility and ease of access via the Decker Boulevard and Percival Road corridors, as well as the Interstate 20 and 77 interchanges.

Military-Connected Student Data Highlights

- **Total Enrollment:** The district serves approximately 3,500 military-connected students, representing nearly 12 percent of the district's total enrollment.
- **Local Concentration:** Within the immediate Decker Boulevard corridor and surrounding attendance zones alone, over 400 military-connected students attend district schools in the area.

- **Poverty Metrics:** Of the 3,498 military-connected pupils, 1,104 are in the Pupils in Poverty status, which equates to 31.5% of the military-connected population.
- **Housing Stability:** For the 2025-26 period, 29 military-connected students were identified under the McKinney-Vento Act, representing 5% of the total population experiencing homelessness.

By creating a visible and community-centered entry point for essential services—including educational transition support and resource navigation—the proposed project aims to mitigate the challenges of relocation and economic instability while fostering a greater sense of belonging and improved outcomes for students.

Strengthening Military-Community Connections Around Fort Jackson Through the Development of a Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub

Richland School District Two proposes the development and expansion of a Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub in partnership with Serve & Connect at Greg's Place, a community-centered campus located near Fort Jackson in the Decker Boulevard corridor. This initiative will create a centralized destination where military families, students, international families, and community members can access resources, build relationships, and engage in opportunities that strengthen quality of life, improve installation resilience, and enhance the long-term military value of the Fort Jackson region.

Within Richland School District Two are Fort Jackson, the U.S. Army's largest Initial Entry Training installation, South Carolina Army and Air National Guard members, Army Reserve personnel, Department of War civilians, and contractors who live and work throughout the Midlands. As one of South Carolina's leading Purple Star districts, Richland Two serves approximately 3,500 military-connected students, representing nearly 12 percent of the district's enrollment. Within the immediate Decker Boulevard corridor and surrounding attendance zones alone, over 400 military-connected students attend district schools in the area.

Military families frequently experience challenges associated with military life, including permanent change of station (PCS) moves, deployment-related family stress, educational transitions, social isolation, and the need to rapidly establish community connections. Families arriving in a new community must quickly learn how to navigate school systems, healthcare providers, community resources, and support networks while simultaneously helping children adapt to a new environment. Military families living off installation often face similar challenges when attempting to identify and access available services throughout the region.

While many resources exist across the Midlands, they are frequently dispersed across multiple agencies, organizations, and locations. As a result, families often struggle to identify available services, understand eligibility requirements, or access support before challenges escalate into crises. The proposed project addresses this gap by creating a visible, coordinated, and community-centered destination where military families and community members can connect with the resources and relationships they need to thrive.

The project is anchored at **Greg's Place**, a 12,000-square-foot campus situated on more than four acres in the Decker Boulevard corridor. Serve & Connect acquired the property with the vision of preserving and developing a long-term community asset where neighbors can gather, youth can thrive, families can access support, and community partners can work together to strengthen the surrounding community. Through this partnership, Richland School District Two and Serve & Connect are creating a campus designed to support military families while simultaneously strengthening the broader community surrounding Fort Jackson.

The campus vision includes three interconnected components.

The Global & Military Welcome Center will serve as a coordinated entry point for military-connected students and families entering Richland School District Two and the broader Fort Jackson community. Services will include enrollment assistance, educational transition support, Interstate Compact guidance, language interpretation services, family orientation, educational navigation, and connections to school and community resources. The Welcome Center will help military families establish stability more quickly following relocation while ensuring students experience educational continuity and a strong sense of belonging.

The Community Connection Hub will provide centralized access to services and opportunities that support military families, and community members. Through partnerships with community organizations, military-serving agencies, healthcare providers, workforce development organizations, and other stakeholders, individuals will be connected to healthcare and behavioral health services, service benefits, financial empowerment resources, workforce development opportunities, entrepreneurship support, family services, and other critical resources. Rather than duplicating existing services, the Hub will serve as a bridge that helps individuals navigate available resources while improving coordination among providers and reducing barriers to access.

The campus will also include The Together Place, a large gathering and programming venue designed to bring people together through shared experiences and opportunities. The Together Place will host military family and engagement activities, youth development programs, workforce and entrepreneurship training, financial literacy workshops, cultural celebrations, leadership development opportunities, community meetings, educational programs, and partner-led activities. By creating a welcoming space where military and civilian populations can gather, learn, and build relationships, The Together Place will strengthen community cohesion and foster a greater sense of belonging for those who call the Fort Jackson region home.

Enhancing Military Value

The strength of military installations is influenced not only by mission capabilities but also by the quality of life available to service members and their families. Communities that provide accessible services, strong schools, safe neighborhoods, opportunities for connection, and coordinated support systems are better positioned to attract and retain military personnel.

The proposed Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub will serve as a visible support structure for military-connected families entering the Columbia and Fort Jackson community. By providing educational transition support, resource navigation, language services, family engagement opportunities, and connections to community partners, the project will help military families establish stability more quickly following relocation and strengthen their connection to the broader community.

The project also recognizes that military value extends beyond the installation itself. Military families live in neighborhoods, attend local schools, utilize community services, and participate in civic life. Investments that strengthen youth development, educational success, economic

opportunity, family stability, and community connection ultimately strengthen the quality of life experienced by military families and contribute to military readiness.

Strengthening Installation Resilience

Installation resilience depends upon strong partnerships among military installations, schools, local governments, healthcare providers, nonprofit organizations, and community members. The proposed project creates a centralized location where these partners can collaborate, coordinate services, identify emerging needs, and provide proactive support before challenges become crises.

Military families experiencing deployment-related stress, educational transitions, housing instability, financial challenges, or social isolation will have a trusted place to access support. Those also seeking benefits, employment opportunities, or connections to community resources will have a clear entry point into available services. Community organizations will have opportunities to coordinate efforts and improve service delivery through shared relationships and common space.

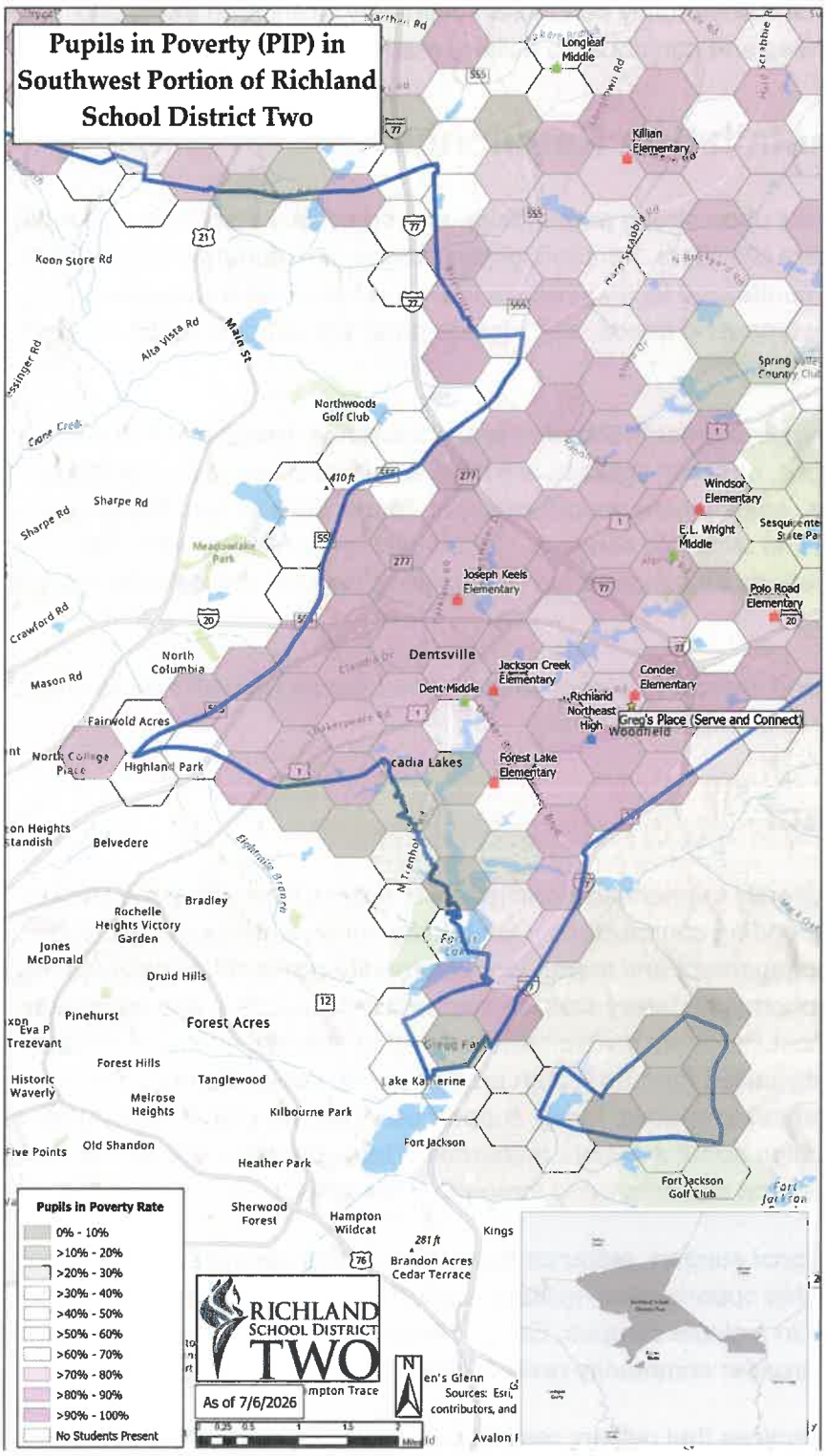
By reducing fragmentation and improving access to resources, the project will help strengthen resilience at both the family and community levels.

Community Impact

The project also responds directly to priorities identified by residents throughout the Decker Boulevard corridor and surrounding communities. Community surveys conducted between 2022 and 2025 identified youth engagement and mentoring, community-police relationships, mental health support, economic opportunity, family stability, resource accessibility, and community connection as among the most important investments needed to improve quality of life and safety. Residents consistently called for more youth programming, stronger mentoring opportunities, community gathering spaces, family support services, workforce opportunities, and better access to information about available resources. These priorities closely align with the needs of military families, and students living throughout the area.

By bringing together educational support, resource navigation, family services, workforce development, entrepreneurship opportunities, military support, youth programming, and community engagement within a single campus, Greg's Place will serve as both a military-family resource and a catalyst for broader community revitalization.

Ultimately, this initiative recognizes that military readiness and military family well-being are deeply connected to the strength of the surrounding community. Through the partnership between Richland School District Two and Serve & Connect, the Global & Military Welcome Center, Community Connection Hub, and Together Place will create a lasting community asset that strengthens military value, enhances installation resilience, improves family outcomes, and contributes to a stronger and more connected Fort Jackson region.



Greg's Place location within the District based on Pupils in Poverty Locations.

Impact of this Project by the numbers:

In the 2025 Military Family 360 survey conducted by the Military Family Advisory Network 84.4% of respondents stated they pay more than they could comfortably afford for housing, rent, and utilities. Of the respondents 41.2% stated they have low to very low food security when looking at their income. These statistics align with what Richland District Two and Serve and Connect see within the population of the areas we are trying to serve. While the MFAN survey was nationwide (52%) where serving Army families, it is safe to assume local serving families face many of the same challenges, the following will show the data kept by the District that speaks to this demographic; Pupils in Poverty, McKinney Vento Students, and Chronic Absenteeism.

(Survey: https://www.mfan.org/research-reports/2025-military-family-360-report/)

Pupils in Poverty Data

As the map on the previous page shows Richland School District Two has a Pupils in Poverty(PIP) rate of 65%. This is not only significant but correlates directly to our military connected pupils. Of our 3,498 military connected pupils, 1,104 are in the Pupils in Poverty status. This equates to 31.5% or our military connected pupils. The following charts show both the breakdown of Military connected students and total Pupils in Poverty by school in the area that Greg's Place will Serve.

Military Connected Pupils in Poverty for Richland District Two

Total Military Connected Students	3498
Total PIP Military Connected Students	1104
% Military Connected Students PIP	31.50%

Richland School District Two Pupils in Poverty by School

School	PIP %
Richland Northeast High	78.35%
Dent Middle	67.13%
EL Wright Middle	68.94%
LW Conder Elementary	89.47%
Forest Lake Elementary	65.91%
Jackson Creek Elementary	92.31%
Joseph Keels Elementary	95.54%

Data Source: Richland Two Planning Website

A Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub can reduce the impact living in poverty has on children and families by:

- Lowering barriers to help
- Stabilizing basic needs

- Strengthening family-school relationships
- Improving attendance and engagement
- Building dignity, trust, and belonging
- Shifting the system from crisis response to prevention and stability

Number of Identified McKinney Vento Students

The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law ensuring that students experiencing homelessness have immediate access to a free and appropriate education. Homelessness in the Act applies to children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence which can include transition homes, hotels, and other temporary lodging. The below chart shows the number of McKinney Vento Students that are military connected with family members in the National Guard, Reserve, and Active Duty and tied to Richland School District Two.

2025-26 Military-Connected Students Identified as McKinney Vento

2025-26 Total Number Homeless Military Connected Students	29 students - 5% of total MCV population
A Parent or Guardian is serving Full-time in the National Guard and is not currently deployed	2 students
A Parent or Guardian is serving Full-time in the Reserves and is not currently deployed	6 students
A Parent or Guardian is serving Full-time in the Reserves and is currently deployed	1 students
A Parent or Guardian is serving in the military on active duty member and is not deployed	15 students
A Parent or Guardian is serving in the military on active duty and is currently deployed	2 students
The Student's Parent or Guardian died while on active duty within the last year	3 students

Again a Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub will help build a system that prevents instability, stabilizes faster, and keeps students connected to school and community. These services will help our community to:

- Reduce how many families fall into crisis
- Shorten how long families stay in crisis
- Improve attendance, stability, and belonging
- Strengthen supports for military-connected and mobile families
- Make schools and communities more proactive, not just reactive

Percentage of Students Chronically Absent

Chronic absenteeism is another measurement used by the district to look for pupils in need. While this is hard to directly collate the number of military children we do know that off-cycle permanent change of station, family changes, and other traumatic events faced by military families can lead to absenteeism. Students who feel disconnected from their school and community are less likely to attend, while those who feel valued and a sense of belonging are more likely to show up, participate, and succeed. Building belonging is therefore a key strategy for improving both attendance and student outcomes. In addition, ongoing absences often signal unmet safety needs, including social, emotional, or mental health concerns—not just motivation or family issues.The below chart shows the district's current numbers.

School	2025-26*	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Richland Northeast High	27.00%	31.31%	28.81%	39.52$	36.00%
Dent Middle	20.71%	23.09%	20.55%	23.47%	28.26%
EL Wright Middle	17.27%	19.60%	17.34%	19.37%	18.26%
LW Conder Elementary	20.56%	25.00%	26.63%	24.32%	22.73%
Forest Lake Elementary	17.72%	21.96%	21.46%	19.41%	18.25%
Jackson Creek Elementary	19.82%	27.19%	21.94%	25.12%	22.74%
Joseph Keels Elementary	24.13%	30.04%	32.66%	29.39%	31.60%

*2025-26 Unofficial Data - Official data available in the fall of 2026

In closing, with our narrative these statistics speak directly to the need for a place for military connected families and students to have an easily accessible place to be educated, connected and receive services. While this campus will serve an even broader need, it's important to remember that our military is a cross section of our Nation, and Columbia, SC is no different.

Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub

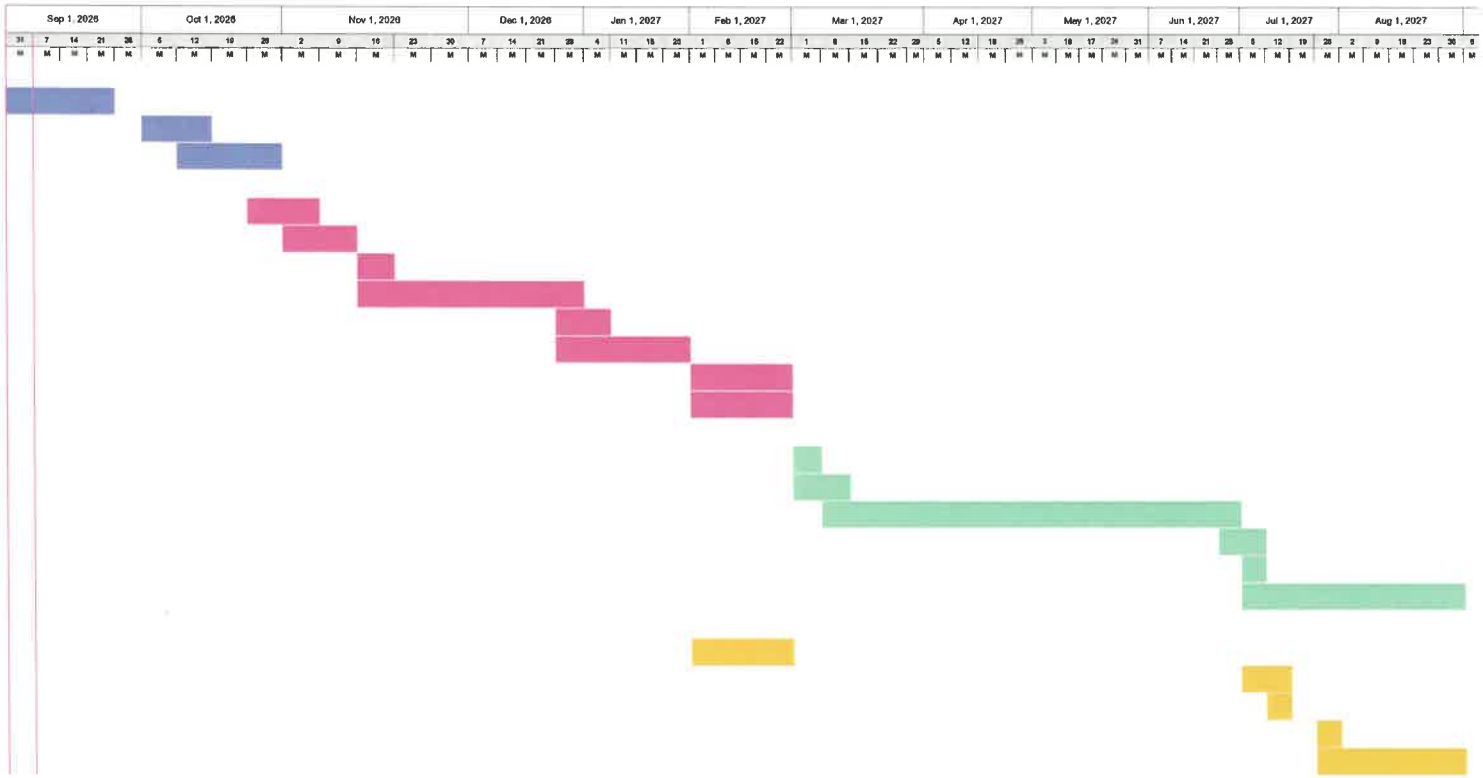
Richland School District Two

Project lead

Project start: Tue, 9/1/2026

Display week: 1

TASK	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS	START	END
Procurement				
Request for Proposal (Arch	Richland Two	0%	9/1/26	10/1/26
Selection of Architect/Contr	Richland Two	0%	10/1/26	10/15/26
Hire Architect/Contractor	Richland Two	0%	10/15/26	10/30/26
Planning and design				
Architect Programming	Architect	0%	11/1/26	11/5/26
Schematic Design	Architect	0%	11/5/26	11/15/26
Construction Estimate Revie	Contractor	0%	11/20/26	11/21/26
Design Development	Architect	0%	11/22/26	1/1/27
Construction Estimate Revie	Contractor	0%	1/2/27	1/10/27
Construction Documents	Architect	0%	1/1/27	1/30/27
Construction Bidding	Contractor	0%	2/1/27	2/27/27
Permitting	Architect	0%	2/1/27	2/27/27
Construction				
Mobilization	Contractor	0%	3/1/27	3/6/27
Demolition	Contractor	0%	3/7/27	3/11/27
Interior Renovations	Contractor	0%	3/12/27	6/30/27
Inspections	Building Official	0%	7/1/27	7/5/27
Occupancy	Contractor	0%	7/5/27	7/9/27
Punch List	Contractor	0%	7/9/27	8/31/27
Implementation				
FF&E Order	Richland Two	0%	2/1/27	2/27/27
FF&E Install	Richland Two	0%	7/9/27	7/13/27
Move In	Richland Two	0%	7/14/27	7/17/27
Grand Opening	Richland Two	0%	8/1/27	8/1/27
Gather feedback	Richland Two	0%	8/1/27	8/30/27



Insert new rows ABOVE this one

Strategic Project Objectives for the Global & MIlitary Outreach Center and Connection Hub

As stated in the narrative, this initiative will create a centralized destination where military families, military connected students, students, international families, and community members can access resources, build relationships, and engage in opportunities that strengthen quality of life, improve installation resilience, and enhance the long-term military value of the Fort Jackson region.

Specific overall goals are outlined below with proposed completion dates and key performance indicators (KPIs). Semiannual and annual reviews will be done as part of the initiative with KPIs reported, reviewed and adjusted to meet the endstates as outlined in the narrative.

Objective	Achieved through:	Proposed Completion	KPI
1. ACCESS Serve has a coordinated entry point for military-connected students and families entering Richland School District Two and the broader Fort Jackson community	- Establishment of on site location. - Fiber connected for District Network - Lease formalized for location for District	Initial Operational Capability SY 26-27 (August 18) Fully Operationally Capable SY 27-28	- District Personnel have the ability to work on site and access to all District resources - # of students and families served - # of cases referred - Family Connection and Stability Survey
1a. CONNECTION Expand services through community partners as campus grows.	MUSC and VA partnerships	SY 27-28 or upon completion of renovations	-# of participating partners - # of students and families served - # of cases referred
1b. CONNECTION Serve as satellite locations for Fort Jackson Army Community Service	- Expansion of District and Fort Jackson MOU	SY 27-28	- # of cases referred
2. STABILITY Reduction in PiP military connected kids	-consistent, accessible engagement	On-going	-measured data annually
3. RESILIENCE Serve as a community based education platform for military connected families	- Establish recurring events for eduction opportunities for military connected families	SY27- beyond	-#of education classes hosted on site

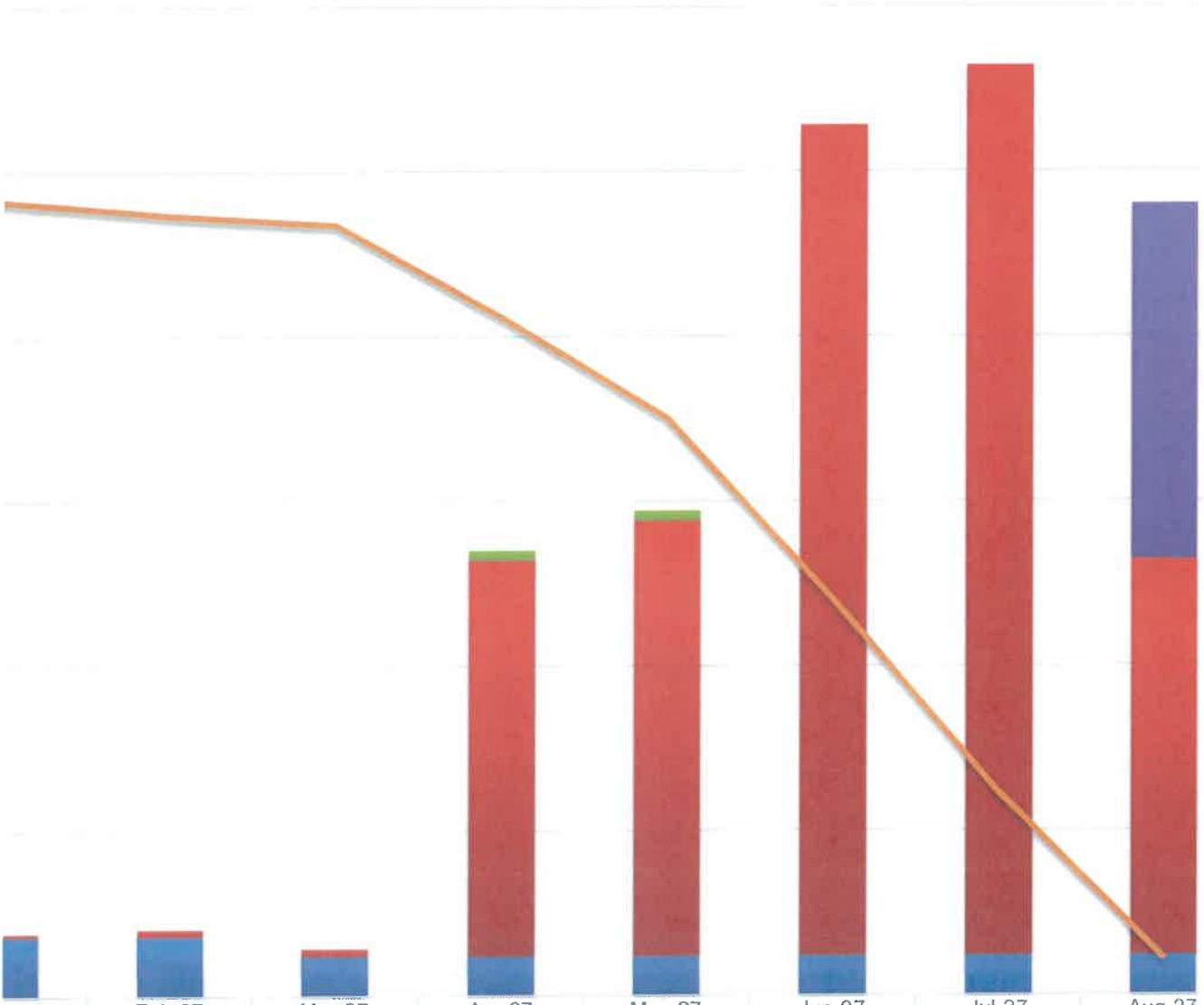
Project name	Serve and Connect Columbia SC 29223
Estimator	HSR
Job size	3000 SF
Duration	14 WKS
Bid date	7/28/2026 02:00 PM
Report format	Sorted by 'Group phase/Phase' 'Detail' summary

Group	Phase	Description	Takeoff Quantity	Labor Cost/Unit	Labor Amount	Material Price	Material Amount	Sub Cost/Unit	Sub Amount	Equip Amount	Other Amount	Total Amount
1.000		**GENERAL CONDITIONS**										
	1.035	ALLOWANCES									10,000	10,000
	1.112	EQUIPMENT RENTAL								3,600		3,600
	1.125	PUNCHLIST			293		1,950					2,243
	1.130	CLEAN UP			975		488					1,463
2.000		**SITEWORK**										
	2.020	DEMOLITION			12,000		6,000			0		18,000
8.000		**DOORS & WINDOWS**										
	8.100	HOLLOW METAL FRAMES			1,400		2,800					4,200
	8.200	WOOD DOORS			1,050		5,250					6,300
	8.700	HARDWARE			3,500		7,000					10,500
	8.800	GLASS & GLAZING			100		1,500					1,600
9.000		**FINISHES**										
	9.250	SHEETROCK							20,000			20,000
	9.500	ACOUSTICAL TREATMENT							13,650			13,650
	9.650	RESILIENT FLOORING							1			1
	9.680	CARPET							17,550			17,550
	9.900	PAINTING							9,750			9,750
12.000		**FURNISHINGS**										
	12.500	WINDOW TREATMENT							5,000			5,000
15.000		**MECHANICAL**										
	15.500	HVAC							111,210			111,210
16.000		**ELECTRICAL**										
	16.050	ELECTRICAL							26,000			26,000

Estimate Totals

Description	Amount	Totals	Hours	Rate		Cost Basis	Cost per Unit		Percent of Total	
Labor	19,318						6.439	/SF	6.44%	
Material	24,988						8.329	/SF	8.33%	
Subcontract	203,161						67.720	/SF	67.77%	
Equipment	3,600						1.200	/SF	1.20%	
Other	10,000						3.333	/SF	3.34%	
	261,067	261,067					87.022	/SF	87.08%	87.08%
8 % SALES TAX	1,360			8.000	%	C	0.453	/SF	0.45%	
LABOR BURDEN	7,727			40.000	%	C	2.576	/SF	2.58%	
PERMITS	2,161			0.800	%	T	0.720	/SF	0.72%	
PERFORMANCE & PAYMENT BOND	2,723			10.000	$ / 1,000	T	0.908	/SF	0.91%	
OVERHEAD AND PROFIT	24,753			9.000	%	T	8.251	/SF	8.26%	
Total		*299,791*					*99.930*	*/SF*		

Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub
Cash Flow Projection



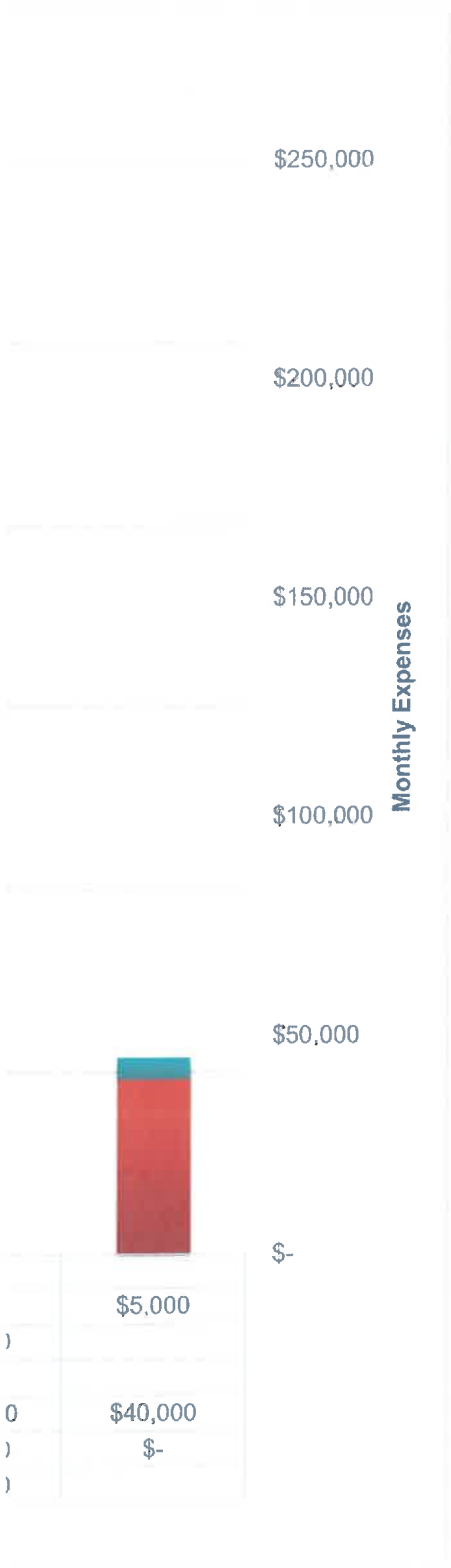
	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	Jul-27	Aug-27
							$90,000
			$2,500	$2,500			
000	$2,000	$2,000	$100,000	$110,000	$210,000	$225,000	$100,000
,000	$15,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000
,000	$947,000	$935,000	$822,500	$700,000	$480,000	$245,000	$45,000

Monthly Expenses

Global & Military



	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan
Other	$-	$-		
FF&E	$-	$-		
Permitting	$-	$-		
Construction Renovation	$-	$-	$-	$1,(
Architect	$-	$-	$10,000	$15,
Cash on hand (beginning of month)	$990,000	$990,000	$980,000	$964


$250,000
$200,000
$150,000
$100,000
$50,000
$-
Monthly Expenses
$5,000
$40,000
$-

Budget and Cash Flow Projection

Global & Military Welcome Center and Community Connection Hub

Starting date	Sep-26
Cash balance alert minimum	$ 1.00

	Beginning	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	Jul-27	Aug-27	Total
Cash on hand (beginning of month)	$ 990,000	$ 990,000	$ 990,000	$ 990,000	$ 980,000	$ 964,000	$ 947,000	$ 935,000	$ 822,500	$ 700,000	$ 480,000	$ 245,000	$ 45,000	

Budget	Beginning	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	Jul-27	Aug-27	End of Grant
Architect	$ 100,000	$ 100,000	$ 100,000	$ 90,000	$ 75,000	$ 60,000	$ 50,000	$ 40,000	$ 30,000	$ 20,000	$ 10,000	$ -	$ -	$ -
Construction Renovation	$ 790,000	$ 790,000	$ 790,000	$ 790,000	$ 789,000	$ 787,000	$ 785,000	$ 685,000	$ 575,000	$ 365,000	$ 140,000	$ 40,000	$ -	$ -
Permitting	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 2,500	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
FF&E	$ 90,000	$ 90,000	$ 90,000	$ 90,000	$ 90,000	$ 90,000	$ 90,000	$ 90,000	$ 90,000	$ 90,000	$ 90,000	$ -	$ -	$ -
Other	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	$ -	$ -
Total Budget Remaining	$ 990,000	$ 990,000	$ 990,000	$ 980,000	$ 964,000	$ 947,000	$ 935,000	$ 822,500	$ 700,000	$ 480,000	$ 245,000	$ 45,000	$ -	

Expenses	Beginning	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	Jul-27	Aug-27	Total
Architect	$ 100,000	$ -	$ -	$ 10,000	$ 15,000	$ 15,000	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ -	$ 100,000
Construction Renovation	$ 790,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,000	$ 2,000	$ 2,000	$ 100,000	$ 110,000	$ 210,000	$ 225,000	$ 100,000	$ 40,000	$ 790,000
Permitting	$ 5,000	$ -	$ -					$ 2,500	$ 2,500					$ 5,000
FF&E	$ 90,000	$ -	$ -									$ 90,000		$ 90,000
Other	$ 5,000	$ -	$ -										$ 5,000	$ 5,000
TOTAL Monthly Expeses		$ -	$ -	$ 10,000	$ 16,000	$ 17,000	$ 12,000	$ 112,500	$ 122,500	$ 220,000	$ 235,000	$ 200,000	$ 45,000	$ 990,000
Cash on hand (end of month)	$ 990,000	$ 990,000	$ 990,000	$ 980,000	$ 964,000	$ 947,000	$ 935,000	$ 822,500	$ 700,000	$ 480,000	$ 245,000	$ 45,000	$ -	

Policy AC Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity

Issued 10/18

The board affirms the right of all individuals to be treated with respect and to be protected from intimidation, discrimination, physical harm, and/or harassment. Respect for each individual will be a consideration in the establishment of all policies by the board and in the administration of those policies by district staff.

The district is committed to providing equal access to educational and employment opportunities regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, pregnancy (including childbirth and other related medical conditions), age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity status, spousal affiliation, or any other protected characteristic as may be required by law.

Resolution of Discrimination Complaints

The district will use the grievance procedures set forth in policy to process complaints based on alleged violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; the Equal Pay Act of 1963; the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008; and Titles I and II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries, questions, and grievances regarding the district's nondiscrimination policy:

Human Resources Director of Classified Personnel and Employee Services

Mailing Address: 124 Risdon Way, Columbia, SC 29223

Physical Address: 763 Fashion Dr., Columbia, SC 29229

Telephone: (803) 787-1910

Any person who is unable to resolve a problem or grievance arising under any of the laws and regulations cited above may contact:

United States Department of Education

Office for Civil Rights, Washington DC (Metro)

400 Maryland Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20202-1475

Telephone: (202) 453-6020; Fax: (202) 453-6021; TDD: 800-877-8339

Email: OCR.DC@ed.gov

Cf. GBK, JII

Adopted 4/25/78; Revised 11/22/83, 6/30/87, 2/23/93, 7/1/03, 3/21/11, 2/28/17, 10/9/18

Legal References:

Federal Law:

Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C.A. Section 6101, *et seq.* - Prohibits discrimination on the basis of age.

Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, 29 U.S.C.A. Section 621, *et seq.* - Prohibits discrimination on the basis of age in employment.

American with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C.A. Section 12101, *et seq.* - Prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities.

Equal Pay Act of 1963, 29 U.S.C.A. Section 206d - Prohibits discrimination in wages on the basis of sex.

Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, Section 42 U.S.C.A. 2000ff, *et seq.* - Prohibits discrimination on the basis of genetic information.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C.A. Section 701, *et seq.* - Prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by entities receiving federal funding.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C.A. Section 2000d - Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, among other factors, by public elementary and secondary schools receiving federal funding.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C.A. Section 2000e, *et seq.* - Prohibits discrimination in hiring based on race, color, national origin, religion, or sex.

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, 20 U.S.C.A. Sections 1681-86 - Prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.

S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

Section 1-13-80 - Prohibits discrimination in hiring and other employment practices on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions), age, national origin, or disability.

Federal Cases:

Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982).

Richland County School District Two

Policy JB Equal Educational Opportunity/Nondiscrimination

Issued **12/19**

The board believes that the district must provide public education in an atmosphere where differences are understood and appreciated. The district should treat all persons fairly, with respect, and without discrimination or threats of violence or abuse.

Every student of this school district will have equal educational opportunities regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, pregnancy (including childbirth and other related medical conditions), age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity status, spousal affiliation, or any other protected characteristic as may be required by law. The district schools will not refuse to admit or exclude any person based on these criteria. The district's schools will not refuse to admit or exclude any person based on these criteria.

This concept of equal educational opportunity serves as a guide for the board and the staff in making decisions related to students. It will be the superintendent's responsibility for developing a plan and providing procedures to assure support of this policy. Each building principal will be responsible for working with the staff and students in his/her school to ensure equal opportunity for all students in all building level programs and activities.

Adopted 6/30/87; Revised 10/27/87, 7/1/03, 3/21/11, 8/25/15, 12/10/19

Legal References:

Federal Law:

Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. Section 2000c-6 - Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, among other factors, by public elementary and secondary schools.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C.A. Section 2000d - No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C.A. Sections 1681-86 - Prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.

S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

Section 59-1-435 - Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act.

Section 59-63-40 - Discrimination on account of race, creed, color, or national origin prohibited.

Federal Cases:

Plyler vs. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982).

Richland County School District Two

Military Enhancement Fund Grant Proposals
Effective 1 Jul 26
For fiscal year 1 Jul 26 – 30 Jun 27

SC DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs (SCDVA) administers the Military Enhancement Plan as directed in Budget Provisos which state, "Funds appropriated to the department for the Military Enhancement Plan may be allocated to items including, but not limited to, land acquisition, recreational purposes, educational purposes, and facilities for military personnel. Eligible recipients are counties and municipalities with federal military installations Eligible governments include county administrations, municipal administrations, school districts within such counties or municipalities, and local subdivisions providing a local government service germane to the grant's purposes within such counties or municipalities.

Federal military installations, as defined in South Carolina Code 6-29-1625 (A), include Fort Jackson, Shaw Air Force Base, McEntire Joint National Guard Base, Joint Base Charleston, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Beaufort Naval Hospital, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, Charleston Naval Weapons Station, and Fort Gordon, GA. For the purposes of this program, US Coast Guard installations in South Carolina are also considered federal military installations, as are any subordinate federal installations of those named above.

Section One - Eligibility Criteria

The grant applicant must be one of the following within **Richland, Sumter, Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester, Georgetown, Orangeburg, Beaufort, Aiken, or Edgefield** counties:

- County or municipality with a federal military installation
- County administrations, municipal administrations, or school districts within such counties or municipalities
- Local subdivisions providing a local government service germane to the grant's purposes within such counties or municipalities

The maximum grant amount is $2,000,000.

Deadlines for proposals to be accepted for review are 1 March and 1 September.

Before submission, applicants must review their proposal with the Military Affairs Advisory Council representative for the applicant's military community. An email from the Council representative stating they have reviewed the proposal must accompany the grant application.

Carl Blackstone cblackstone@columbiachamber.com – Richland County
Steve Creech screech@crwins.com – Sumter County
Mary Graham marygrahamconsultingllc@gmail.com – Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester, Georgetown, and Orangeburg Counties
Neal Pugliese nealpugliese@gmail.com – Beaufort County
Jennifer Napper jennapper82@gmail.com – Aiken and Edgefield Counties

Section Two – Application Requirements

To be considered for a grant under this program, your proposal must include the following documents and information in the order it is listed below. A proposal which does not meet any of the requirements below will not be considered.

A. Cover letter on the letterhead of your county or municipality with a reference line including the project name and amount requested. The letter should give a brief description of the scope of the proposal, the military installation(s) it will benefit, and whether there will be a financial match from the applicant.

B. Email from the Military Affairs Advisory Council community representative naming the person from the application team they spoke with for the proposal review

C. Signed letter of support by the local installation commander(s) dated no earlier than 90 days prior to the date of application submission that states how the military installation will benefit from the proposal.

D. Detailed explanation of the proposal, and how it will enhance military value, installation resilience, or military family quality of life at the supported military installation(s) or community.

E. Detailed budget for the proposal, to include a spending timeline.

F. List of specific project objectives and how they will be achieved.

G. Timeline for completing the project to include start dates, milestones, and completion dates.

H. Independent, third-party estimate of the cost of the proposal, prepared by a qualified entity. If property is being purchased, a fair market appraisal must be included in the proposal.

I. Detailed account of any other funding source you intend to apply for in conjunction with this grant, to include source and dollar amount (if, for example, your grant proposal covers only a sub-project as part of a larger project).

J. Applicant's anti-discrimination policy.

K. Applicant's most recent operating financial statement .

List the **name, email and phone** contact information for the primary and alternate personnel overseeing the project.

MARK E. Huhtanen, mhuhtanen@richland2.org, (803) 738-8433

Primary point of contact

WILL ANDERSON, wanderson@richland2.org, (803) 736-3774

Alternate point of contact

Section Three - Evaluation Criteria

Eligible grant proposals will be evaluated based on 1) its effect on mission readiness; 2) its effect on military quality of life, 3) its effect on the surrounding community; 4) its timeliness; and 5) the degree to which the costs of the project(s) are shared with other funding sources. The score sheet used for evaluating proposals, as well as this document can be found on our website at https://scdva.sc.gov/military-enhancement-fund-grants-proposals.

The Department makes every effort to fund grants at the amount requested. However, the Secretary may adjust award amounts based on the availability of funds and other considerations. **Final decision authority for awarding grants under this program rests with the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs**.

Section Four - Agreement Statement

If awarded a grant, I agree to provide to the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs quarterly reports, detailing how all grant funds were spent to date and the progress on achieving the objectives defined in the grant proposal. I am aware the information provided in my report will be reviewed by the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee and is subject to audit by the State Auditor. Additionally, I agree to provide the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs additional reports and supporting documents as may be required, and to allow the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs or its designee to conduct inspections of the project.

Signature of Applicant

August 25, 2026
Date

MARK E HUITTANEN
Name of Applicant

$990,000.00
Amount of Proposal Request

Senior Chief Operations Officer
Title of Applicant

mhuittanen@richland2.org
Email Address

Section Five - Administrative Instructions

Send completed proposals to MEF@scdva.sc.gov no later than the application closing date. If you have not received a confirmation of receipt of your application within 3 business days, contact Sandy Claypoole at 803-683-1361 or Jason Fowler at 803-683-0242.