

# State Training Requirements for Planning and Zoning Officials, and Employees Eased During COVID-19 Pandemic

**L**ocal government planning and zoning officials and employees are required to receive six hours of orientation training within 180 days prior to and no later than 365 days after initial appointment or employment. These individuals are also required to take three hours of continuing education each year thereafter (*See Section 6-29-1340 for more detailed information*). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the South Carolina Planning Education Advisory Committee (SCPEAC) has announced changes to the training requirements.

## Orientation Training

Both the S.C. Association of Counties (SCAC) and the Municipal Association of S.C. (MASC) have committed to offer an online orientation program that will allow individuals to take the six-hour training remotely, while ensuring that the individual engages in the training. SCAC is currently developing its pro-

gram and will launch the training modules later this year. MASC announced its on-demand orientation training program

jurisdiction. The SCPEAC cautions that training lacking such safeguards could be subject to challenge.



last month, and it is available to any municipality or county.

## Continuing Education

**The requirements that continuing education training be conducted in a classroom or group setting and in the presence of a coordinator are waived through June 30, 2020.** The SCPEAC strongly recommends planning and zoning officials and employees participate in training where attendance can be tracked and confirmed by the provider or

jurisdiction. The SCPEAC cautions that training lacking such safeguards could be subject to challenge.

SCAC is pleased to announce it will host two planning and zoning continuing education webinars in June. See the schedule below. Each webinar will be one-and-a-half hours in length. Participants will receive a completion certificate from the Association. More information regarding the webinars will be sent to plan-

Tuesday, June 9, 2–3:30 p.m.  
Virtual Meetings and Online Services

Thursday, June 18, 10–11:30 a.m.  
S.C. Growth  
Implications for Urban and Rural  
Communities

For questions regarding planning and zoning training requirements or resources, please contact Ryan Tooley

with SCAC at (803) 252-7255, ext. 335 or via email at [rtooley@scac.sc](mailto:rtooley@scac.sc).

#### Resources

- Additional information regarding the training requirements, including FAQs and SCAC's on-demand training can be accessed at: <https://www.sccounties.org/planning-and-zoning-education>.
- For more information regarding MASC's online orientation training visit: <https://www.masc.sc/Pages/programs/knowledge/training/Online-orientation-training-for-planning-and-zoning-officials.aspx>.
- SCPEAC's approved training Sponsors can be found at: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/SCPEAC/ApprovedSponsorsContEd.htm>.



## SCAC Announces New Category for Annual Awards Program



A new award category has been added this year to SCAC's 2020 Annual Awards Program. **The COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase** will honor the ways our counties have responded to the unprecedented health pandemic. All entries submitted for this year's showcase will receive special recognition.

SCAC's annual awards program recognizes innovative projects completed by South Carolina counties during the past fiscal year. The program accepts applications that address all areas of county government, from simple unique ideas that extend limited resources to major collaborative efforts that tackle complex issues.

Counties are encouraged to enter submissions for the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, the Barrett Lawrimore Regional Cooperation Award, and/or The COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase. **The submission deadline is June 26, 2020.**

To learn more about this year's program including changes to the competition, please visit the online Awards Toolkit at [www.sccounties.org/awards/awards-toolkit-2020](http://www.sccounties.org/awards/awards-toolkit-2020).

An advertisement for Professional Printers. The background is a colorful, abstract splash of paint in shades of red, blue, green, and yellow. The text is white and black. At the top left is a logo consisting of a blue and white arrow pointing right, followed by the text "Professional Printers" and the website "www.proprinters.com". Below this, the services listed are "Commercial Printing", "Offset/Web/Digital", "Design", "Online Storefronts", and "Promotional Products". At the bottom, it says "Two locations!" and provides two addresses: "1730 Old Shanker Road, West Columbia, SC 29171, 803-796-4000" and "301-B Georgetown Blvd, Columbia, SC 29210, 803-343-6775".