

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

(Tools used to accomplish vision and mission)

Cawaco programs and initiatives support the Strategic Areas of Focus:

- Environmental Initiatives (EI)
- Community Development (CD)
- Pathways for Economic Mobility (EM)



Alabama Association of Resource Conservation and Development Council Grant Administration (CD, EM, EI):

Through funding provided by the State of Alabama and administered through the Alabama Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils, Cawaco provides small grants to communities, schools, and nonprofits that implement components of the *Strategic Areas of Focus*. The purpose of these grants is to support locally led

programs and initiatives. Priority funding areas for 2024-2028 AARDCDC grants have been established. These priorities are: (1) Community Projects; (2) Educational Projects; (3) First Responder Support, and (4) Parks and Recreation/Tourism.



RC&D Grows Gardens (EI, CD, EM): Cawaco develops resources for school and community gardens; providing opportunities for education, promoting careers in agriculture, and addressing food insecurity.



Cool Green Trees (EI, CD, EM): Using a data-driven approach, the Cool Green Trees program works to mitigate the negative effects of urban heat islands, stormwater runoff, and air pollution, to uplift the community, economy, and health of distressed communities in Jefferson County.



Holle Family Foundation (EI, CD, EM): Cawaco provides administrative services for the Holle Family Foundation. The Holle grant program focuses on social issues affecting area residents and provides educational opportunities for upward economic mobility.



Your Town Alabama Administration and Project Support (CD, EM): Your Town Alabama provides asset-based community planning training to interested citizens throughout Alabama. The program provides communities with tools and a supportive network for responsible development. Cawaco provides administrative and program support for the Your Town Alabama program.



Alabama Rivers and Streams Network Administration and Project Support (EI): Through partners of the Alabama Rivers and Streams Network, Cawaco provides administrative and project support for projects that improve conditions for at-risk species as identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Projects developed and implemented include studies and cost-effective, on-the-ground projects that improve habitat for these species.