

**South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services FY 24-
25 Proviso 33.32 – Biomedical Research Center**

This report is submitted pursuant to Section 33.32, (GP: Biomedical Research Center). The Proviso states: *From the funds appropriated, the Department shall contract with South Carolina public entities that include health service districts, health authorities, or agencies to develop a biomedical research center for the purpose of analyzing biological pathways, networks, and molecular systems. The center shall perform an evaluation of gene and protein structures along with their functions, variations in sequences and their significance, interactions between genes, proteins, and the environment, and other key discreet elements of the human condition. The purpose of this initiative is the evaluation of genetic profiles and patterns associated with disease risk to establish effective detection and therapeutic responses. The ultimate goal is to transform the orientation of healthcare from current disease treatment to one of wellness and prevention.*

The center shall have or source significant relevant experience in the following areas: (1) an established medical data research Institutional Review Board (IRB) to conduct data and human test condition studies; (2) an established record of success recruiting patients to clinical trials particularly from underserved and rural areas of the state; (3) an established model for de-identification of patient data meeting all HIPAA requirements, along with proven information technology infrastructure to gather and successfully incorporate and organize data including System and Organizational Controls 2 (SOC2) to manage information related risk; and (4) robust and documented experience in the realm of molecular medicine insights.

The Department is authorized to establish necessary contract conditions, parameters, and targets. For each year that contracts are in place, the Department shall provide to the Chairmen of the House Ways and Means Committee, Medical Military Public and Municipal Affairs Committee, State Medical Affairs Committee, and to the Senate Finance Committee a written report by January 1st describing the distribution of funds and progress made in this effort.

Pursuant to Proviso 33.32, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) has contracted with the Spartanburg Regional Health Services District in the development of a biomedical research center and telehealth program. To date, \$15 million has been transferred via this contract.

Through this contract, SCDHHS requires the Spartanburg Regional Health Services District to submit quarterly reports demonstrating progress against the seven goals outlined in contract with SCDHHS. The following provides a brief summary on each goal for state fiscal year (SFY) 2024-2025.

Programmatic Goal	SFY 24-25 Progress Summary
<p>Develop a virtual Biomedical Research Center (Center) for the evaluation of genetic profiles and patterns associated with disease risk to establish effective detection and therapeutic responses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A grant project manager was appointed by the chief executive officer of the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System (SRHS) to assist in the procurement of the grant. • The project manager compiled an operational committee, consisting of key leaders within SRHS, to develop a plan for completion of the grant’s deliverables and determine a process for allocating funding to complete the work.
<p>Perform an evaluation of gene and protein structures along with their functions.</p>	<p>SRHS is currently planning for the biomedical research center to focus on adult-onset Type 2 diabetes with three stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment of 1,000 patients with Type 2 diabetes at risk for developing chronic kidney disease to an observational study. • Data aggregation and structuring of data collected from the patients enrolled in stage one. • Data evaluation and regression analysis with the ability to identify key clinical indicators associated with elevated risk of disease progression.
<p>Collaborate with hospitals, higher education entities and the health data science industry</p>	<p>Spartanburg Regional Health Services District is currently working on concepts to</p>

<p>to advance South Carolina as a leader in biomedical and genomic research.</p>	<p>facilitate improved collaboration with hospitals, higher education entities and the health science industry.</p>
<p>Ensure the Center has or will source significant relevant experience in the following areas: (1) an established medical data research Institutional Review Board to conduct data and human test condition studies; (2) an established record of success recruiting patients to clinical trials particularly from underserved and rural areas of the state; (3) an established model for de-identification of patient data meeting all HIPAA requirements, along with proven information technology infrastructure to gather and successfully incorporate and organize data including System and Organizational Controls 2 to manage information related risk; and (4) robust and documented experience in the realm of molecular medicine insights.</p>	<p>The Spartanburg Regional Health Services District has partnered with the Greenwood Genetics Center to begin scanning and to create a de-identified clinical database for rare orphan diseases.</p>
<p>Develop the digitization of large genetic data sets previously funded by the state to extract data points that bear potential diagnostic utility. This virtual initiative will be comprised of various partners, with preference provided to those incorporated and/or headquartered in South Carolina.</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>Establish a telehealth pilot program designed to provide an innovative healthcare delivery model for chronic disease coverage gaps in rural communities working in concert with its biomedical research center efforts.</p>	<p>The pilot will enroll 1,000 patients to engage with remote monitoring technologies, which will be used to change the trajectory of their disease and reduce unnecessary costs in conjunction medical supervision and coaching.</p>
<p>Develop a protocol and engage a third-party partner for discreet supportive elements necessary to complete the program. This virtual initiative will be comprised of various partners, with preference provided to those incorporated and/or headquartered in South Carolina.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In August 2024, a request for proposal (RFP) was approved by the operations committee and submitted to identify external partner(s) that could support the objective of Greenwood Genetics Center. SRHS followed a system-defined, policy-driven RFP process to

	<p>ensure a fair selection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Guardian Research Network was selected as the vendor and awarded an initial amount of \$2 million.
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Outlook

SCDHHS will continue to work with Spartanburg Regional Health Services District and other healthcare partners to develop a biomedical research center for the purpose of analyzing biological pathways, networks, and molecular systems, and has secured contracting for SFY 2025-2026.