

Walhalla, SC

BUSINESS RECRUITMENT GUIDE



'Main Street to the Mountains'

Who We Are

Founded in 1850 and located in Upstate South Carolina, Walhalla is a city rich in heritage. As the county seat of Oconee County, the city is home to the school district and county administrative offices, as well as several other large county employers. Nestled in the shadows of the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains, and cradled by the cool waters of the Chattooga River, Walhalla has all the necessary components for quint-essential southern charm. Historic houses, churches, museums, and unique shops and eateries all make Walhalla an ideal investment opportunity. In addition, the City of Walhalla will be the terminus to South Carolina's longest pedestrian and bicycle trail, The Palmetto Trail. The newly constructed Stumphouse Mountain Bike Park will provide miles of world class mountain bike trails. Located in the Northwest corner of the state, Walhalla is one of the last South Carolina cities to stop in before trekking into the mountains for local hiking trails, or a short, scenic drive to Lake Jocassee or Highlands, NC. One way or another, in Walhalla, you will be on the "Mainstreet to the Mountains." As such, the City of Walhalla and the Oconee Economic Alliance believe that this is a great place to grow your business, and want to ensure that you are successful from the beginning. This guide serves as an introduction to what Walhalla has to offer you and your business. While this guide is not inclusive of all the services and agencies that can assist you and your business, it does provide the basic information, tools, and contacts necessary for you to choose to open and successfully operate your business in the City of Walhalla.

Walhalla is **OPEN FOR BUSINESS** and we welcome you to join us.

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WALHALLA

South Carolina

4,788

Walhalla Daytime
Population

\$50,510

Average Household
Income

2.6

Average Household
Size

1,538

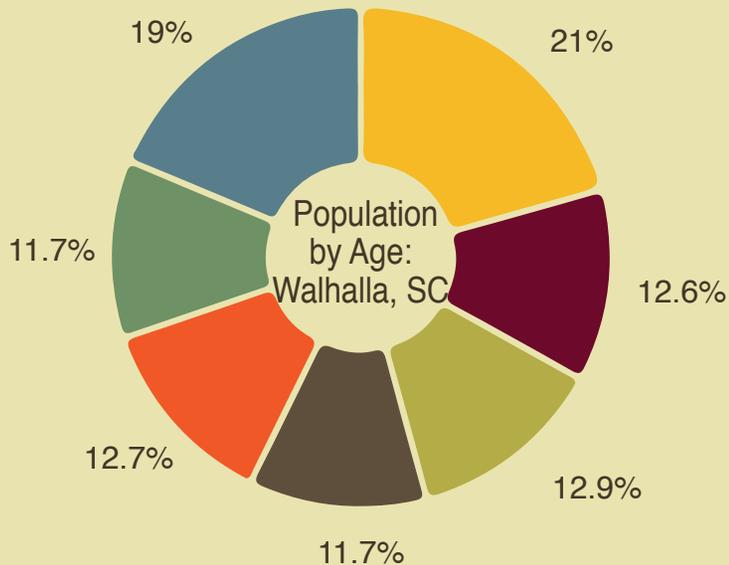
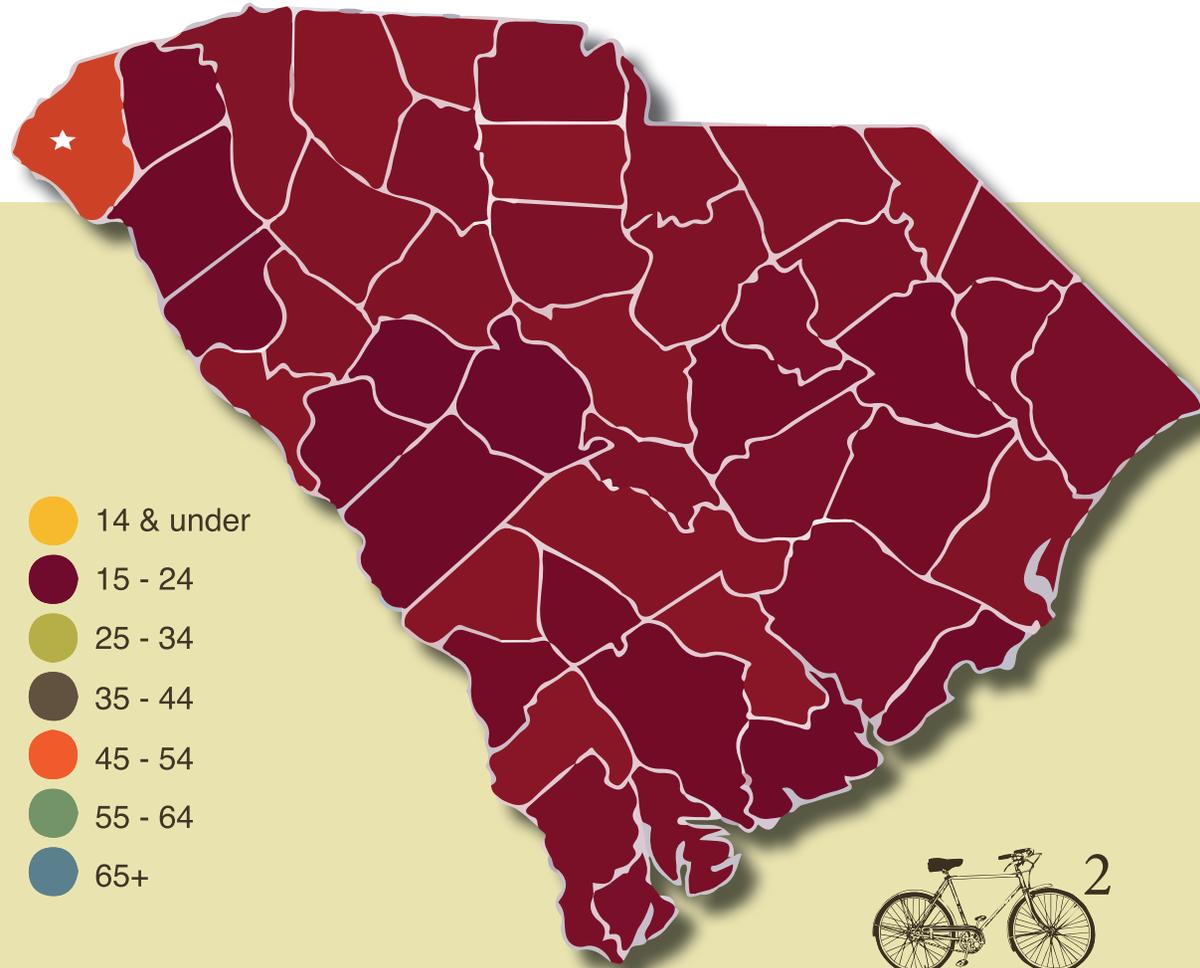
Employed Population
16+

38

Median
Age

POPULATION OCONEE COUNTY

76,972



* Walhalla City Limits

Lake Keowee | 11.2 mi

Walhalla High School | 6.3 mi

Stumphouse Mountain Bike Park | 8.2 mi

Tri-County Technical College - Oconee Campus | 5.3 mi

Oconee Industry & Technology Park | 5.3 mi

Clemson University | 15.8 mi

Lake Jocassee | 33.7 mi

Oconee State Park | 10.9 mi

Greenville, SC | 45.8 mi

Highlands, NC | 30.6 mi

Atlanta, GA | 120 mi

Main Street
Walhalla



mainstreet to the mountains



Education

High quality education is valued here. The School District of Oconee County boasts a graduation rate of 84.1% and has many educational opportunities, including three high schools, three middle schools, 10 elementary schools, and three specialized schools. Tri-County Technical College has a new Oconee Campus that is part of the county's Workforce Development Campus and is located within the Oconee Industry and Technology Park. In addition, Walhalla is located less than 30 minutes from Clemson University, Southern Wesleyan University, and Anderson University. Oconee County and its surrounding areas offer many educational opportunities to strengthen the knowledge and skills needed for the success of our future workforce.

Recreation

Walhalla is nestled in the northwestern corner of Upstate South Carolina. Bordered by the Chattooga River and picturesque Blue Ridge Mountains, Walhalla offers top quality outdoor recreation to residents and visitors alike. South Carolina's longest pedestrian and bicycle trail, the Palmetto Trail, will come to its terminus in downtown Walhalla. Beyond the city limits, Oconee County is home to over 150 waterfalls, one of which is located within the Stumphouse Mountain Bike Park and is just minutes from downtown. Issaqueena Falls, rich in story and folklore attracts an average of 25,000 visitors a year.

Downtown

The City of Walhalla is home to unique shops, restaurants, and attractions for the whole family. In addition, the business district hosts a variety of professional offices, a newly renovated AirBnB, and many historic places. South Carolina's only Cherokee museum, The Museum of the Cherokee, is located in downtown Walhalla. Other notable cultural centers include Patriot's Hall, Oconee County's Veterans' Museum, the Oconee Heritage Center and the Walhalla Performing Arts Center.

Business

Entrepreneurs are attracted to Oconee County because of its business-friendly environment and support. The City of Walhalla and the Oconee Economic Alliance work closely with the Oconee Chamber of Commerce and the Tri-County Entrepreneur Development Corporation (TCEDC) to assist local entrepreneurs in taking their ideas from concept to reality. The Oconee Business Center, located in downtown Walhalla, currently houses 10 start-ups with room for more. The City of Walhalla is also home to an additional 400+ small businesses in the city limits.

Labor Force

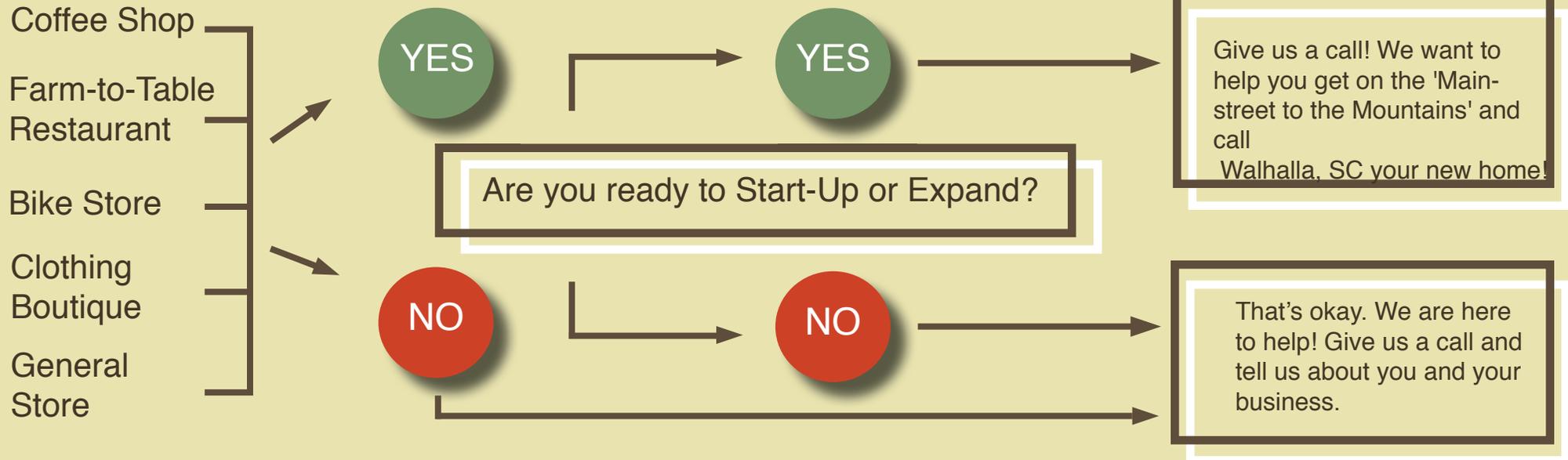
Oconee County boasts a labor shed of over 640,000 people from eleven different counties, with 25% of the local workforce being employed by one the 60 industries located in the county. Since 2012, Oconee County has seen over 1,500 new jobs and over \$480 million in capital investment. Recent studies show approximately 40% of workers in our area travel between twenty and forty minutes for work. Walhalla has access to a labor shed of 184,000 people within a forty minute drive time.

Community

Walhalla, South Carolina is the perfect blend of tourism and residential living. The small-town living caters to every age group and offers year round activities. Between the art and museums downtown and an annual Oktoberfest and Stumphouse Music Fest, there are ample opportunities for culture and entertainment. For families, Walhalla's Parks and Recreation offers baseball, soccer, football and basketball programs with over 1,000 young athletes participating annually. Come and see why Walhalla is an ideal investment opportunity.



Are you one of these?



The City of Walhalla wants to make it easy for you to call Walhalla, SC your new home. To do that we collaborate with several partners, like the Oconee Economic Alliance and the Chamber of Commerce, to make your start-up or expansion experience as smooth as possible. Below is a brief list of potential city incentives.

A. Reimbursement up to 100% of the applicable tap fees collected by the City

B. Business License Tax Incentives

C. Reimbursement up to 50% of the local hospitality taxes collected by the City up to five years

D. Reimbursement up to 50% of local accommodations taxes collected by the City up to five years

E. Reimbursement up to 100% of solid waste fees up to five years

F. Reimbursement up to 100% of infrastructure costs for commercial development projects up to five years

G. Reimbursement up to 100% of infrastructure costs for residential development projects up to five years

H. Facade Grant Program available



RESOURCES

Utilities:

City of Walhalla Water / Sewer
Scott Parris

sparris@cityofwalhalla.com
864.638.4343

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative
800.240.3400

Duke Energy
800.777.1004

Fort Hill Natural Gas Authority
864.882.8126

Education:

Oconee County School District
oconee.k12.sc.us

Tri-County Technical College (TCTC) Oconee Campus
Oconee Industry and Technology Park
tctc.edu/oconee

Clemson University
clemson.edu

City Contacts:

Business License & Zoning
Elijah Hayes
elijahhayes@cityofwalhalla.com
864.638.4343
864.723.4141

Business Incentives
Brandon Burton
bburton@cityofwalhalla.com
864.638.4343

Fire Marshal
Eric Kelley
eric@walhallafire.com
864.638.4345

County Contacts:

Building Permits
Howard Frady
864.718.1005

Oconee Economic Alliance
InvestOconeeSC.com
864.638.4210

Tri-County Entrepreneurial Development Corporation
104 Browns Square Drive
Walhalla, S.C. 29691
864.638.4210

Convention & Visitors Bureau
VisitOconeeSC.com
864.380.3976

Oconee County Chamber of Commerce
OconeeChamberSC.com
864.638.2727





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