

# HOUSE WAYS & MEANS

Healthcare Subcommittee

January 28, 2026





# System Overview

## Research Institution

USC Columbia

## Comprehensives

USC Aiken

USC Beaufort

USC Upstate

## Palmetto College

USC Lancaster

USC Salkehatchie

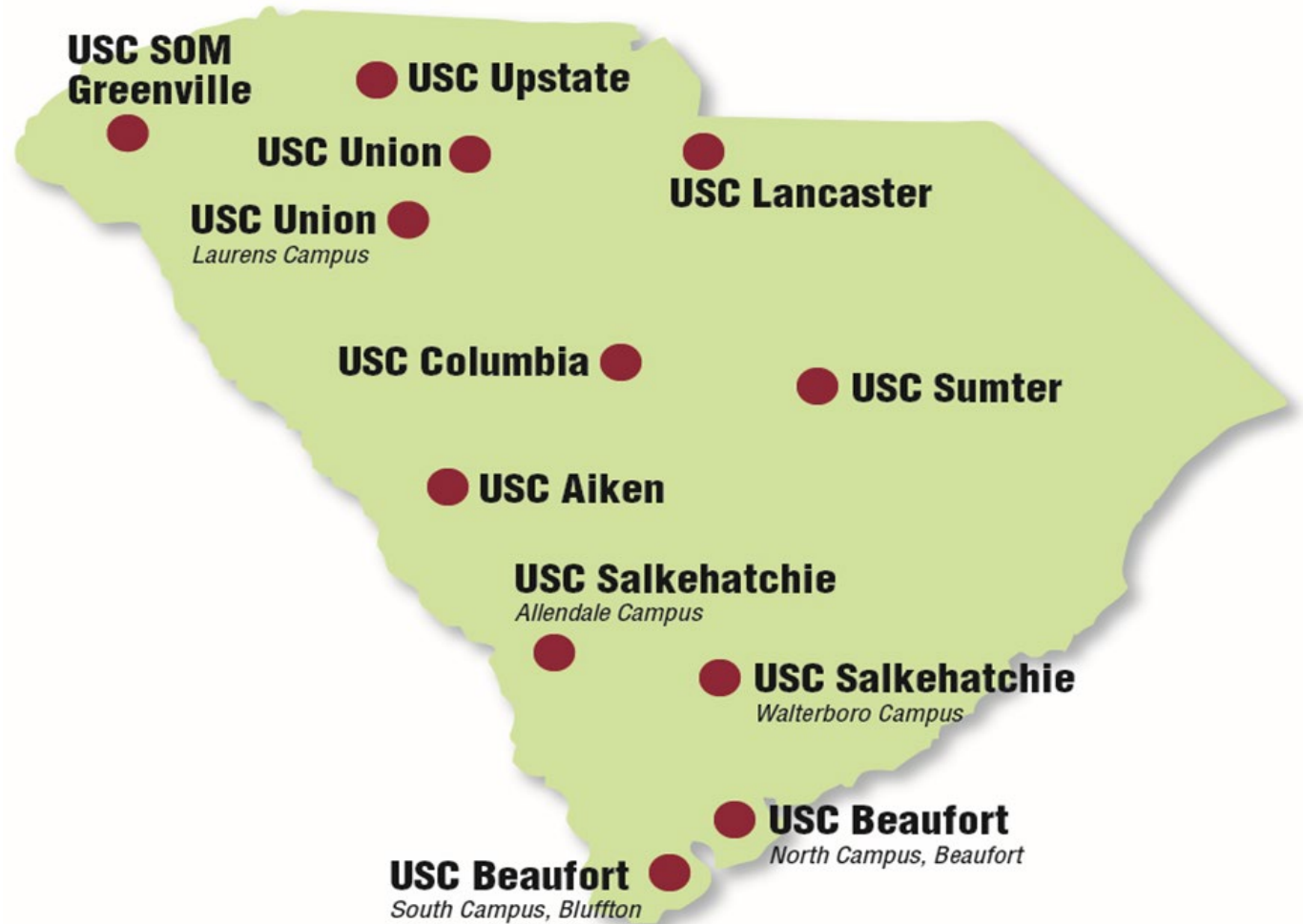
USC Sumter

USC Union

## School of Medicine

Columbia

Greenville



UNIVERSITY OF  
**South Carolina**

# KEY OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Michael D. Amiridis, President

Sarah Kirby, Associate Vice President for Clinical Affairs

Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Administration Affairs and Provost

Ed Walton, Executive Vice President for Administration and CFO

Michelle Dodenhoff, Vice President for Development

Julius Fridriksson, Vice President for Research

Jeff Stensland, Associate Vice President for Communications

Joe Sobieralski, Senior Associate Vice President for Administration and Finance Chief of Staff

Kelly Epting, Associate Vice President for Finance and Budget

Anna Edwards, Office of the President Chief of Staff

Derek Gruner, AVP for Plan, Design, Construction University Architect

Derrick Meggie, Director of State Government and Community Relations

Diane Parham, Director of Executive Communications

Craig Parks, Director of Public Affairs and Advocacy



# POINTS OF PRIDE

## MEETING SOUTH CAROLINA'S HEALTH CARE NEEDS

South Carolina awards 4,000 health science degrees each year, spanning 100 distinct degree programs, making USC **the state's top health care educator.**

## IMPROVING BRAIN HEALTH

Through the Brain Health Network and the upcoming Brain Health Center and neurological hospital and rehabilitation center, **USC is serving patients throughout the state suffering from a variety of neurological conditions.**

## HIGHLY RANKED HEALTH PROGRAMS

USC is **home to 20 nationally ranked health science graduate programs**, more than any other in South Carolina.

## SUPERIOR ACADEMICS

Students at the School of Medicine Columbia achieved a **100 percent first-time pass rate on the U.S. medical licensing exam** in 2025.

## ADVANCING BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

Bringing cutting-edge health research and innovation to the state, **USC is home to three federally designated Centers of Biomedical Excellence.**

## PIONEER IN LIFESTYLE MEDICINE

USC'S School of Medicine Greenville is the **first medical school in the nation to incorporate exercise physiology into all four years of its curriculum.**

## NURSING EXCELLENCE

USC is filling the state's need for new nurses, **graduating nearly 900 nurses per year.** USC's College of Nursing also is ranked No. 1 nationally by *U.S. News (2025)* for its online master's in nursing program, the fourth straight year it has earned that distinction.







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**Columbia**



# COLUMBIA FY2027 STATE BUDGET REQUEST

## USC HEALTH

Requests	Recurring	Capital/Non-Recurring
Medical School Expansion	9,000,000	
Neurological Hospital Operations	25,500,000	
Brain Health Investment	1,500,000	
Pharmacy building on Health Sciences campus		90,000,000
<b>TOTAL - COLUMBIA</b>	<b>\$ 35,500,000</b>	<b>\$ 90,000,000</b>

Table represents a subset of USC's FY2027 requests directly related to the USC Health Science Campus and/or the USC Schools of Medicine.

# COLUMBIA

## FY2027 STATE BUDGET REQUEST

### Recurring Appropriations

#### Medical School Expansion – Recurring \$9,000,000

- The population of South Carolina is expected to steadily grow by nearly one-million people or twenty percent by 2040. During this period, the median age of the SC population will increase to more than 42, and nearly 25% of the population will become older than age 65 while the population of those under age 15 will contract to less than 17%. These changes will create great pressure on healthcare delivery in South Carolina. (Source: SC RFA Office Population Estimates and Projections)
- To educate and train the professionals required to meet the healthcare demands of that population change, the University of South Carolina Schools of Medicine intend to incrementally grow their class sizes up to 25% overall with this incremental growth beginning in fiscal year 2025-26. This growth is necessary to meet the certainty of the increased demands for geriatric care, chronic disease management for an aging population, and the growth in normal medical services required by a growing population.
- This request will allow the University of South Carolina Schools of Medicine in Columbia and in Greenville to partner with the State of South Carolina to expand its teaching and training capabilities and produce the medical professionals needed to support this population growth.





# COLUMBIA

## FY2027 STATE BUDGET REQUEST

### Recurring Appropriations

#### **Neurological Critical Care Hospital and Neurological Rehabilitation Hospital Operations/Capital Renewal – Recurring \$25,500,000**

- USC thanks the State of South Carolina for its strong support of the state's first neurological hospital — including \$300 million in capital funds and an initial \$4.5 million in recurring support. This landmark investment will establish a center of excellence in neurological critical care and rehabilitation, addressing a longstanding gap in access to timely, high-quality care for South Carolinians.
- While planning and construction is underway, securing additional recurring funding now is essential to plan and launch sustainable operations. These funds would support key leadership, medical, and support staff roles, as well as early-phase operating costs and capital renewal.
- This is a generational opportunity to reshape healthcare in South Carolina. Early investment in readiness ensures we can fully leverage the state's capital commitment and deliver lasting impact for patients, providers, and the state's health system.



# COLUMBIA

## FY2027 STATE BUDGET REQUEST

### Recurring Appropriations

#### **Brain Health Network Expansion – Recurring \$1,500,000**

- The University of South Carolina seeks an additional \$1.5M in recurring funding to strengthen and expand the USC Brain Health Network, a statewide hub-and-spoke model designed to improve diagnosis, care coordination, and treatment for brain health conditions—including traumatic brain injury, dementia, ADHD, and stroke—especially in rural and underserved areas.
- Additional investment would expand Alzheimer’s disease and dementia care to general neurological practice, including epilepsy, headaches, movement disorders, etc. This same increase also would allow for the expansion of more clinics in rural and underserved areas of South Carolina.
- This funding builds upon the \$5M previously received. It aligns with USC’s investment in its new Neurological Surgery Hospital and Rehabilitation Center, which will serve as a clinical and research hub for advanced neurological care in the state.



# COLUMBIA

## FY2027 STATE BUDGET REQUEST

### Capital Appropriations

#### **Pharmacy Building on Health Sciences Campus – \$90,000,000**

- The University of South Carolina appreciates the General Assembly's visionary investments in the BullStreet District, which are transforming the area into a flagship Health Sciences Campus. With \$280 million allocated to the new School of Medicine and \$350 million to the neurosurgical and rehabilitation hospitals, the foundation is firmly established for a nationally recognized hub for health education, research, and clinical care.
- The University now proposes the development of a dedicated facility for the College of Pharmacy within this growing Health Sciences campus. Moving the professional school from the Coker Life Sciences building will free 46,144 sq ft of classroom and laboratory space for repurpose and renovation into undergraduate teaching space needed for the STEM field of biology on the Columbia Campus and will allow for supporting infrastructure—such as parking—to ensure accessibility and operational efficiency across the Health Sciences Campus.
- Moving the professional school to the health campus provides for further consolidation there and proximity to our healthcare providers. Proximity and further integration of teaching with training will provide improved practical experiences for our students. These improved experiences will better provide students with the necessary comprehensive knowledge required to readily enter the professional workforce.



# SYSTEM PROVISO REQUESTS

## 3.7 State's Lottery Investment in Access and Affordability – USC Colleges of Medicine – In-State Student Scholarship Support

- The USC System proposes scholarship assistance for SC in-state residents wishing to seek a medical degree at USC's medical colleges – Columbia and Greenville - by providing these residents with financial scholarship assistance. To help alleviate the state's physician shortage, these scholarships exclusively for the benefit of South Carolina resident students would enhance recruitment and alleviate the out-migration of high-achieving South Carolina students to out-of-state schools. In doing so, USC can recruit, enroll, and retain qualified residents by providing accessible and affordable medical education opportunities for all, especially in underserved areas of our state. Resident medical students educated in our state are more likely to remain in the state and USC medical graduates are more likely to practice in underserved communities. Note: According to the latest national rankings, both USC's medical schools rank in the Top 10 in placing graduates in underserved areas (Columbia #5 and Greenville #7).

***Request: \$3,500,000 allocation to be utilized by USC's colleges of medicine for the exclusive benefit of supporting medical education costs of SC in-state residents. \*Note: Recall that MUSC received a similar 1-time lottery appropriation previously.***





# SYSTEM PROVISO REQUESTS

**117.204.** (GP: Interim Neurological and Critical Care Hospital Board): (A) With the funds appropriated to the Department of Health and Human Services for Neurological Critical Care and Rehabilitation Services in South Carolina, there is created the Interim Neurological and Critical Care Hospital Board at the University of South Carolina. The Department of Health and Human Services is authorized to transfer agency funds to the University of South Carolina for the same purposes. The board shall consist of the following members and shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing official:

(1) Two members appointed by the Chairman of Senate Finance Committee, one of which may be a member of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees;

(2) One member appointed by the President of the Senate, who may be a senior level employee of the University of South Carolina with knowledge of the medical field;

(3) Two members appointed by the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, one of which may be a member of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees;

(4) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House, who may have a background in hospital management or administration and may not be an employee or member of the Board of Trustees of the University of South Carolina; and

(5) One member appointed by the Governor, who may have a background in hospital management or administration and may not be an employee or member of the Board of Trustees of the University of South Carolina nor a former employee or member of the Board of Trustees of the University of South Carolina.

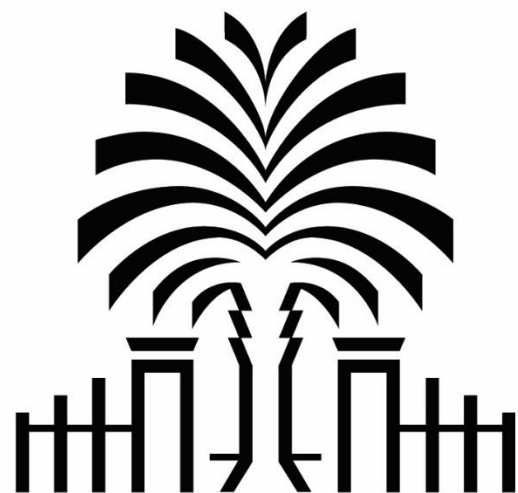
(B) The Chairman of the Interim Board shall be one of the members appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the President of the Senate, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, or the Speaker of the House to be elected by the board.

(C) The board shall be administratively supported by the University of South Carolina.

(D) The University of South Carolina is authorized to undertake permanent improvements necessary for Neurological Critical Care and Rehabilitation Services. Further, the funds appropriated for this purpose may be carried forward and expended for the necessary permanent improvements. The funds must be accounted for separately, and the university shall report semiannually to the Chairman of the Joint Bond Review Committee on the amount of funding carried forward, the amount remaining to be expended, the overall status of the project, and any other information requested by the committee.

\*Note: This proviso is new and was not part of our FY26 packet; USC supports the proviso.





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