



**Community Engagement Advisory Council
Ongoing Meeting Agenda
June 2, 2026
10:00 a.m.**

Building Four Regional Pilot Programs

Meeting Purpose:

To establish a strategic framework for launching four regional pilot programs that strengthen community engagement, build local leadership capacity, and advance equitable access to opportunity across South Carolina.

Meeting Agenda Outline

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Delores Dacosta, Executive Director, South Carolina Commission for Community Advancement and Engagement (ADVANCE SC)

- Welcome and introductions
 - Purpose of the Advisory Council
 - Review of ADVANCE SC's mission and vision
 - Importance of regional collaboration and community-driven solutions
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II. Review of Commission Goals and Priorities

Key Objectives

- Increase community engagement and participation
- Strengthen local leadership and organizational capacity

- Address barriers impacting underserved communities
- Promote sustainable economic and social development
- Build partnerships across sectors

Discussion Topics

- Current community challenges by region
 - Existing assets and opportunities
 - Desired outcomes for pilot communities
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III. Regional Pilot Program Development Strategy

Goal

Develop four regional pilot programs representing diverse South Carolina communities.

Proposed Regional Structure

1. Upstate Region
2. Midlands Region
3. Pee Dee Region
4. Lowcountry Region

Pilot Program Purpose

- Test community engagement strategies
 - Identify scalable solutions
 - Build regional leadership networks
 - Create measurable community impact models
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IV. Steps to Build the Four Regional Pilot Programs

Step 1: Regional Community Assessment

- Conduct listening sessions and town halls
- Gather community data and resident feedback
- Identify urgent community priorities
- Assess available resources and gaps

Deliverables

- Regional needs assessment summary
 - Stakeholder and resource inventory
 - Community priority report
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Step 2: Asset Mapping and Partnership Development

- Identify local organizations, agencies, schools, faith institutions, and businesses
- Develop regional partnership coalitions
- Establish community ambassadors and advisory teams

Key Focus Areas

- Education
 - Health and wellness
 - Workforce development
 - Housing and transportation
 - Youth and family support
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Step 3: Pilot Program Design

- Define regional goals and measurable outcomes
- Establish implementation timelines
- Develop community engagement plans
- Create communication and outreach strategies

Discussion Questions

- What programs are most needed in each region?
 - How will success be measured?
 - What resources are required?
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Step 4: Capacity Building and Training

- Leadership development workshops
- Community advocacy training
- Volunteer recruitment and retention
- Technical assistance for local partners

Potential Training Areas

- Grant writing
 - Nonprofit management
 - Community organizing
 - Data collection and reporting
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Step 5: Funding and Resource Alignment

- Identify grant opportunities and sponsors
- Explore state and federal partnerships
- Develop sustainability plans for long-term impact

Funding Considerations

- Pilot operational costs
 - Staffing and coordination
 - Community events and outreach
 - Evaluation and reporting
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Step 6: Pilot Launch and Evaluation

- Establish launch timelines
- Schedule regional kickoff events
- Monitor progress through quarterly evaluations
- Collect community feedback and success stories

Evaluation Metrics

- Resident participation
 - Partnership engagement
 - Program outcomes
 - Community impact indicators
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V. Advisory Council Discussion and Recommendations

Council Input Requested On:

- Regional pilot site selection
- Priority community issues
- Potential strategic partners

- Community engagement strategies
 - Funding and sustainability recommendations
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VI. Action Items and Next Steps

Immediate Next Steps

- Finalize regional leadership teams
- Schedule regional listening sessions
- Develop pilot implementation timeline
- Assign committee responsibilities
- Establish communication schedule

Proposed Timeline

Phase	Timeline
Community Assessments	30–60 Days
Partnership Development	60–90 Days
Pilot Design Completion	90–120 Days
Pilot Launch	6 Months

VII. Closing Remarks

- Summary of meeting outcomes
 - Appreciation to Advisory Council members
 - Announcement of next meeting date
 - Call to action for collaborative leadership and engagement
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Suggested Supporting Documents

- Regional demographic overview
- Asset mapping template
- Community engagement toolkit
- Pilot program framework
- Partnership contact list