Financial Planning Program
Long-range financial and capital improvement planning is integral to future success for local governments. SCSC can assist with these efforts in a number of areas.

Service Components:
- Long-term financial plan development
- Capital improvement plan development
- Redevelopment
- Tax increment and abatement financing
- Infrastructure rehabilitation
- Grants

Advisory Services
Covers a variety of topics to help communities be successful in meeting the goals of the city council and addressing citizen needs in a professional, cost effective, manner by utilizing SCSC’s pooled resources.

Annexation assistance: SCSC can help navigate the annexation process by facilitating discussions with landowners, adhering to state statutes, and meeting with the county and townships if necessary.

Fire service agreements: SCSC can provide research concerning the latest trends in fire service delivery, facilitate discussions between cities and townships, complete cost analysis of service delivery, and provide examples of fire service contracts and/or joint powers agreements. SCSC can also assist with equipment ownership and purchasing.

Labor relations and negotiations: SCSC has experience in contract negotiations with unions who represent city and county employees. SCSC offers consultation before negotiations to prepare local officials and staff, research to support the position of local officials, and prepare a comparison of wage and benefits across several similar size cities and counties. SCSC offers concepts for contract language and will meet with union representatives.

Internships: SCSC offers grants up to 400 hours for cities or counties who want to employ an intern working in general government disciplines. Internships are a great way to help with special projects and provide valuable work experience to a young professional. Funding is on a first come, first serve basis. Please send a letter of request to Wendell Sande.

Shared service studies: Administrative staffing, operational staffing, equipment sharing and cost analysis.

Cooperative purchasing: Cooperative purchasing streamlines the bidding process and uses economies of scale to save local governments, counties and school districts money on their purchases. SCSC offers cooperative purchasing programs through Lakes Country Service Cooperative and Sourcewell. These two entities use the American Bar Association model procurement code for state and local governments, so the bidding and RFP process is complete. SCSC will assist you to become a member and save time and money by purchasing from ready-to-use competitively solicited contracts.
Local Government Solutions
South Central Service Cooperative has been facilitating programs and services between local governments and school districts across south central Minnesota since 1976. We believe services are most effective when implemented at a regional level rather than a “one size fits all” approach, which may occur when mandates are managed at the state and federal levels. Facilitating services regionally creates economies of scale and maintains a consistency in the process that positively affects local governments and school districts.

Community Development: As an umbrella for planning, zoning, economic development and housing, SSCC can work to ensure these disciplines are coordinated and consistent to best represent your community.

Planning: SSCC can assist with planning needs and projects. Community planning is not a one size fits all process; it needs to be tailored to an individual community’s characteristics and local geography. SSCC will help prioritize your vision in an efficient and practical manner.

Zoning: SSCC can assist communities to review and update zoning codes that will meet today’s land use trends. SSCC can serve as the city’s zoning administrator by answering questions and meeting with citizens and Business on their projects. SSCC will coordinate ordinance change by drafting new language and meeting with the city’s attorney to ensure consistency with state statute. Zoning services are available on a one-time or contract basis.

Economic Development and Housing: SSCC will work with the city’s EDA and HRA to meet community needs. SSCC will also work with the city’s boards and commissions to identify projects, strategic planning, site identification, shovel ready site certification, business retention and attraction plans, and coordinate with the Department of Employment and Economic Development on projects, strategies, and programs.

Sustainable Planning: SSCC will help cities coordinate and implement various financial tools such as TIF, tax abatement, the Minnesota Investment Fund, bonding, or state and federal grants.

Affordable housing is a key component to economic development strategies today. SSCC can work to identify housing needs and resources available from statewide partners such as the Minnesota Housing Finance Authority and area housing agencies including South West Minnesota Housing Partnership and the Initiative Foundation. SSCC can also facilitate and manage in-depth housing studies and grant writing through relationships with housing consultants.

Executive Search Program
Conducting a search for a new administrator or manager has become a costly and time-consuming task for local governments. The SSCC Executive Search Program will assist member local governments with their administrator or manager search.

Service Components:
- Meet with the city council or county board to provide an overview of the search process
- Create a search calendar and timeline
- Meet with the city council or county board, staff and community to create a profile for the new administrator or manager
- Recruit candidates for the position
- Receive and process candidate applications
- Provide for the preliminary screening and recommendations for interview of candidates
- Assist the city council or county board with the interview process
- Meet with the city council or county board to facilitate the decision on a new administrator or manager and develop a contract for the position as needed
- Provide mentoring to the new administrator or manager
- Contract with SSCC for interim or a part-time administrator or manager