

**University of South Carolina School of Medicine**  
**Executive Summary- Rural Healthcare Center of Excellence**

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**Introduction**

The University Of South Carolina School Of Medicine (USC SOM) has as its mission improving the health of the people of South Carolina through medical education, research and the delivery of health care. A significant portion of our medical education mission is focused on training primary care physicians. Ideally these physicians will deliver primary care to South Carolinians and in our state's areas of greatest need. In 2015 we partnered with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to expand programs training, recruiting and retaining primary care physicians in South Carolina's rural and underserved areas. We propose expanding on these programs and initiating new efforts to improve the health of South Carolinians.

**Proposed Programs**

**I. South Carolina Center of Excellence in Rural Healthcare and Education**

Support and develop rural medical education and delivery infrastructure in South Carolina through clinical practice, training and research.

- Create a center of excellence devoted to supporting rural medical education and practice excellence in South Carolina. It will develop and support training programs, support continuing education and clinical practice improvement for rural physicians, and support research on rural health issues by employing best practices utilized in other states.
  
- The Center will interface with existing entities which support rural medical education and delivery infrastructure in South Carolina to avoid duplication of missions.
  - Integrated rural practice information network to support continuing education, interconnection and collaboration between rural practices
  - Sub-award to SC AHEC for SC healthcare workforce research
  - Sub-award to the South Carolina Rural Health Research Center at the USC Arnold School of Public Health
  - Collaboration with the SC Office of Rural Health to fund consulting practice facilitators and healthcare team training
  - Rural clinical pharmacy extension service

Annual budget (recurring): \$4,600,000	
Staff and facility	\$1,200,000
Rural Health Research Center	\$500,000
SC Office for Healthcare Workforce	\$500,000
Rural Pharmacist Extension Service	\$800,000
Practice facilitators	\$800,000

Team training	\$200,000
Rural practice information network	\$600,000

**II. Medical Student, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and Physician Assistant Rural Practice Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program**

USC School of Medicine developed a multi-tiered scholarship and loan repayment program awarded during medical school.

Present scholarship and loan repayment recipients are required to commit to rural South Carolina practice in a primary care specialty (Family Medicine, General Pediatrics, or General Internal Medicine) or other critical need specialty (General Surgery, OB/GYN, Psychiatry) for each year of scholarship funds received. Two loan repayment grants exist for finishing medical students committing to four years of rural primary care or critical need training.

- Increase scholarship funding to 12 annually (4 designated for underrepresented minority students) with an emphasis on Family Medicine training. Make available to all publicly affiliated South Carolina MD programs. Increase the loan repayment grant program from 2 to 12 annually. Make available to all publicly affiliated South Carolina MD programs. Similar program supporting repayment funds for physician assistants and advanced practice nurses.
- Four (4) scholarships for incoming physician assistant students at the USC School of Medicine committing to rural primary care practice for three years.
- Ten (10) loan repayment grants for finishing PA or APRN students available to all publicly funded South Carolina PA and APRN programs
- Annual retention bonus program (up to three years) for both programs.

Budget (recurring): \$3,260,000	
12 medical student scholarships for four years at \$30,000 per year (4 of these scholarships to be designated for underrepresented minority students)	\$1,440,000
Annual program for the fourth year medical student grant program	\$960,000
Retention bonuses for physicians	\$200,000
Retention bonuses for advanced practice clinicians	\$100,000
Physician assistant scholarship program	\$160,000
Advanced practice clinician grant program	\$400,000

**III. Rural Practice Fellowship Program**

USC School of Medicine proposed the establishment of a one-year post-residency fellowship focused on rural and underserved healthcare.

The present fellowship program provides funding for one fellow for one year.

- Renew funding for this program
- Expand model to a Community Psychiatry Fellowship and a Rural General Surgery Fellowship

Budget (recurring): \$600,000	
Family Medicine Rural fellowship Faculty and administrative costs-\$60,000 Loan repayment program - \$100,000	\$160,000
Community Psychiatry fellowship: Faculty and administrative costs-\$100,000 Loan repayment program - \$100,000	\$200,000
Rural General Surgery Fellowship Faculty and administrative costs-\$140,000 Loan repayment program - \$100,000	\$240,000

#### IV. Rural Residency Training Enhancement Grants

Expansion of existing family medicine residency programs into areas not served by GME programs exposes resident physicians to rural practice and enhances the opportunities to recruit these residents for long term practice in these communities. There are many mechanisms to achieve this end.

- Supports the judicious use of resources, capitalize on the existing strength of programs within our state, and allow for flexibility in finding the best way to develop more primary care in different regions of our state.
- Grants would fund programs to expand, repurpose, or enhance training at existing programs toward models that support the growth of a workforce serving rural and underserved citizens in our state.

Budget (recurring): \$2,000,000

#### V. Rural training sites development

Expand capacity for rural clinical training sites at the USC School of Medicine to increase student and resident interest in rural practice.

- Develop infrastructure, physician support, and model multidisciplinary practices at rural practice sites in the SC Midlands and Pee Dee regions to support resident electives, student rotations, and multidisciplinary health education for students.
- In addition to physician trainees, these sites will also support other health provider education including nurse practitioner, physician assistant, social work, and pharmacy students.

Budget (recurring): \$ 1,200,000

#### VI. I-CARED Program Extension

Clinical services and practice support with a focus on innovative technologies initiated in the ICARED grant would be continued in this grant proposal with an expansion to 16 total sites.

- Continuing medical education
- IT advisement/meaningful use/quality metrics consulting support
- Reducing disease morbidity and hospital costs in rural hotspots
- Improving access to specialty services in rural parts of the state
- Early intervention through use of innovative technologies such as ultrasound

- Increasing the number of primary care practice sites in rural parts of the state.
- Support practice management infrastructure and processes

Budget (recurring): \$1,949,600	
Continuing medical education	\$200,000
IT consulting and administrative costs	\$50,000
Telemedicine consultation	\$187,500
Onsite subspecialty support Budget (per clinic): \$73,850 Office Rent - \$16,700 Travel - \$ 7,000 MD time - \$20,000 Nurse Travel - \$ 7,500 Meals - \$ 2,650 Supplies - \$10,000	\$1,181,600 (projected clinics: 16)
Program Coordinators: Program Coordinators: \$40,000 (* 1 Program Coordinator per 4 clinics)	\$120,000
New Technologies ECHO Technologist Salary - \$ 30,000 Travel - \$ 6,000 Physician workshop time - \$ 4,500 (30 hrs. @\$150/hr.) Ultrasound devices - \$80,000 (10 @ \$8,000)	\$120,500
Administrative coordinator	\$90,000

## VII. New Categorical FM residency

Building on the establishment of a residency training satellite in Sumter, SC, we propose additional funding to explore and establish another training site in the Beaufort/Jasper area.

Budget (one-time funds): \$1,200,000
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## VIII. Rural Physician Recruitment

Collaborate with SCORH to enhance their existing rural physician recruitment and retention program.

- Support current recruitment activities including matching/ placement of graduating primary care residents, nurse practitioners and physician assistants, and practicing primary care physicians with practice opportunities in rural communities.
- Collaborate with the Center of Excellence scholarship program for early identification of future rural clinicians and long range planning for job placement.
- Expand program to include the recruitment and placement of office staff, especially qualified practice managers and billing staff.
- Increase funding to support SC AHEC's Rural Physician Program

Budget (recurring): \$600,000
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**Total Budget:**

		<b>Recurring</b>
South Carolina Center of Excellence in Rural Healthcare and Education		\$4,600,000
Expand Medical Student, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and Physician Assistant Rural Practice Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program		\$3,260,000
Rural Practice Fellowship Program Expansion		\$600,000
Rural Training Enhancement Grants Program		\$1,200,000
Rural training sites for health professions students		\$2,000,000
I-CARED Program Extension		\$1,949,600
Rural Clinician Recruitment		\$600,000
		<b>One-time</b>
New Categorical FM residency		\$1,200,000
	<b>Total recurring</b>	<b>\$14,209,600</b>
	<b>Total one-time</b>	<b>\$1,200,000</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,409,600</b>