



# **FY 2026-2027 Budget Hearing**

## **SC House Ways and Means**

### **Healthcare Budget Subcommittee**

Presented by  
Dr. David J. Cole, President, MUSC  
and  
Dr. Patrick J. Cawley, CEO, MUSC Health,  
and Executive Vice President for Health Affairs, University

January 20, 2026



# MUSC At a Glance

## Education

- Six colleges: Dental Medicine, Graduate Studies, Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy
- Over 3,491 students (303 undergraduates)
- 1,048 residents and fellows (142 GME programs)
- 3-year MD program

## Patient Care

- MUSC Health provides patient care to citizens in all 46 counties in South Carolina
- Broadest range of specialties and complex care in South Carolina – more than 15 only at MUSC Health
- Over 950 care locations situated in all regions of South Carolina
- 460 telehealth sites as well as connectivity to patients' homes
- Statewide virtual

## Research and Innovation

- Largest research institution in South Carolina (Nearly \$360 million in FY 2025)
- South Carolina's only National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center
- MUSC Health has healthcare system partners or clinical affiliates in all 46 counties in South Carolina
- South Carolina Clinical & Translational Research (SCTR) Institute, a statewide NIH-funded Clinical & Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program Hub

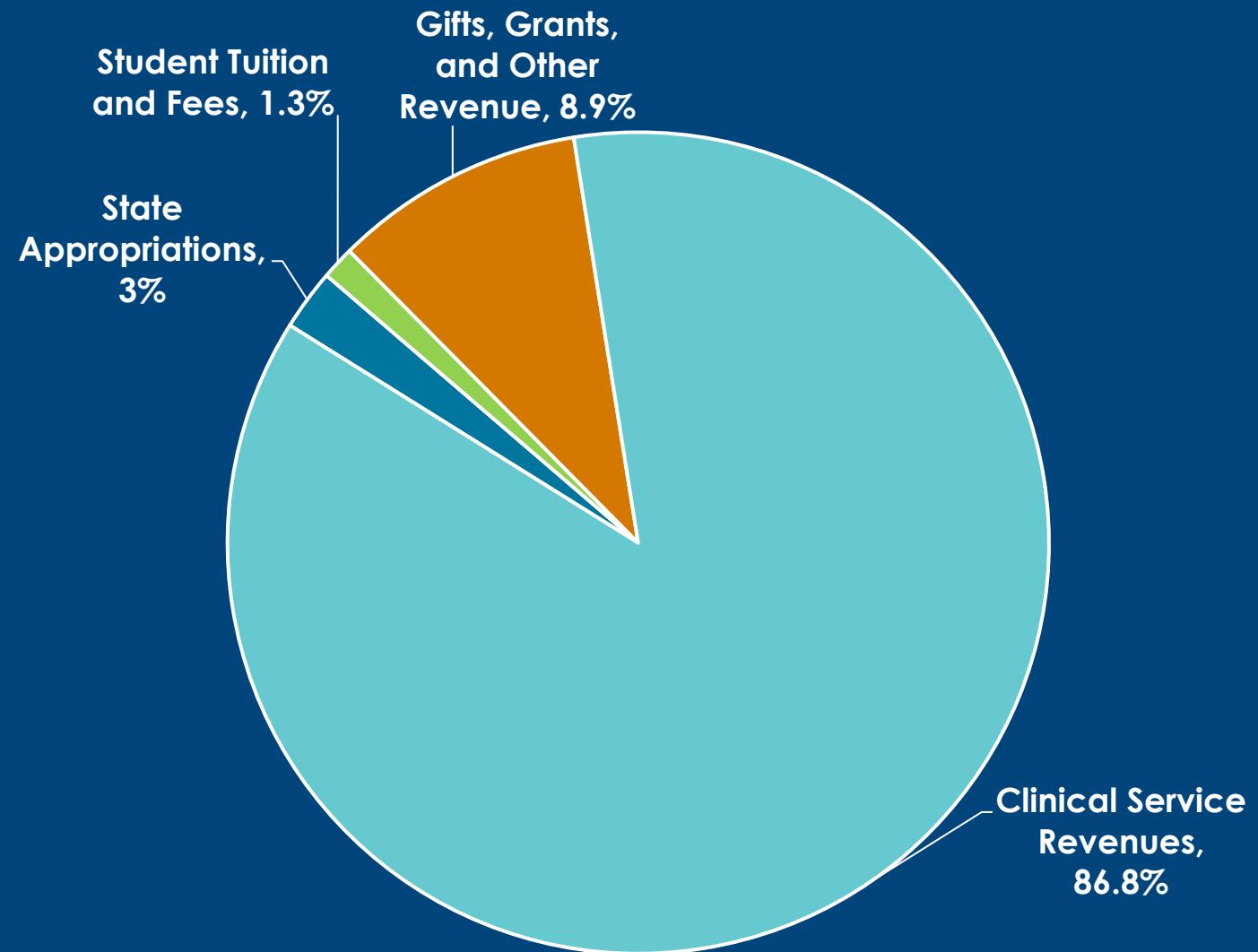
## Recognition

- MUSC has been serving South Carolina for 202 years
- MUSC Health Charleston ranked No. 1 hospital in South Carolina by *U.S. News & World Report* for the eleventh year in a row
- MUSC Health Charleston nationally ranked (top 50) in 7 specialties and 19 high performing specialties, procedures or conditions by *U.S. News & World Report*
- MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital ranked No. 1 in South Carolina and eleventh in the southeast by *U.S. News & World Report*

## Impact

- Statewide economic impact of \$10.1 billion
- \$8.9 billion FY 2026 expenditure budget
- 34,445 employees
- South Carolina's only integrated academic health sciences center
- Hospitals in Charleston, Chester, Florence, Kershaw, Lancaster, Marion, Orangeburg, Richland, and Williamsburg counties with over 2,800 patient beds

# FY2026 Budgeted Enterprise Revenue by Funding Source



**\$8.9 B Total Enterprise Revenue**

**State Appropriations: \$216.3M**

- \$178.9M Recurring
- \$37.4M Nonrecurring (Capital)

**3% of Total Enterprise Budget**

- 15.3% of University Budget
- 0.7% of MUSC Health Budget

# Jean and Hugh K. Leatherman Behavioral Care Pavilion

- Collaborative Partners with MUSC Health:
  - SCDHHS
  - SC Office of Mental Health (formerly SCDMH)
  - McLeod Health
  - City of Florence
  - Hope Health
  - Francis Marion University
- 63 Bed Inpatient Behavioral Health Hospital



# Jean and Hugh K. Leatherman Behavioral Care Pavilion

## By the Numbers



AVERAGE DAILY  
CENSUS  
**31**



**CAPACITY**  
Increased inpatient  
beds to 43/63  
in December



AVERAGE ADMISSIONS  
(LAST 3 MONTHS)  
**100**



TOTAL PATIENTS  
SEEN  
**419**



PERCENT FROM  
PEE DEE  
**77%**



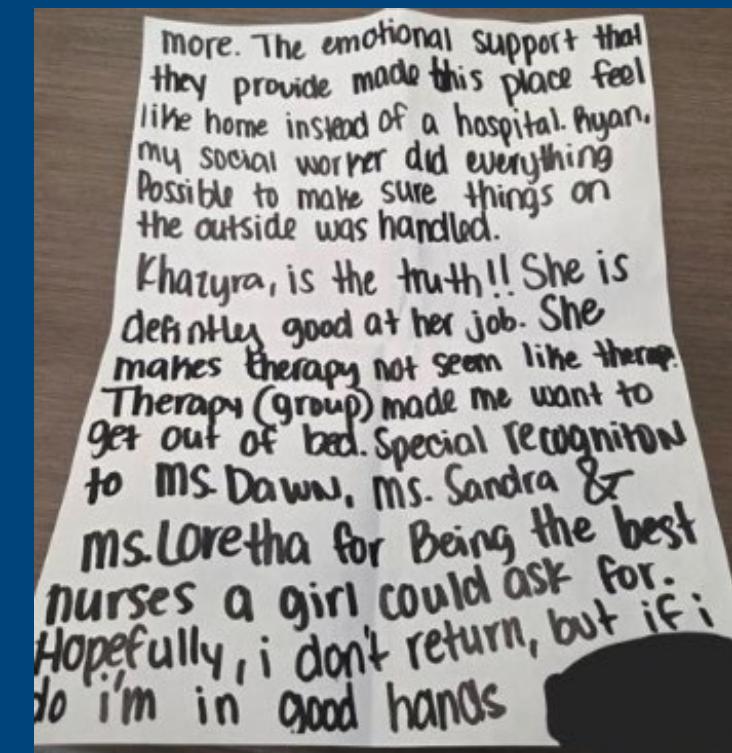
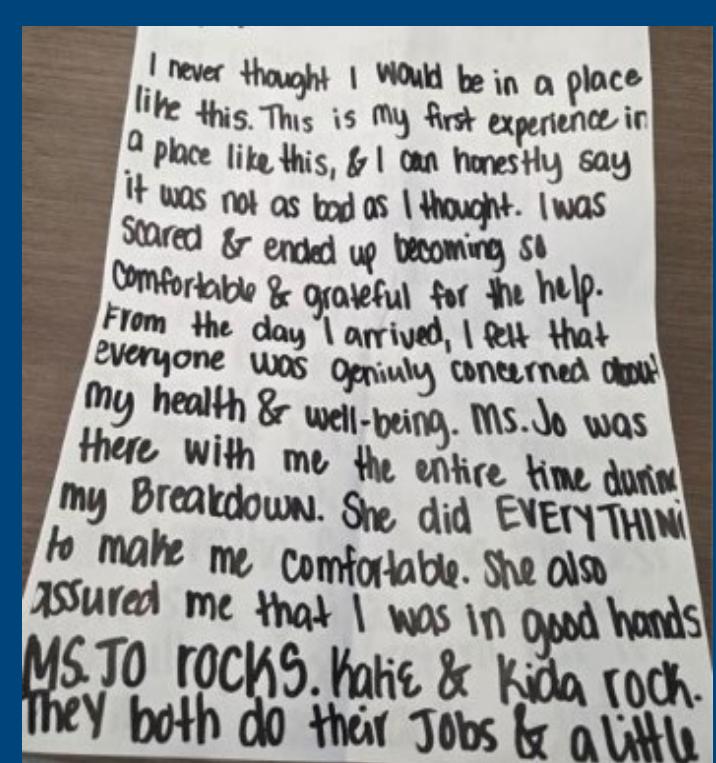
NATIONAL QUALITY  
METRICS

- Top 10% for 8/9 metrics
- Top 15% for 9th metric

# Jean and Hugh K. Leatherman Behavioral Care Pavilion

## Patient Testimonial

"From the day I arrived, I felt that everyone was genuinely concerned about my health and well-being...The emotional support that [staff] provide made this place feel like home instead of a hospital...Hopefully, I don't return, but if I do I'm in good hands."



# Rena N. Grant Sickle Cell Program



The screenshot shows the FDA website with the following details:  
Title: FDA Approves First Gene Therapies to Treat Patients with Sickle Cell Disease  
Date: December 08, 2023  
Text: 'Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved two milestone treatments, Casgevy and Lyfgenia, representing the first cell-based gene therapies for the treatment of sickle cell disease (SCD) in patients 12 years and older.'

The screenshot shows a news article with the following details:  
Title: A Team-Based Approach to Treating Unmet Needs of Sickle Cell Patients  
Text: 'Advance With MUSC Health | September 30, 2022'  
Image: A 3D rendering of a sickle cell red blood cell, which is misshapen and curved.

**Established with funds from Proviso 117.157 of the 2021-2022 Appropriations Act  
(Proviso 117.135 in the current budget)**

## Completed

- World Sickle Cell Day campaign at the SC Statehouse
- Participated in over 40 outreach events around South Carolina to raise awareness
- Transition Program to support adolescents moving from pediatrics to adult clinic launched in May 2024
- Orangeburg Sickle Cell Clinic opened September 2025
- Ongoing access to FDA approved gene therapy and stem cell transplants
- Provided update to the Grant family in December 2025

## In Progress

- Kingstree Clinic under construction with projected opening for mid-year 2026
- Plans to develop Sickle Cell Patient Advisory Panel launching in 2026

# Rena N. Grant Sickle Cell Program

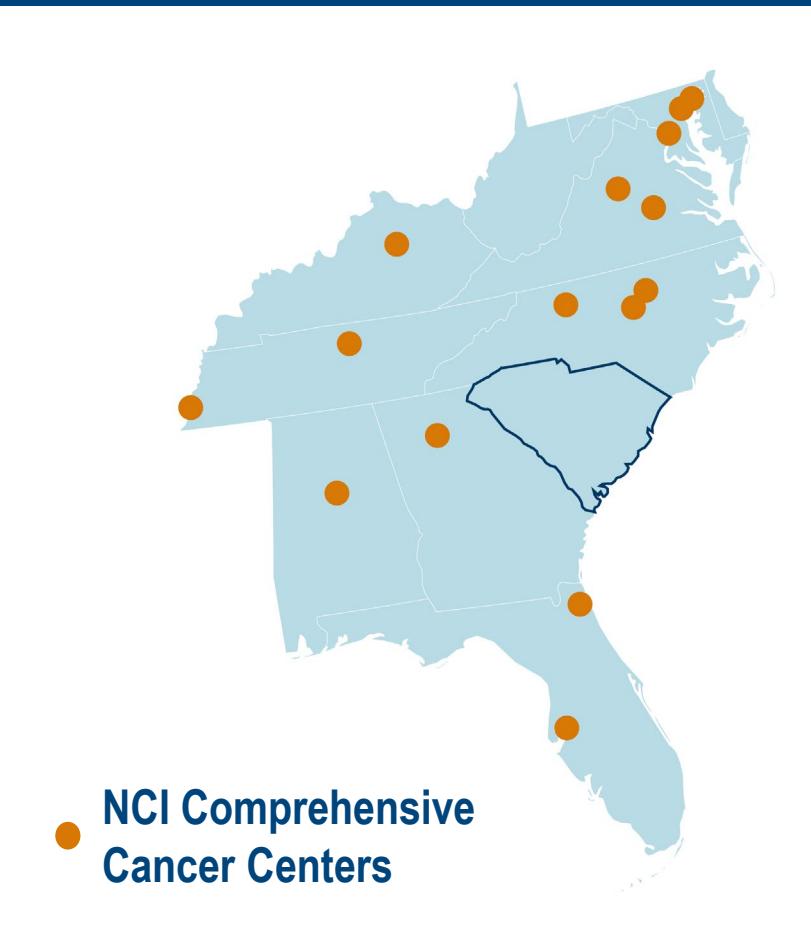
## Impact

- Estimated 3,000-5,000 patients with sickle cell in South Carolina
  - Charleston hub provides care to 1,067 patients including 380 adults and 687 pediatric patients
- Prior to state funding: No hematologists regularly seeing adult sickle cell patients
- Thanks to state funding: 3 hematologists (1 via telemedicine), and two telemedicine hematology applications
- 12,455 in-person and telemedicine hematology visits in the past year, **reaching the entire state**
- **Decreased emergency department visits for patients seen through the program**
- Increased use of disease modifying therapy (e.g., hydroxyurea)
- 43 referrals for gene therapy, 5 completed, **all thriving**

# Capital Budget Requests

<b>Request</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Description of Request</b>
Comprehensive Cancer Hospital	\$350,000,000	MUSC is pursuing National Cancer Institute (NCI) Comprehensive Cancer Center designation for Hollings Cancer Center (HCC) in the 2028 renewal cycle. As a part of this, the enterprise plans to construct a new state-of-the-art Comprehensive Cancer Hospital in Charleston by 2030, providing integrated, patient-centered cancer care and an increase in research facilities. The new hospital will enable expanded access to advanced treatments and clinical trials, while the existing HCC building will be repurposed for research growth. This investment will strengthen South Carolina's leadership in oncology, attract top scientists, create jobs, and improve cancer outcomes statewide.

# Comprehensive Cancer Center



MUSC is committed to achieving Comprehensive Cancer Center status in 2028.

This means that MUSC must prove to the National Cancer Institute we are able to provide access to state-of-the-art cancer care to the citizens of SC.

## How:

MUSC is building a statewide cancer ecosystem with partner hospitals and providers, including access to clinical trials and local care.

Within the MUSC system, we are building a hub and spoke model, with a new state-of-the-art Comprehensive Cancer Hospital in Charleston.

## Our vision, commitment to South Carolina:

- **Making Cure a reality**
- **Delivering best in class cancer patient experience for South Carolinians**

# Comprehensive Cancer Center

**The Ask:** \$350M capital support

(We are initiating a \$200M philanthropic campaign to support a public/private partnership.)

**The Need:**

South Carolina faces a projected 20% increase in cancer incidence by 2028<sup>1</sup>

**Cancer Hospital Comprehensive Services:**

600,000-sq ft building with inpatient oncology and operating rooms

- Precision medicine, chemotherapy infusion and radiation oncology programs
- Survivorship, prevention and supportive care services
- Stem cell transplantation and advanced cellular therapies (e.g., CAR-T)
- Dedicated urgent care center
- Cutting-edge clinical trials, coordinated care with partner hospitals and providers

**For the State:**

- Attracts and retains top-tier physicians, scientists and health care professionals.
- Creates high-value jobs and strengthens the biomedical economy.
- Excellent care supports Hollings Cancer Center's efforts to achieve NCI Comprehensive Cancer Center designation in 2028.
- Ensures that rural and underserved communities across the state benefit from MUSC's cancer network.

**Bottom Line in Terms of Cancer Care:**

This facility will deliver best in class patient experience infused with cutting edge research.

Enables South Carolina to take care of our own with best-in-class care across all 46 counties.

**Best local cancer care will become a reality for South Carolinians.**

<sup>1</sup> Source: Advisory Board Cancer Incidence Estimator based on USCS Data (CDC)

# Current Proviso Request

- Delete proviso 23.6 - Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Assessment

~~The MUSC Hospital Authority, in conjunction with existing service providers of alcohol and substance abuse treatment, shall assess the need in developing long term inpatient residential rehabilitation treatment programs. The MUSC Hospital Authority shall submit a report by September 30, 2025, to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee detailing these efforts and its proposed plan.~~

**Reason:** The required actions in the proviso have been completed.

# Current Provisos: Section 23 (1 of 2)

- **Keep: 23.1. (MUSC: Rural Dentist Program)** The Rural Dentist Program, in coordination with the Department of Public Health's Dentistry Program, is established at the Medical University of South Carolina. The funds appropriated to the Medical University of South Carolina for the Rural Dentist Program shall be administered by the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium physician recruitment office. The costs associated with administering this program are to be paid from the funds appropriated to the Rural Dentist Program and shall not exceed four percent of the appropriation. The Medical University of South Carolina is responsible for the fiscal management of funds to ensure that state policies and guidelines are adhered to. MUSC shall be permitted to carry forward unspent general funds appropriated to the Rural Dentist Program provided that these funds be expended for the program for which they were originally designated. A board is created to manage and allocate these funds to insure the location of licensed dentists in rural areas of South Carolina and on the faculty of the College of Dental Medicine at MUSC. The board will be composed of the following: the Dean, or his designee, of the MUSC College of Dental Medicine; three members from the South Carolina Dental Education Foundation Board who represent rural areas; and the President, or his designee, of the South Carolina Dental Association. The Director of Department of Public Health's Office of Primary Care; the Director or his designee of the Department of Health and Human Services; and the Executive Director of the South Carolina Dental Association shall serve as ex officio members without vote. This board shall serve without compensation.
- **Keep: 23.2. (MUSC: Rural Access Plan)** The MUSC Hospital Authority, in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services, shall study how to partner with existing rural hospitals and other entities to ensure that these regions maintain access to medical care. The MUSC Hospital Authority shall submit a report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee detailing efforts to maintain medical care at rural hospitals no later than the end of the fiscal year.
- **23.3.** Deleted.

# Current Provisos: Section 23 (2 of 2)

- **Keep: 23.4 (MUSC: Rural Behavioral Health Professional Incentive Program)** Using funds appropriated, the Rural Behavioral Health Professional Incentive is established at the Medical University of South Carolina. The funds appropriated to the Medical University of South Carolina for the Rural Behavioral Health Incentive Program shall be administered by the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC) recruitment office. The costs associated with administering this program are to be paid from the funds appropriated to the Rural Behavioral Health Professional Incentive Program and shall not exceed four percent of the appropriation. AHEC shall be permitted to carry forward unspent general funds appropriated to the Rural Behavioral Health Professional Incentive Program provided that these funds be expended for the program for which they were originally designated. A board is created to manage and allocate these funds to ensure the location of licensed behavioral health professionals in rural and underserved areas of South Carolina. The board will be composed of the following: the Chief Executive Officer, or his designee, of the South Carolina Office of Rural Health; a representative from the South Carolina Primary Care Office of the Department of Public Health; a behavioral health professional; a representative from the South Carolina Department of Mental Health; and a staff member from the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium. This board shall serve without compensation.
- **Keep: 23.5. (MUSC: Blood Borne Virus Screening)** Of the funds appropriated for Blood Borne Virus Screening, the Medical University Hospital Authority, in conjunction with the Frontlines of Communities in the United States (FOCUS) Initiative, shall utilize at least \$200,000 to develop a pilot program to improve the screening, diagnosis, and linkage to care for blood borne viruses by routinizing screening services in hospital emergency departments. The pilot program shall lead to reduced transmission rates for South Carolinians by improving the early identification of undiagnosed infections, supporting the identification of individuals living with blood borne viruses who were previously diagnosed but are not participating in care, and providing linkage to care for individuals who would benefit from blood borne virus management or participating in preventative services. By June 30, 2025, the MUSC Hospital Authority shall submit a report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Department of Public Health detailing the effectiveness of the program.

# Thank You

