



# South Carolina **DEPARTMENT ON AGING**

FY 24-25 Ways and Means Budget Hearing  
Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Connie D. Munn, MSW

# Agency Attendees

- Connie D. Munn, MSW, Director, SCDOA
- Rhonda Walker, Finance Director, SCDOA
- Lily Cogdill, Legislative Liaison, SCDOA

# Agency Overview

To provide leadership, advocacy, and collaboration to assure a full spectrum of services, so that South Carolina seniors/and or adults with disabilities can enjoy an enhanced quality of life, contribute to their communities, have economic security, and receive the support necessary to age with dignity and choice.

As the designated State Unit on Aging, we are tasked to meet the critical needs facing South Carolina's rapidly growing senior population.



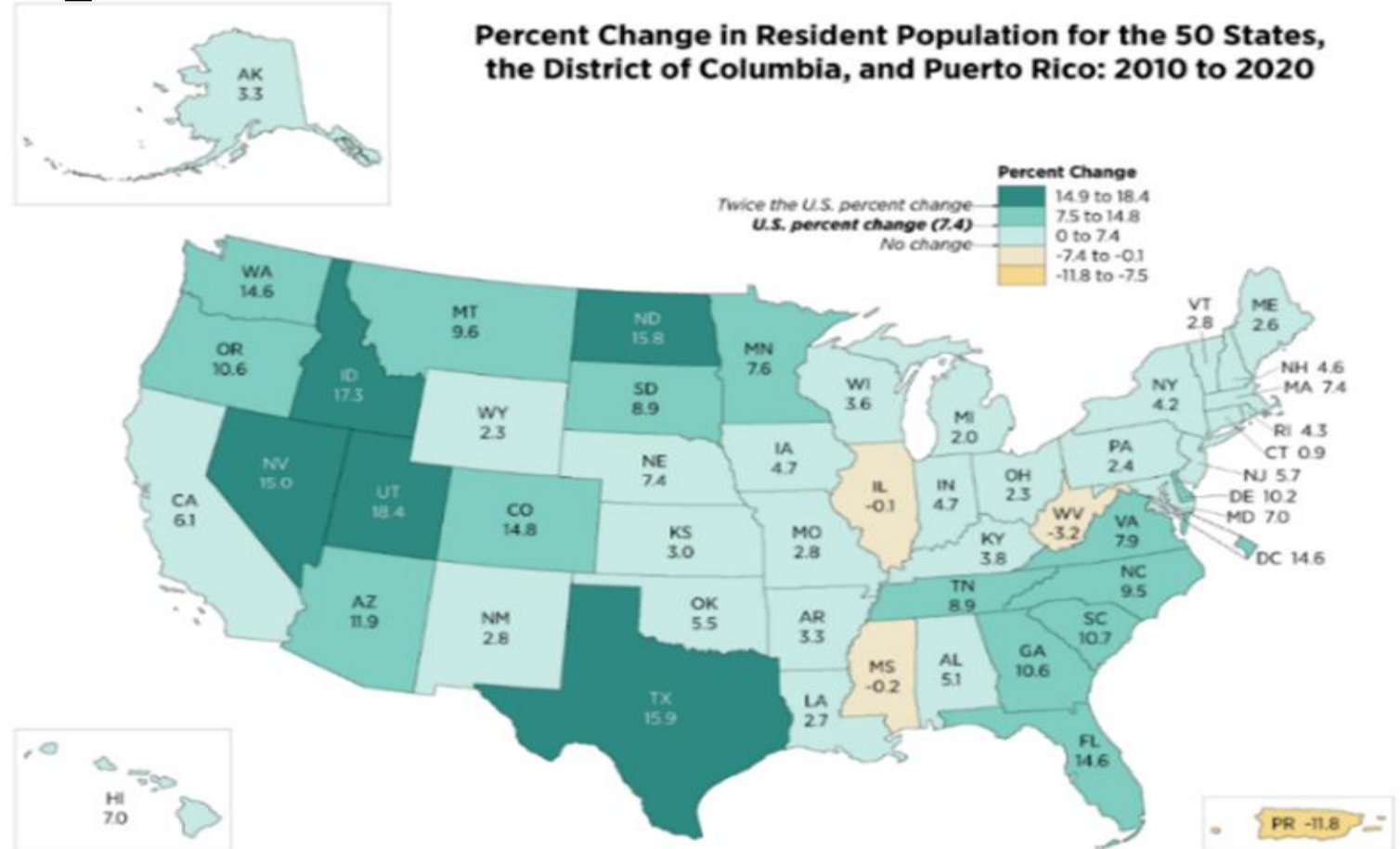
# Current Status of Aging



# Trends in the overall population growth of SC over the past decade

SC had a population increase of 10.7% compared to the national average of 7.4%

The South was the fastest-growing region (+10.2%) while the Midwest was the slowest-growing (+3.1%)



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# SC OLDER POPULATION GROWTH & PROJECTIONS

1988

474,073 people over age 65 were living in SC, ranking the state as 25<sup>th</sup> for persons over age 65

2010

631,784 people over 65 lived in the state, ranking SC 23<sup>rd</sup>

By 2030

SC will be home to 1.1 million adults over the age of 65, ranking SC 15<sup>th</sup>



# Agency Priority 1

## Home Stabilization Assistance

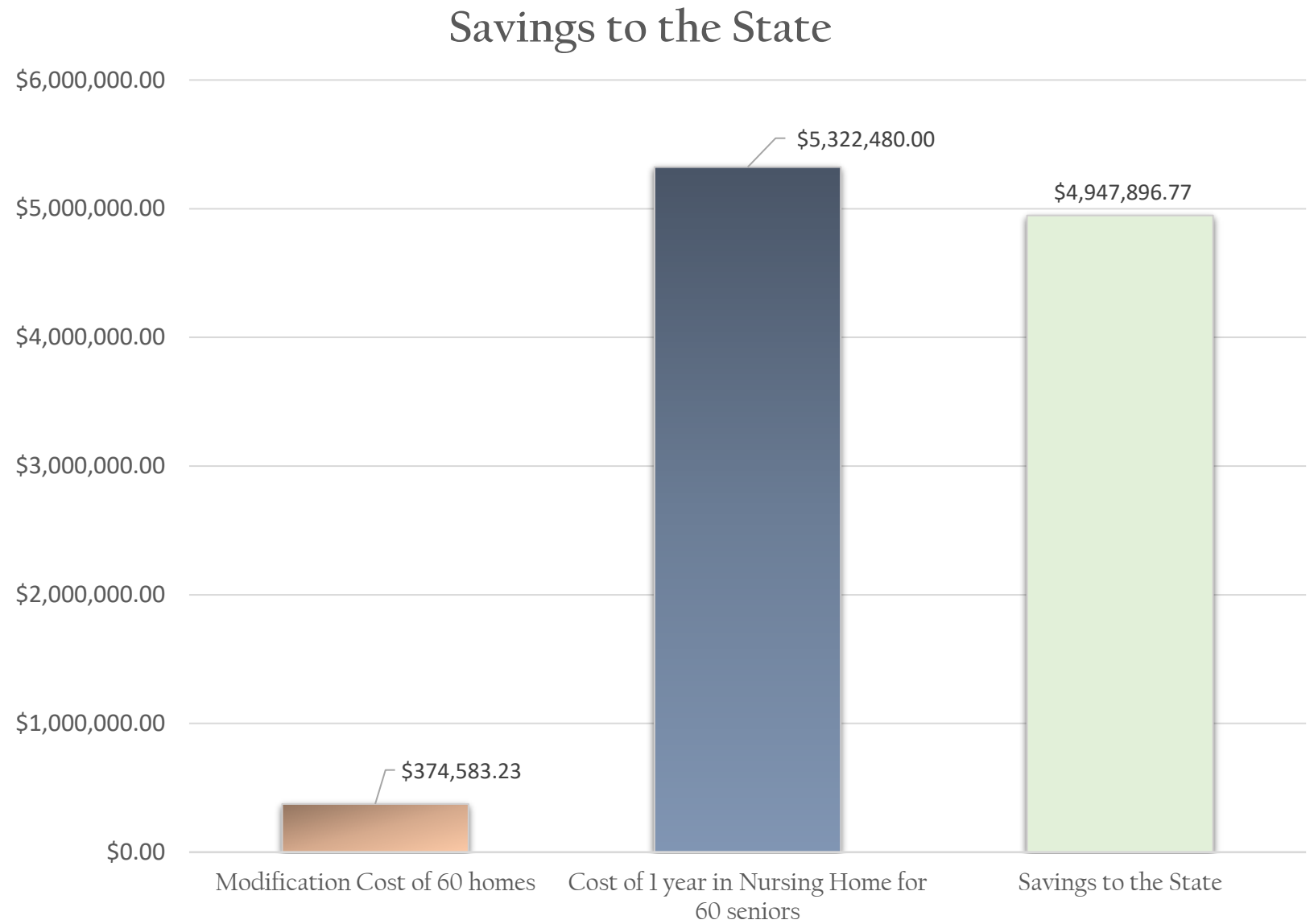
Request: \$1 million in Recurring State Funds

# Older Adult Home Modification Program

- Program model relies on the expertise of a licensed Occupational Therapist (OT) to ensure home modifications address the older adult's goals/needs for participation in daily activities
- Modifications are installed by licensed Contractors and/or Handymen
- Costs include labor, contractor services, materials, and supplies associated with structural modification and adaptive equipment up to \$5,000 per home



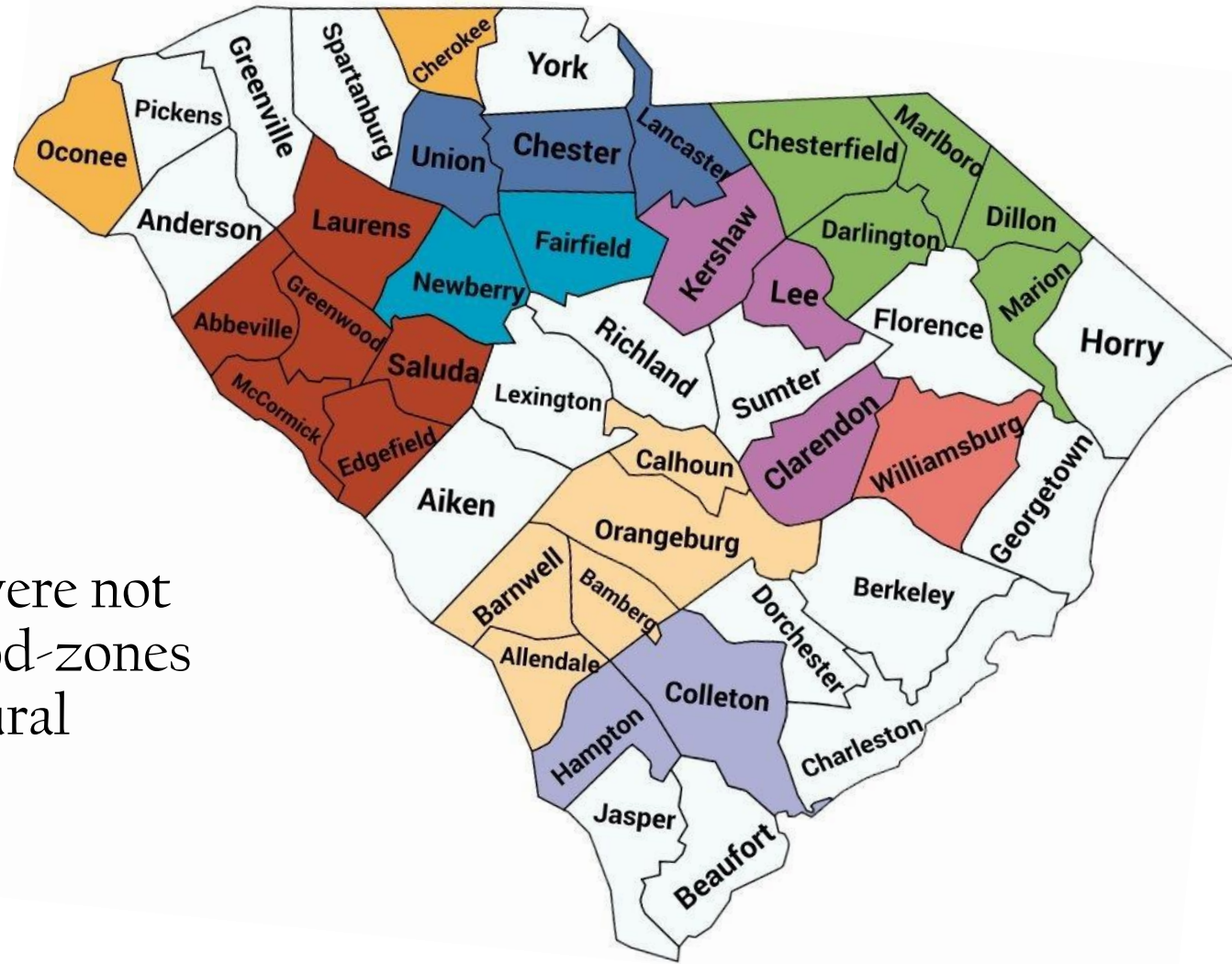
# Cost Comparison



# Older Adult Home Modification Program

The 2021 HUD Grant Restrictions:

- Those 65 or older
- Limited income
- 29 of the 46 counties in the state were not eligible due to being located in flood-zones or not classified as substantially-rural

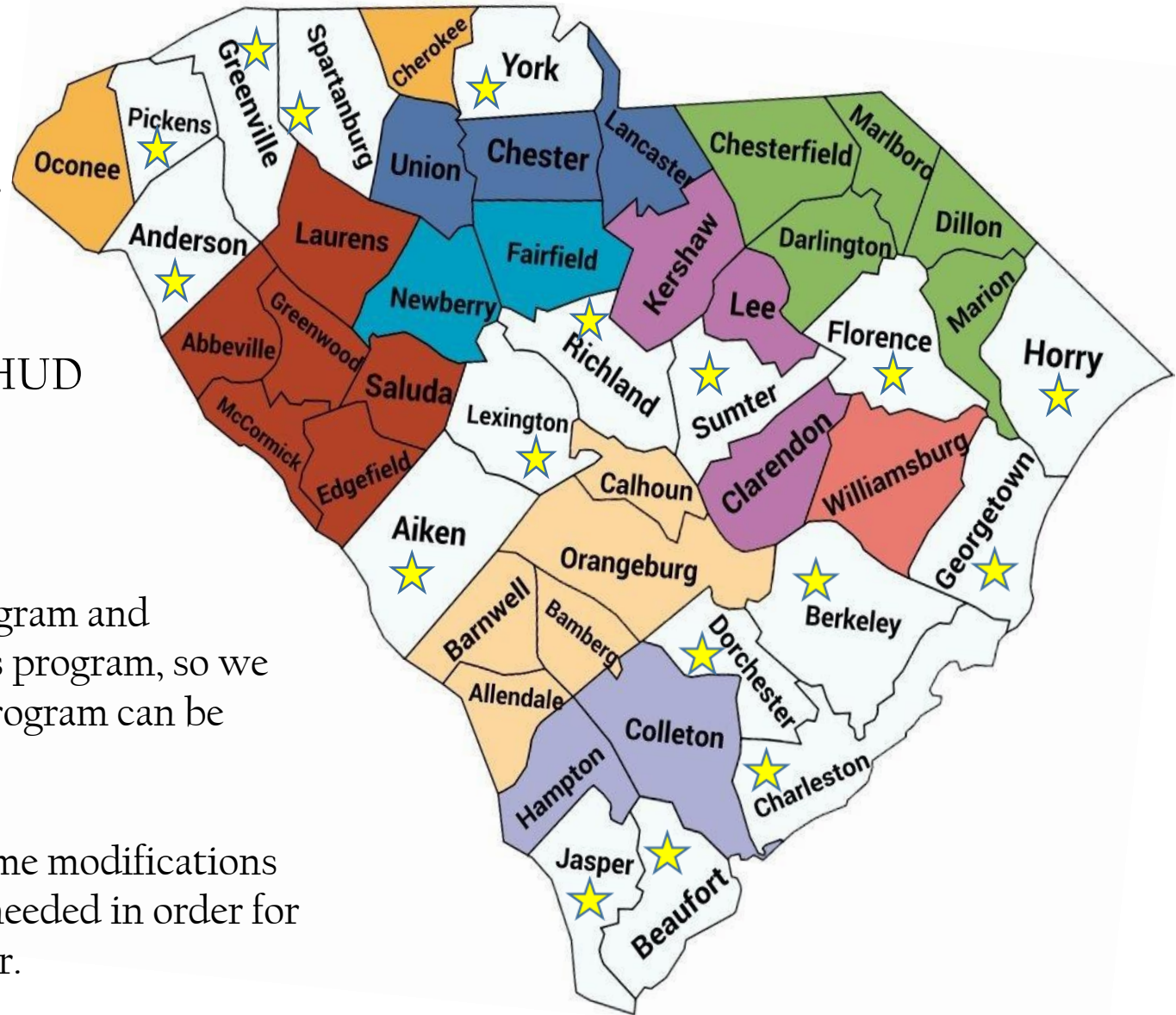


# Home Stabilization Assistance: Proposed Service Model

- Expand to all counties
- Increase dollar over the \$5000 allowed by HUD
- Allow for Wheelchair ramp
- Minor Home Repairs

# Older Adult Home Modification Program

- Expand to all counties
  - Increase dollar over the \$5000 allowed by HUD
  - Allow for Wheelchair ramp
  - Minor Home Repairs
- SCDOA has proven the need for the program and demonstrated the ability to perform this program, so we are asking for state dollars so that the program can be extended to all counties in the state.
  - The program will expand from basic home modifications and now include home repairs that are needed in order for the senior to remain in their home longer.





# Home Stabilization Assistance: Proposed Service Model

- Eligible seniors apply to program through an application process
- Once eligibility requirements are met, a licensed Occupational Therapist (OT) will conduct an evaluation and home hazard assessment. The goal of a comprehensive assessment is to identify the client's level of independence with ADLs/IADLs, screen for hazards in home, and educate client on fall risks
- Professional installation of home modifications will be completed by a licensed Contractor or Handyman
- OT will return for a follow-up visit after installation to inspect work and to educate/train client on safe use of home modifications

# Agency Priority 2

## Caregiver and Alzheimer Resource Division

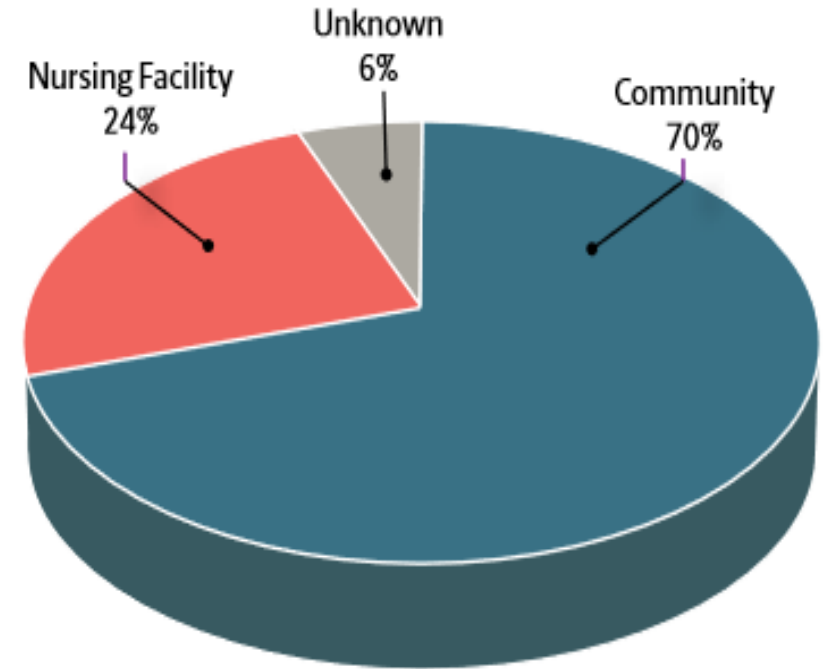
Request: \$1,113,854 Recurring State Funds

# SC Dementia Statistics

- At least 118,000\* South Carolinians currently living with a dementia diagnosis
  - 70% living in the community
  - Does not include those undiagnosed
- Over 216,000 South Carolinians provide unpaid family caregiving to someone diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease\*
- Family caregivers provide over 355 billion hours of unpaid care for persons living with Alzheimer's disease\*
- The estimated value of unpaid care provided by caregivers for someone living with Alzheimer's disease is \$5.4 million\*

## REGISTRY CASES BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE AT TIME OF DIAGNOSIS

*South Carolina Alzheimer's Disease Registry, 2019*



83,000 South Carolinians with dementia are being cared for in the community

\*Alzheimer's Registry 2022; Alzheimer's Association Facts and Figures 2023

# Dementia Care Specialist (DCS)

- Position currently funded through a two-year Public Health Workforce Development Grant provided by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) ending in 2024
- To expand the community-based dementia care support role for persons in South Carolina both living with a suspicion or diagnosis of dementia and their caregivers, as well as community education surrounding dementia



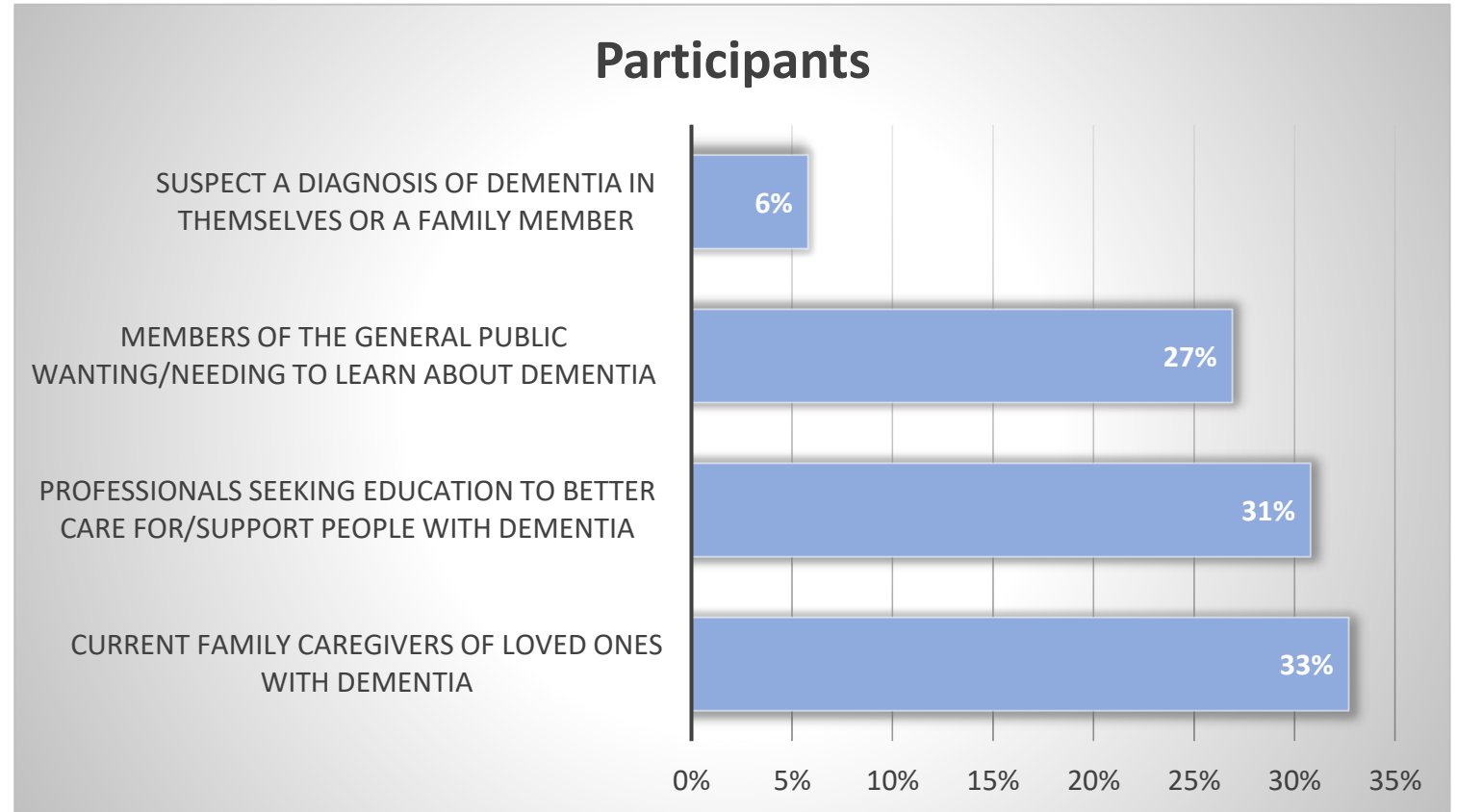
# Dementia Education and Outreach

## *Dementia 101: The Basics*

Standing, monthly, live  
dementia education webinar

Material covered includes:

- types
- stages
- signs
- risk factors
- diagnosis
- treatments
- support resources



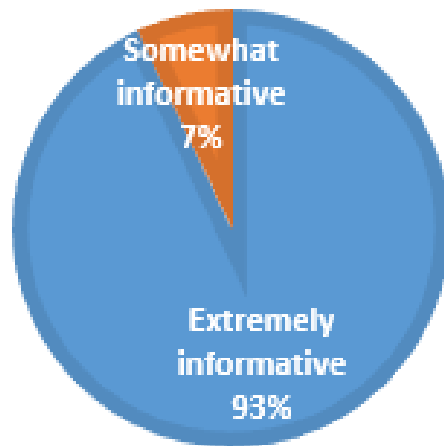
266 participants over 8 webinars

# Dementia Education and Outreach

## *Dementia 101: The Basics* - Survey feedback

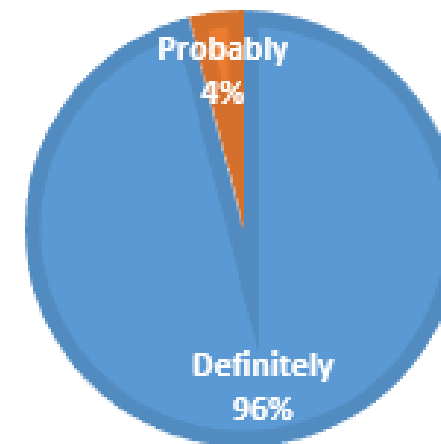
### OVERALL I FOUND THIS INTRODUCTION TO THE BASICS OF DEMENTIA TO BE:

■ Extremely informative   ■ Somewhat informative  
■ Not so informative   ■ Not at all informative



### I WOULD RECOMMEND THIS WEBINAR TO OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY WANTING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DEMENTIA

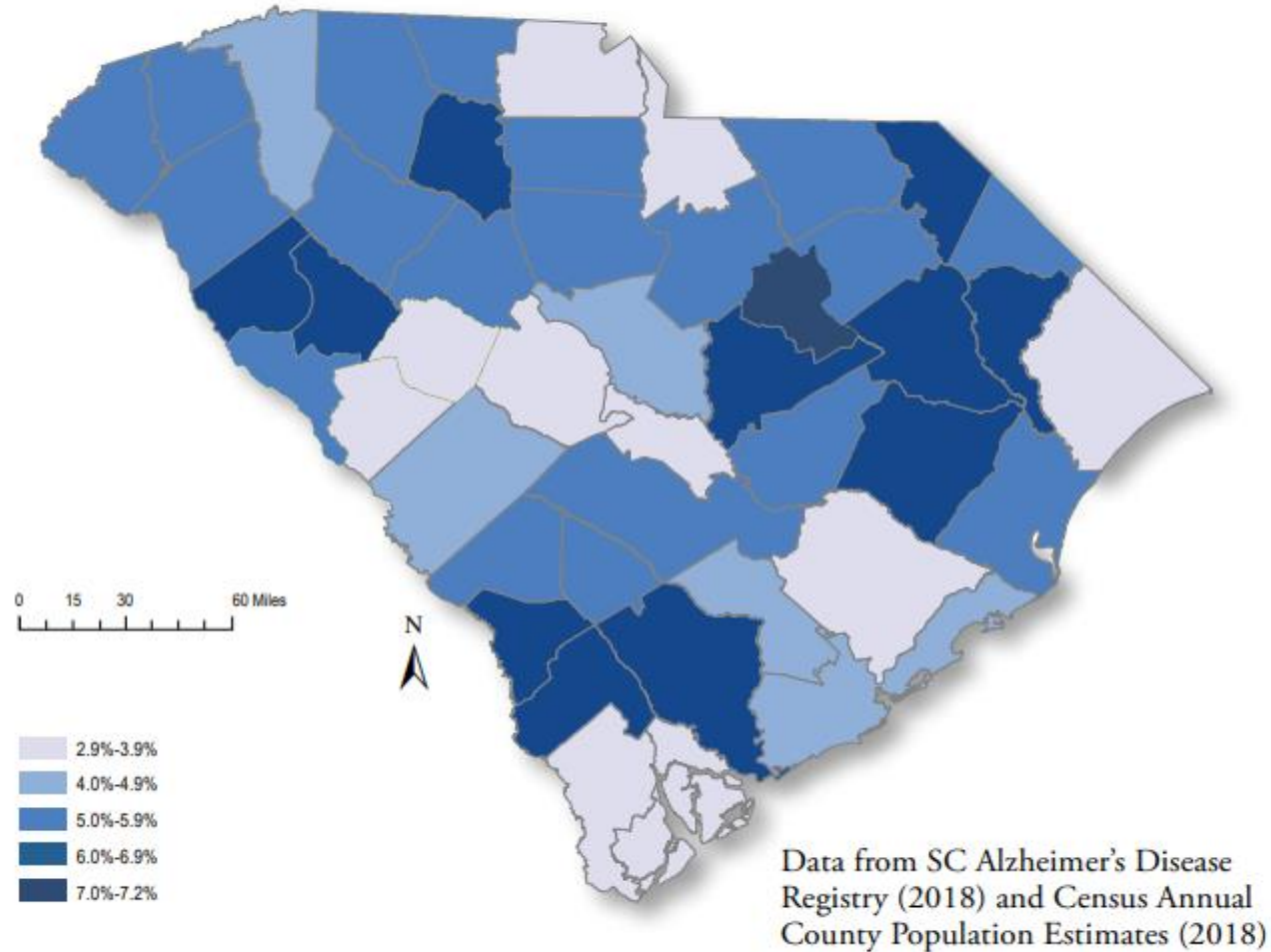
■ Definitely   ■ Probably   ■ Probably would not   ■ Definitely would not



# Dementia Care Specialist Program

- Dementia cases projected to increase more than 26% by 2025\*
- DCS has created a replicable program of proven educational and support services to help meet this demand
- 9 additional Dementia Care Specialists
  - Expand this program, with a focus on high-prevalence, high-risk and rural areas
  - Strategically located in current AAA regions to provide proximity and coverage.

## ADRD Prevalence in South Carolina, 2018



\*Alzheimer's Association Facts & Figures Report – SC Statistics

# Agency Priority 3

## Expansion of Services

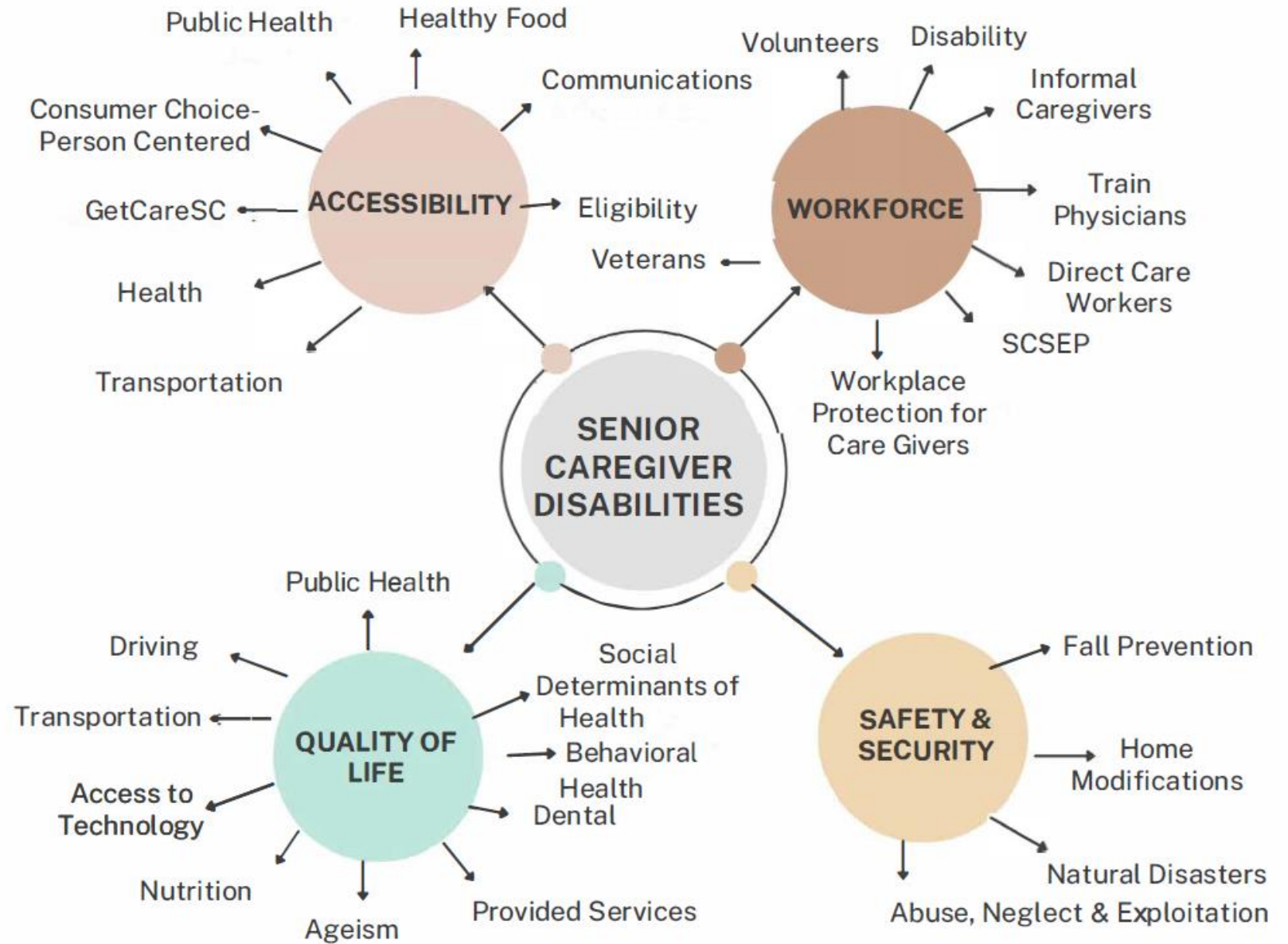
Requesting: \$516,622

Federal 50% \$258,311

State 50% \$258,311

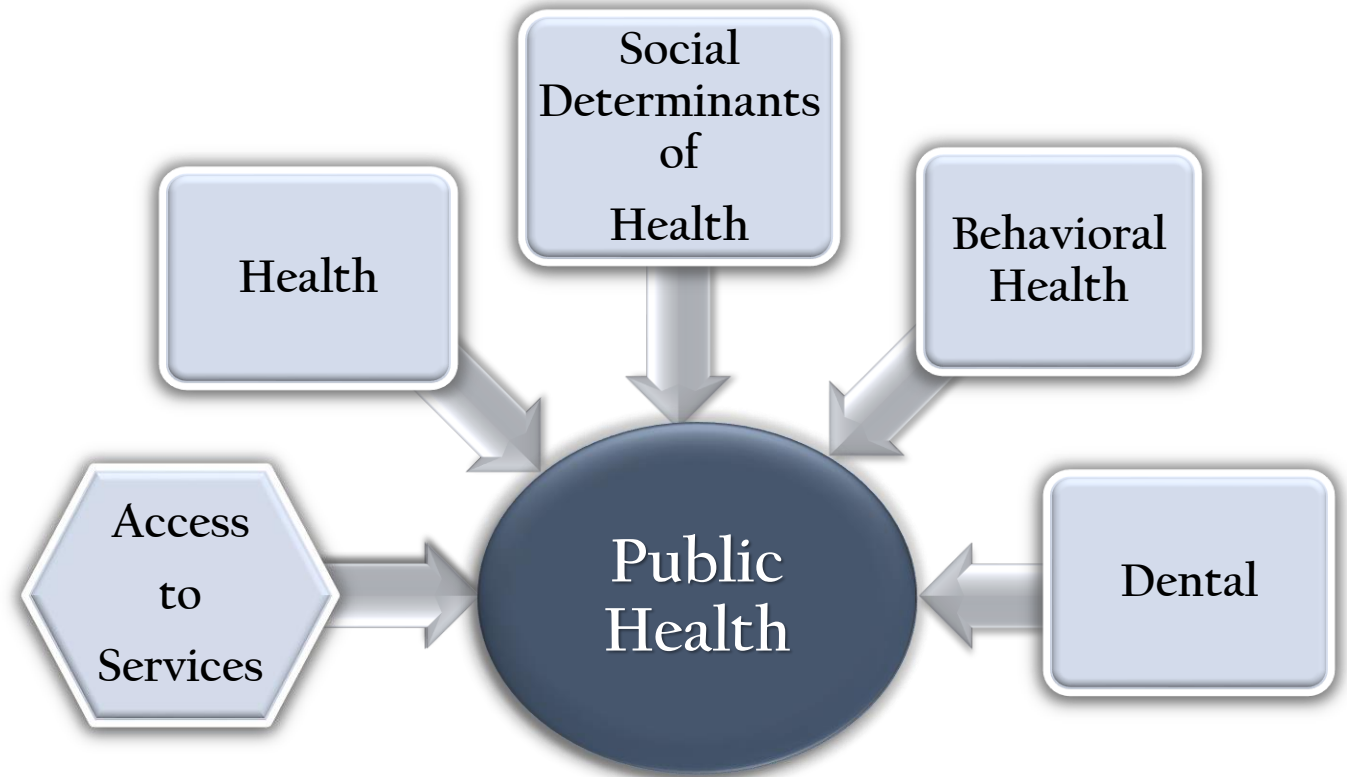


# Blueprint for Healthy Aging



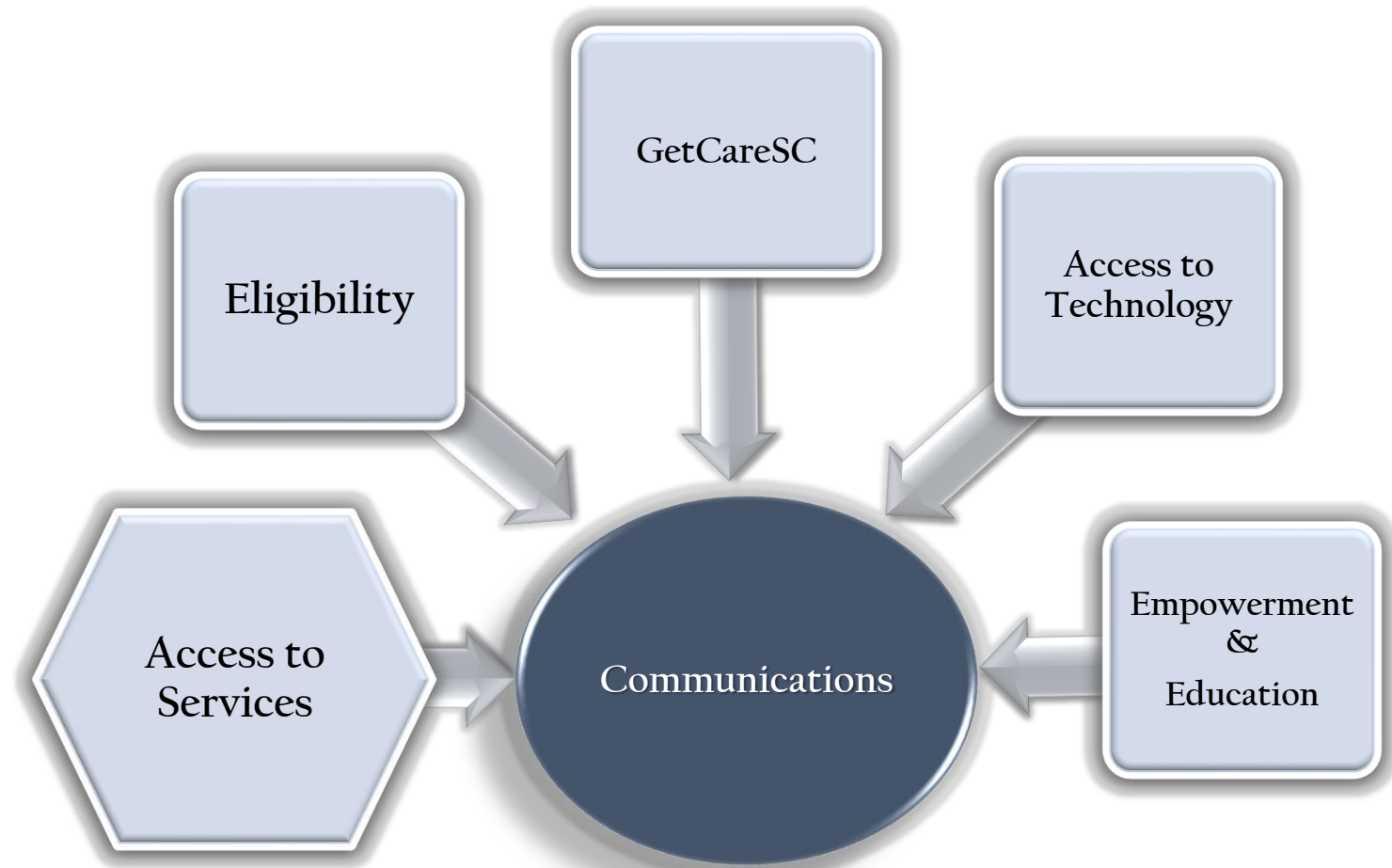
# Agency Priority 3 – Public Health

- Relationships and Partnerships
  - DHEC
  - Healthy Alliance
  - Office of Rural Health
  - Department of Mental Health



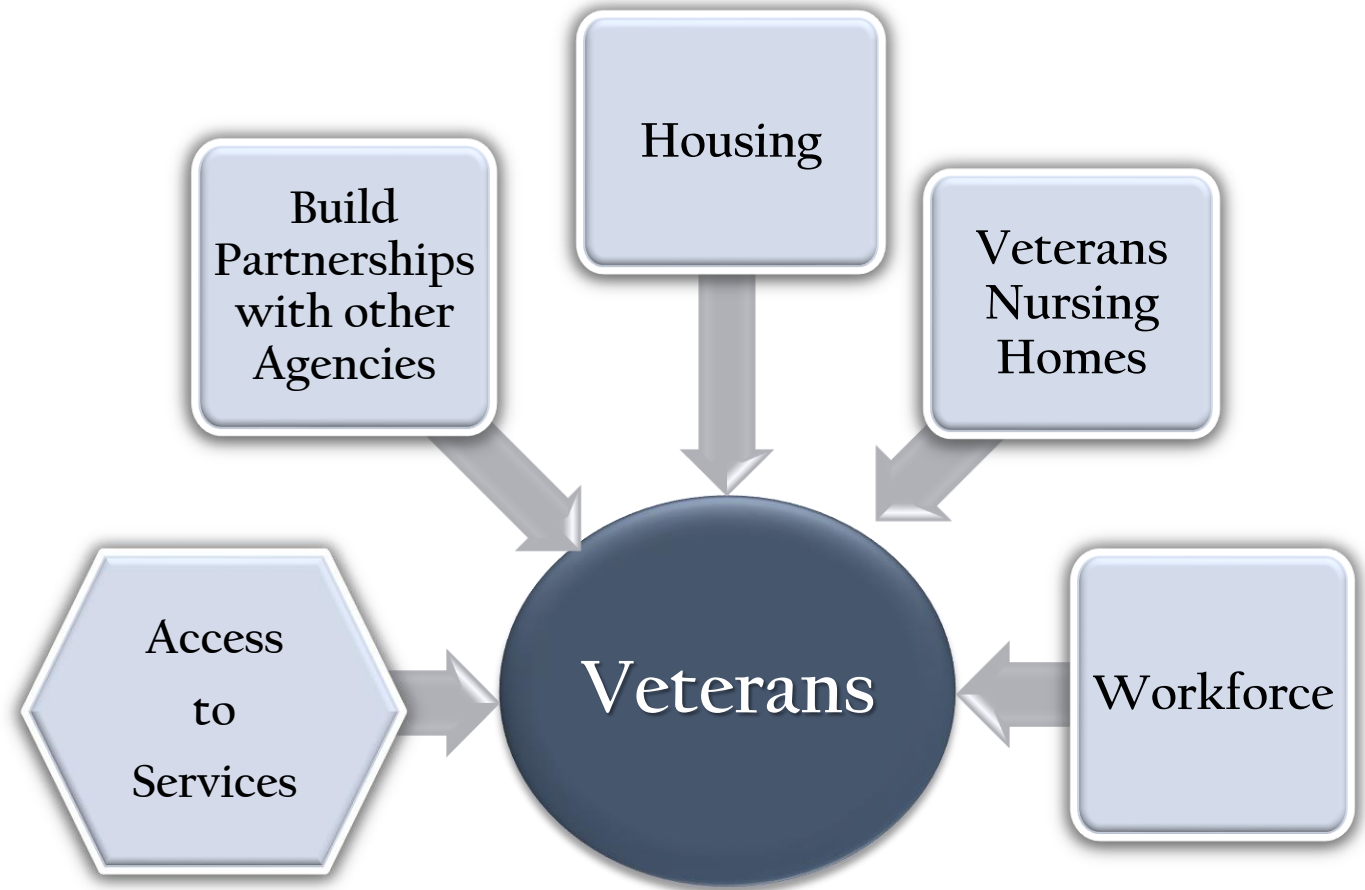
# Agency Priority 3 – Communications

- Expand and enhance GetCareSC
- Healthy aging by promoting vaccines
- Conduct outreach addressing issues facing older adults



# Agency Priority 3 – Veterans

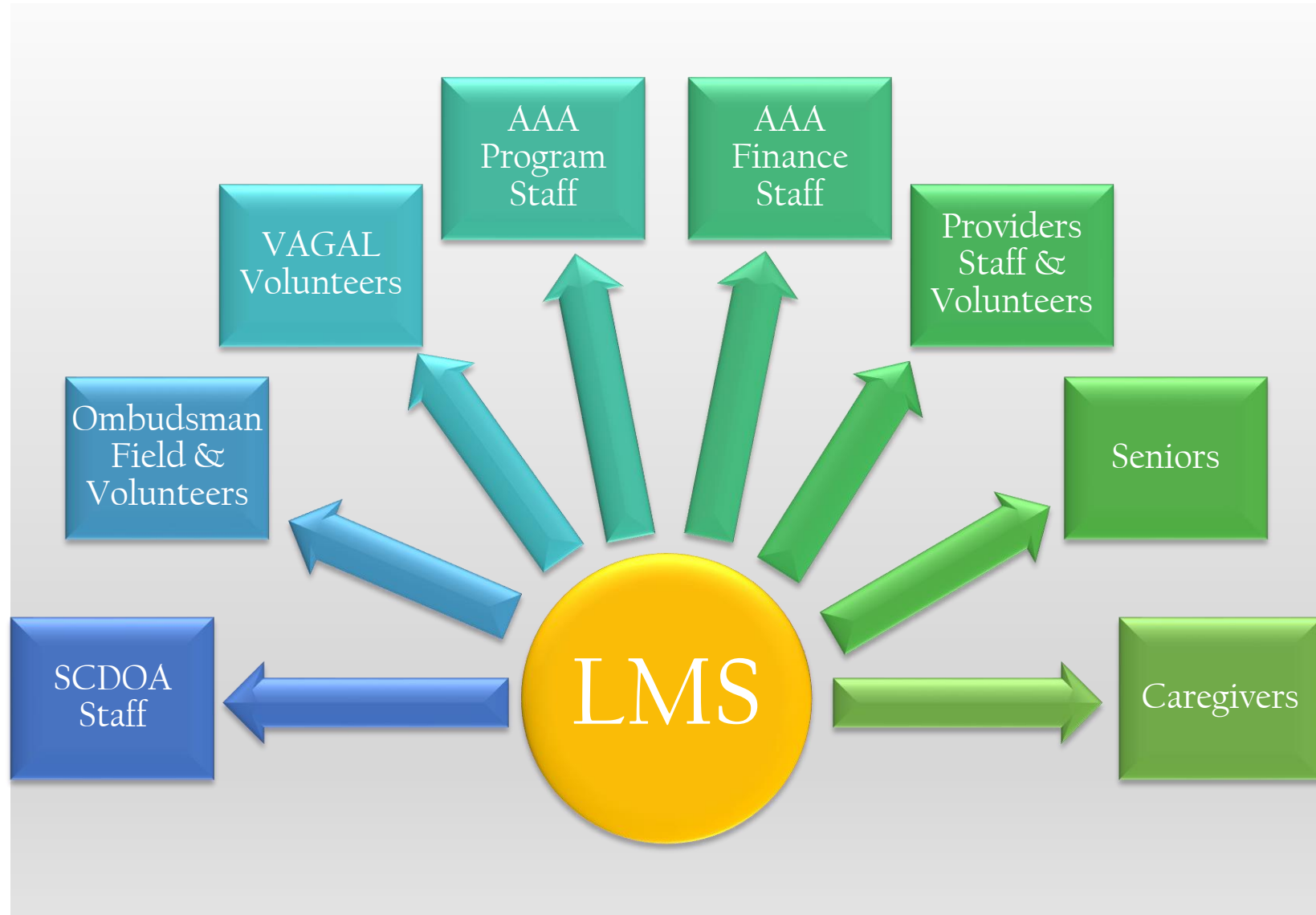
- Collaborate with SC Department of Veteran Affairs
- Bridging the gap for services
- Development of peer to peer programs





# Agency Priority 3 – Learning Management System (LMS)

- Virtual learning and training
- Managed content for specific programs
- Similar format to SCEIS Central Online Training
- Retention of Staff and Volunteers



# Agency Priority 4

## Long Term Care Ombudsman Division

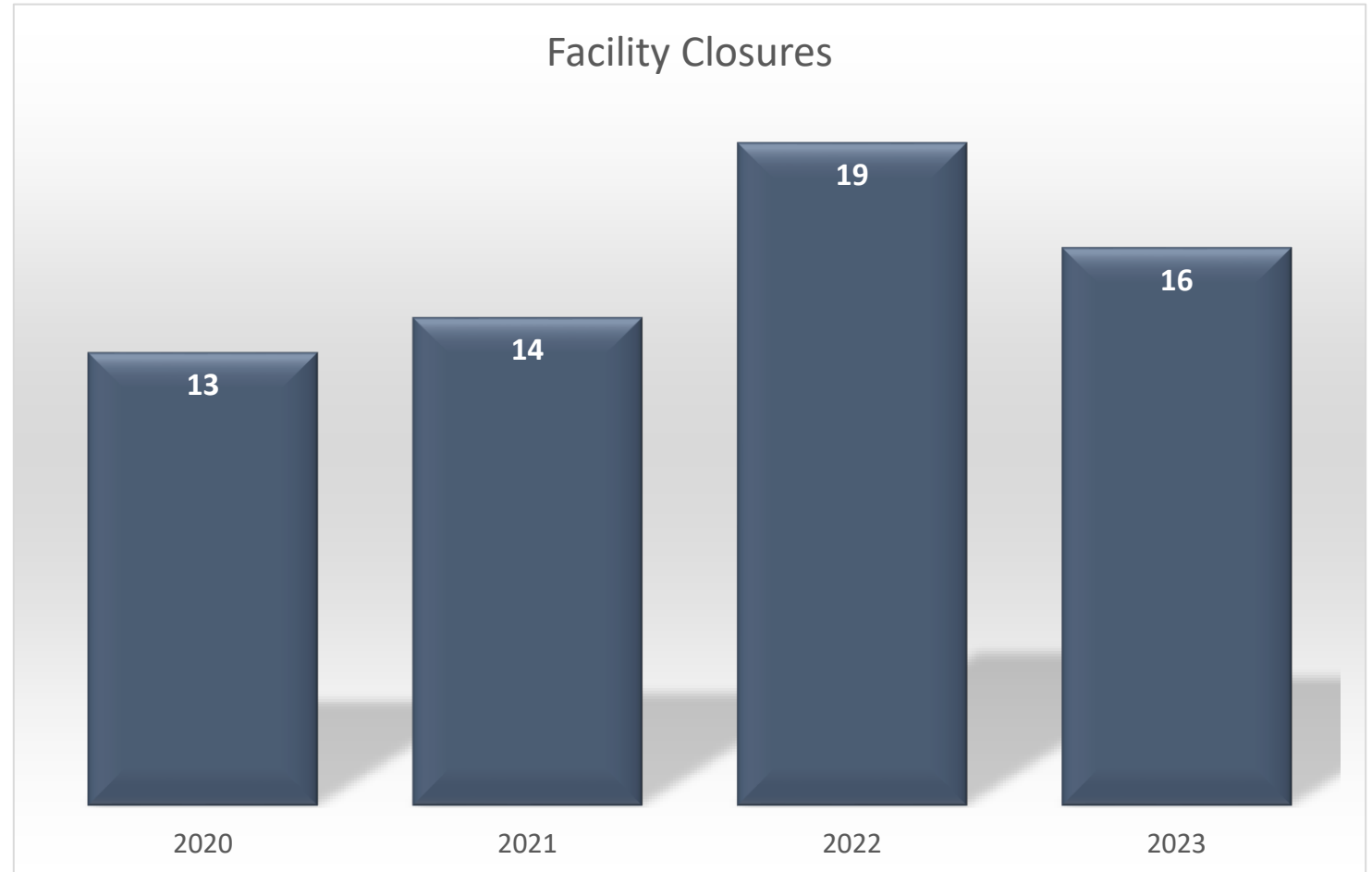
Request: \$109,488

Federal \$93,065

State \$16,423

## Agency Priority 4 – Long Term Care Ombudsman Assistance

- Due to increase of closures, higher risk to residents
- In compliance with LAC Recommendations 60-66 on monitoring
- Increased presence in the long term care facilities



## Agency Priority 5

# Salary Adjustment for VAGAL Employees

Request: \$63,450 Recurring State Funds

# VAGAL SC Budget Request – Salary Adjustment for VAGAL Employees

In FY 2023, the VAGAL SC program provided the following services:



- Guardian ad Litem representation in SC Family Courts for 500 vulnerable adults who were at substantial risk of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and exploitation
- Guardian ad Litem representation in 561 court hearings for vulnerable adults
- Supervision for 37 volunteers from across the state who served as Guardians ad Litem in FY 2023
- 8 new volunteer and continuing education training events with a total of 116 participants

# Agency Priority 6

## Federal Funds Increase

Request: \$3,000,000 Federal Authority



# Federal Funds Increase

- Older American Act funding for FFY23 increased by 1.75 million
- Funding is based on the senior population
- US Census Bureau data shows from 2010 to 2019 South Carolina population 65 and older increased by 47%
- SCDOA continues to apply for various federal discretionary grant
- Federal spending in 2023 in excess of \$33 million (includes COVID funds)
- 2023 Budget for Federal Funds \$27 million

# Proviso Request:

Proviso #	Title	Proviso Language	Summary (1 - 2 sentences)	Action (Delete, Add, Amend)	Reason for Requested Action (1 - 2 sentences)
40.5	AGING: Home and Community-Based Services	State funds appropriated for Home and Community-Based Services shall be used to fund those services that most directly meet the goal of allowing seniors to live safely and independently at home. Allowable services as defined in the Department on Aging's State Plan include: group dining, home delivered meals, transportation to group dining sites, transportation for essential trips, personal care, homemaker, Home Chore, Home Modification, Legal Assistance, and Assessments.	The South Carolina Department on Aging, in partnership with the South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health (IMPH), convened a taskforce comprised of stakeholders from across South Carolina to collaboratively identify approaches to address social isolation in older adults. A formal recommendation report was released June 2023: Addressing Social Isolation in Older Adults as a Determinant of Health. Recommendation SC1a specifically states, to support increased programming to foster social connectedness, the SCDOA should request a modification to Proviso 40.5 to include "programs to promote social connection" in the list of allowable expenditures for Home and Community Based Services <b>and programming to promote social connection.</b>	Add language	To be in compliance with the recommendations of the June 2023: Addressing Social Isolation in Older Adults as a Determinant of Health Report.

# Proviso Request:

Proviso #	Title	Proviso Language	Summary (1 - 2 sentences)	Action (Delete, Add, Amend)	Reason for Requested Action (1 - 2 sentences)
40.6	AGING: Geriatric Loan Forgiveness Program	In lieu of quarterly payments to a recipient of the Geriatric Physician Loan Program, the Department on Aging is authorized to make a single lump sum payment to the lending institution of up to \$35,000 or the loan balance, whichever is less. Any unexpended balance on June thirtieth of the prior fiscal year of funds appropriated in Part IA, Section 40, Geriatric Physician Loan Program, shall be carried forward and used for the same purpose as originally appropriated.	2). Upon execution of the contract, the department shall reimburse student loan payments made by the physician <u>or other qualified health professional as outlined in subsection (A)</u> during the last completed calendar quarter. No more than four physicians <u>or other qualified health professionals</u> a year may participate in the program unless sufficient funding is available to reimburse, in accordance with this section, more than four per year. The total amount that may be reimbursed to one physician <u>or other qualified health professional</u> is <del>thirty-five</del> <u>fifty</u> thousand dollars multiplied by the number of years of the fellowship completed, prorated for periods less than one <u>year if awarded to a physician participating in a fellowship program</u> .	Amend and add language	Because of the stringent requirements for the program, the Agency often has trouble finding qualified applicants; an expansion of the program to other allied health professionals would help remove South Carolina from classification as a healthcare professional shortage area and attract more talent to the state.



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