

# SC CENTER FOR RURAL AND PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

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*From evidence to impact*



CENTER FOR RURAL AND  
PRIMARY HEALTHCARE



South Carolina Center for  
Rural and Primary Healthcare  
School of Medicine Columbia  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

# Key Presenters



**Dr. Gerald Harmon**

Interim Dean,  
USC School of Medicine  
Columbia



**Dr. Kevin Bennett**

Director, CRPH  
Professor, USC School of Medicine  
Columbia



**Dr. Patricia Witherspoon**

Medical Director, CRPH  
USC School of Medicine  
Columbia

# SC Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare

USC School of Medicine Columbia  
Center of Excellence since 2017

Center programs and initiatives are  
serving as national models to improve  
rural health.



# 2026-2027 Budget Request

**Request - level funding for 2026-2027 for main proviso**

## **Rural Health Initiative Proviso**

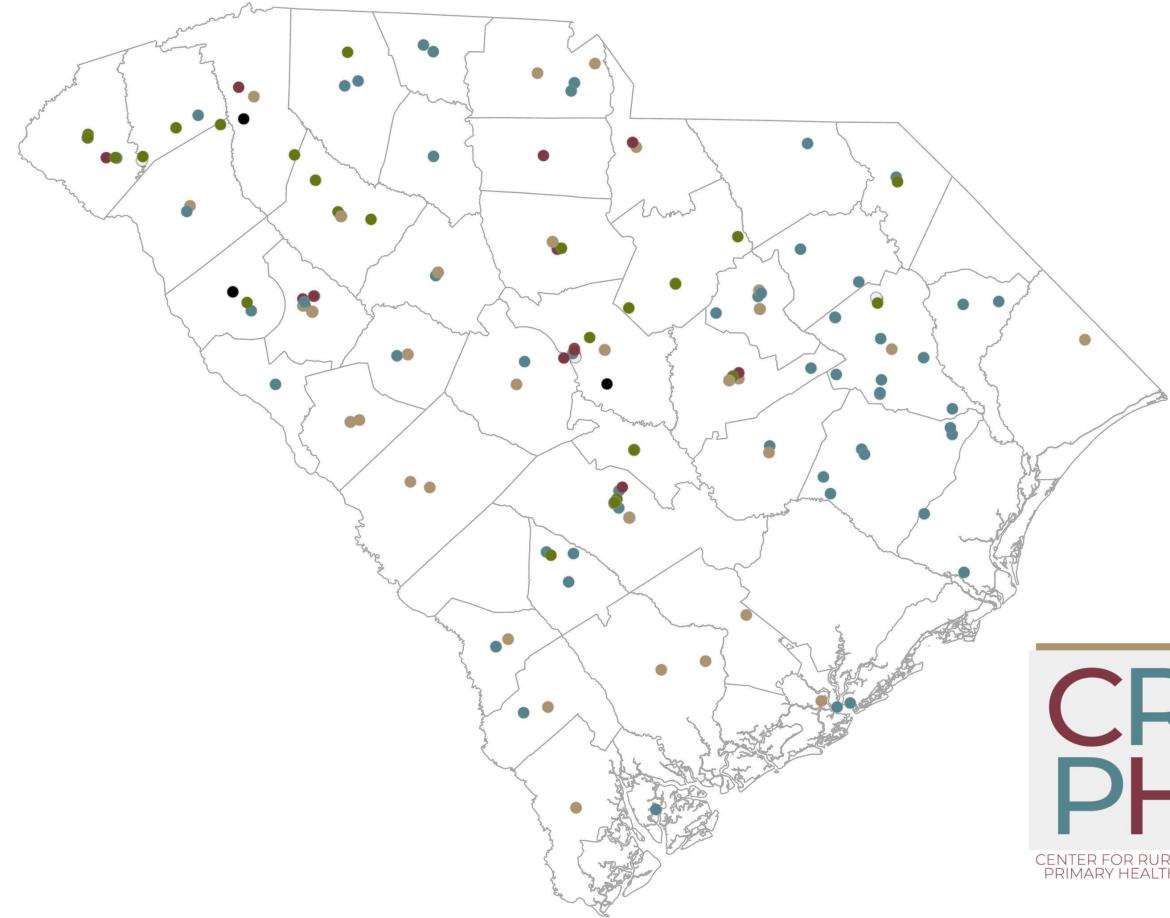
Maintain language as passed in 2025.  
Continue the dedicated funding for our Center,  
programs, and communities.



# Overall Impact

- 72 Programs serving 241 sites
- 10,676 patients in 2025 received clinical services
  - More than 39,000 since 2017
- Over 3,000 health professionals received training or new skills in 2025
- 4,711 participants received support to manage their non-clinical health-related needs
- Avoided nearly 235,000 miles of travel for patients/caregivers in 2025
  - More than 1.4 million since 2017

## Current Program Sites



# CRPH is Impacting our State

**Changing how healthcare is delivered with innovative and evidence-based programs**

Improving access to quality healthcare

Training current and future workforce

Connecting the community to clinical services

Analyzing data to better serve the state

Evaluating our impact

Best seen in our commitment to improving maternal and child health



# CRPH is Impacting our State

Improving access to quality healthcare

Training current and future workforce

**Changing how healthcare is delivered with innovative and evidence-based programs**

Connecting the community to clinical services

Analyzing data to better serve the state and evaluate impact



# Improving Access to Quality Healthcare

Improving access to care and supporting clinical organizations in rural communities through a variety of programs, especially our iCARE program.

- Focus on Maternal and Child Health, Behavioral Health
- Primary, specialty and needed care delivered locally
- More than **7,395** patients received care in iCARE access clinics in 2025
  - **941** pediatric patients obtained subspecialty care in their communities
  - 959 patients accessed mental health services.
  - **1,527** telehealth visits provided by iCARE programs



# Training the Current and Future Workforce

**Supporting programs that identify gaps in training and workforce development to ensure that rural communities have access to high-quality providers.**

- **2,645** professionals received training to better serve rural communities, including:
  - certified nursing assistants (CNAs)
  - behavioral health providers
  - community health workers
  - and other frontline providers
- **1,054** students received rural-specific training
- 3 Rurally-focused clinical pharmacy training programs
- HBCU Discovery program in 4 SC HBCUs reached **1,715** students



# Connecting the Community to Clinical Services

**Developing and supporting models of care where rural community-based organizations and healthcare provider organizations partner and align to improve access to care beyond clinic walls.**

- **1,511** rural residents received supportive services to address their non-medical needs in 2025
- **595** in-home primary and preventive health visits provided by community paramedicine programs in Fairfield and Spartanburg counties
- Over **12,000** miles of travel to medical appointments were saved for families in Bamberg and Barnwell Counties



# Taking Action

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# Taking Action - Maternal and Child Health

- Implementation of a new model of care for pregnant women that is receiving state and national attention
  - **Program Highlight:** Guided Beginnings – a collaborative health community serving patients in Greenwood, Abbeville, and Saluda Counties
- Creation of **6** new prenatal access for rural communities
  - **Program Highlight:** Beaufort Jasper Hampton Comprehensive Health Services' expansion of obstetrical services to Hampton and Jasper Counties
- Expansion of **3** programs that increase access to specialty maternity care
  - **Program Highlight:** Expansion of MOMS programs for pregnant women with diabetes to Orangeburg



# Taking Action - Maternal and Child Health

- Increase access to pediatric and pediatric specialty care for rural families
  - 30 clinics per month throughout SC;
  - **Program Highlight:** new McLeod pediatric practice in Loris
- Support of **4** new maternal and child health support services to rural patients
  - **Program Highlight:** Expansion of the Bradshaw Institute, which provides mental health and community resources to rural families in the Midlands



# What's next to Expand our Impact

- **Continue to Enhance Access to Quality** care and adopt evidence-based models to reduce disparities and improve outcomes in rural communities.
- **Collaborative Health Community expansion** will improve care in additional regions and health conditions.
- **Maternal and Child Health** – continue to focus on a coordinated, holistic approach and support of effective programs.
- **Workforce** – CRPH will continue to expand training opportunities, including residency training, BSN-RN, EMT, and other providers.
- **Mobile Health Unit technical assistance** to increase reimbursement and sustainability, optimal staffing models, and connecting patients to medical homes.



# Thank you for your support of our rural communities!

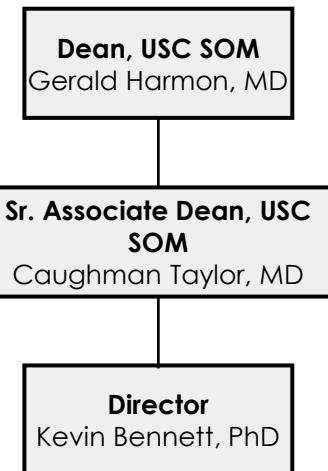
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[www.scruralhealth.org](http://www.scruralhealth.org)



# CRPH Organizational Chart



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