

# SC CENTER FOR RURAL AND PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

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*From evidence to impact*

# 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**

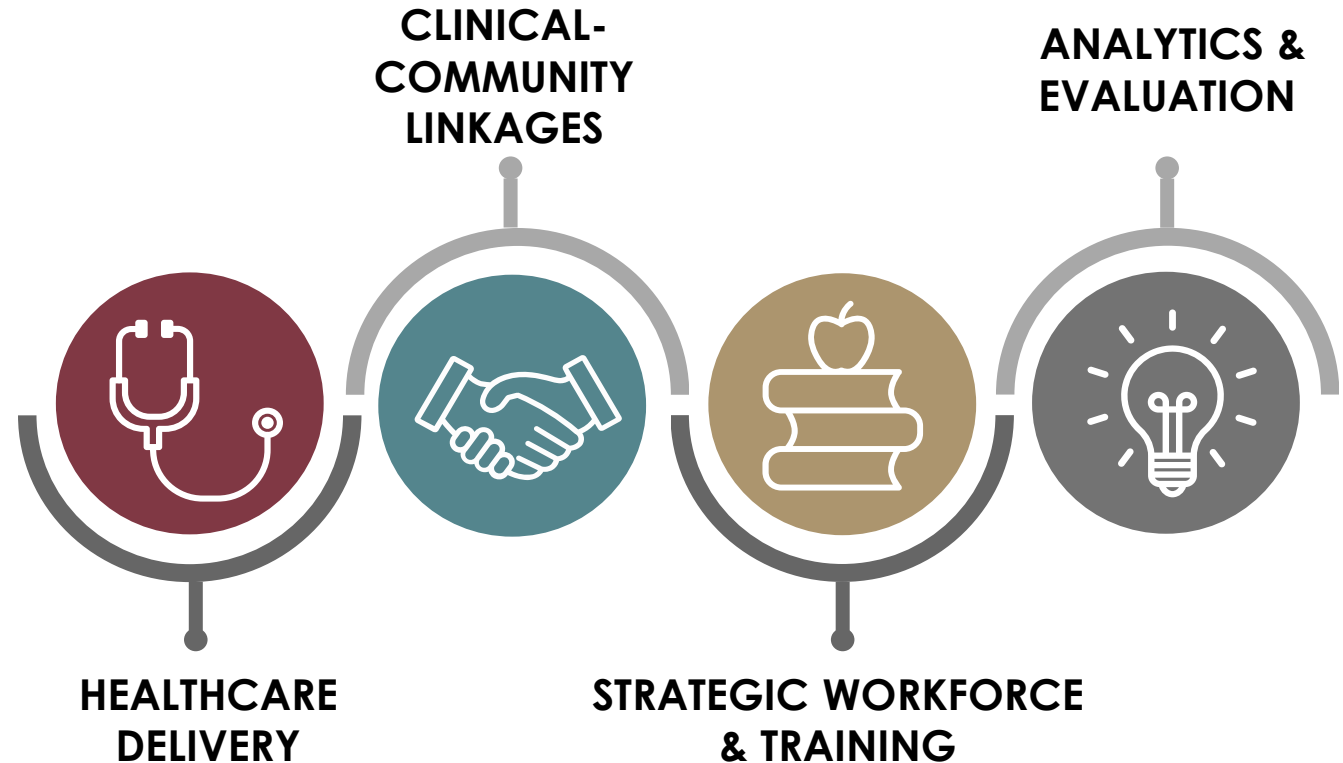
Medical Director, CRPH  
USC School of Medicine  
Columbia

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# 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**

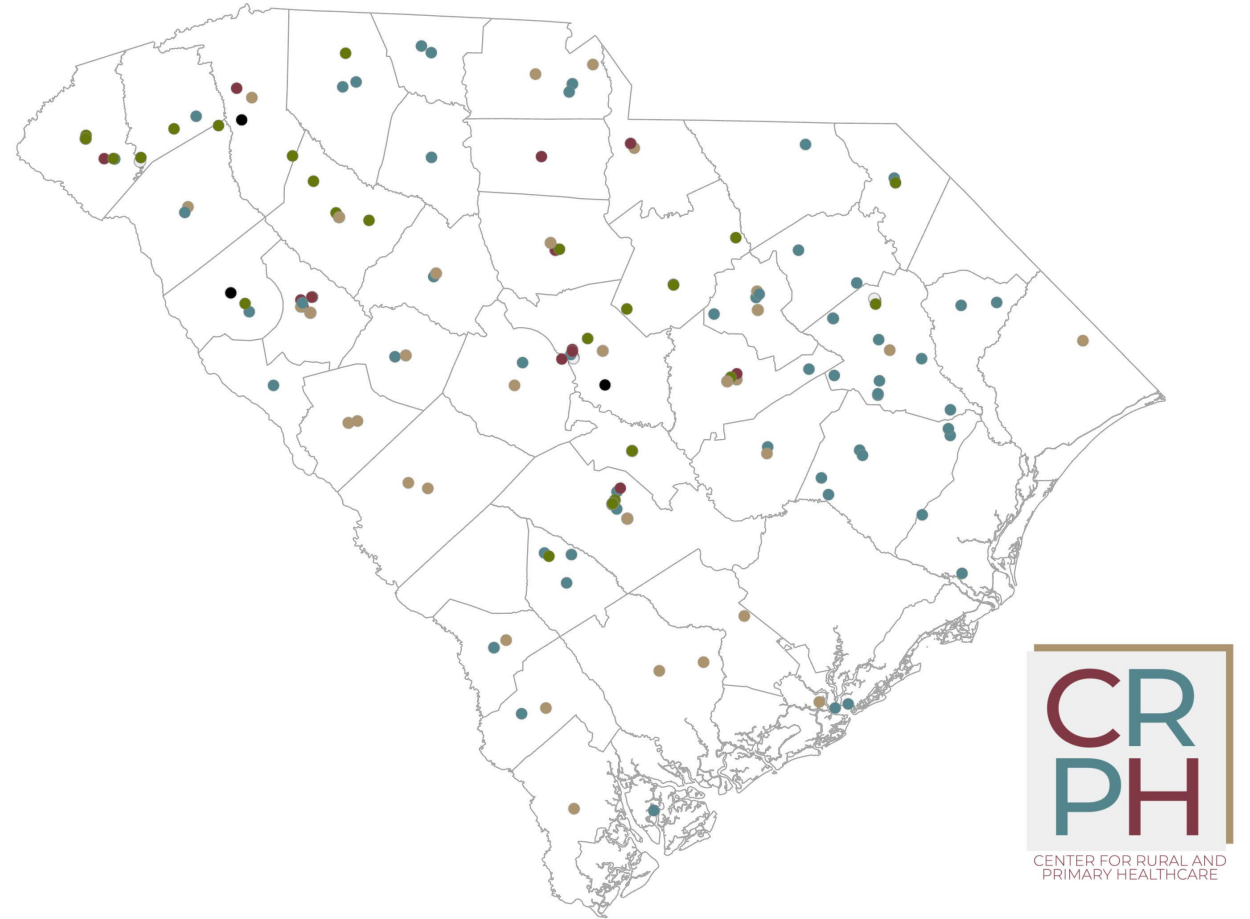
## **Rural Health Initiative Proviso**

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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[SCRuralHealthcare@uscmed.sc.edu](mailto:SCRuralHealthcare@uscmed.sc.edu)

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

# CRPH Organizational Chart



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

