



South Carolina
FOUNDATION

Grantee Highlights

Spring 2023

Current Grantee Highlights

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From the Executive Director

We're delighted to share this 2023 Highlights Report with you. The BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation had an outstanding year.

We partnered with some of the most innovative health care programs in South Carolina. In this report, you'll see how these partnerships are working to improve the lives of people in our communities. You'll hear from grantees on the important work they're doing and how the Foundation makes it possible. As you read these success stories from the past year, we hope you'll be inspired and gain new insights.

As we look back with gratitude on what we've achieved through teamwork and focus, we're excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. We hope you will be, too.

Thank you.

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Erika Kirby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Erika Kirby
Executive Director



Areas of Focus



Access to Care

Support safety net providers in providing primary physical and mental health care.

Implement evidence-based or innovative models to increase accessibility of health care services.



Building a Stronger Workforce for Health

Support projects to increase the number of health care professionals.

Support health care career development through evidence-based or innovative approaches to advance skills.



Improving the Quality and Value of Health and Health Care

Support quality improvement projects that yield cost and resource efficiencies through innovative approaches and solutions.



Investing in the Health and Well-Being of South Carolina Children and Families

Support projects that foster environments and settings that encourage healthy eating and active lifestyles.

Support projects that focus on the integration of mental health and adverse childhood experiences.

Support projects that focus on population health improvement through intentional collaboration across multiple sectors to connect the non-health factors that influence health.



Research/ Special Projects

Support projects to inform, influence and support our areas of focus and our mission.

These projects may fall outside of an established area of focus, yet would generate value-added information relevant to the health needs of the economically vulnerable population in South Carolina.



Mental Health: Prevention

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Children’s Trust of South Carolina	Empower Action: Road Map to Community Resilience	01/2019 – 06/2023
Mental Health America of Greenville County	Capacity-Building for 988 Implementation in South Carolina	06/2022 – 05/2025
Communities in Schools of South Carolina	Post-pandemic Social Emotional Learning Supports for Students in Low-Income Communities	01/2023 – 12/2025
National Alliance on Mental Illness South Carolina	South Carolina Youth-Centered Mental Health Awareness and Education	06/2022 – 05/2025
Pendleton Place	Foster Healthier Families	07/2019 – 06/2023
South Carolina Department of Mental Health	Planning Grant: Zero Suicide Communities of Care	06/2020 – 03/2023
South Carolina Department of Mental Health	Zero Suicide Communities of Care	01/2021 – 12/2023
SC Thrive	SC Community Impact and Mental Health First Aid	01/2014 – 12/2022
South Carolina Department of Social Services	Increasing Likelihood of Reunification through Parent Peer Mentor Program Implementation	01/2023 – 12/2025





Children’s Trust of South Carolina Empower Action

This grant focused on awareness and training around adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and positive childhood experiences (PCEs). It equipped communities to improve the health and overall outcomes of their children through this knowledge:

- Through the work of this grant, **13,700** individuals were trained on ACEs, an estimated **20%** of the state’s child- and family-serving workforce.

— Children’s Trust of South Carolina leveraged an additional **\$2,333,325** to expand the scope and objectives of the original project through other philanthropies and federal, state, and local government funding.



— Through this research, it was found that **97%** of adults in South Carolina have experienced one or more PCEs, with **81%** of adults reporting they experienced four or more PCEs. These PCEs can ease the negative health effects of ACEs. The most common PCEs reported by South Carolina adults were feeling safe and protected by an adult in their home (**91%**), feeling their family stood by them in tough times (**81%**), and feeling supported by friends (**77%**).



Mental Health America of Greenville County 988 Lifeline



In July 2022, an unfunded federal mandate required the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to launch 988. It is a 24/7 universal dialing code, similar to 911, where anyone can call, text or chat with the suicide prevention hotline. Funding from the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina (the Foundation) supported the systems needed to launch and analyze

data for the expected increase in callers. With the launch of 988, Mental Health America of Greenville County saw a **47%** increase in calls to the Suicide Prevention Lifeline. It also noted a **48%** increase in emergency service dispatch to callers in crisis.



National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Ending the Silence

Through funding from the Foundation, NAMI South Carolina provided 240 Ending the Silence trainings to more than **10,000** children across South Carolina. Ending the Silence is a national, evidence-based mental health awareness and suicide prevention presentation. It increases awareness and decreases stigma around behavioral health for South Carolina teens:

- Through two multiyear requests, NAMI has expanded its reach from six counties in 2016 to nearly a statewide reach in the 2022 – 2023 school year.
- Through these trainings, nearly **280** children in mental health crises could connect at once to mental health services for help.
- After these trainings, two-thirds of children say they will discuss their mental health with someone. Three-fourths have identified a trusted adult to reach out to. These are key factors in preventing suicide.



Zero Suicide Communities of Care

Suicide is a leading cause of death for people ages 10 to 34 in South Carolina. Most communities don't have enough mental health resources to serve those who are at risk. Zero Suicide Communities of Care is working to change this.

Zero Suicide Communities of Care is a program of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health Office of Suicide Prevention. With grant funding from the Foundation, it promotes suicide awareness and teaches about prevention.

"We're bringing suicide prevention to the community level, working with nontraditional health partners. We're the first in the nation to do this," said Jessica Barnes, program manager at the Office of Suicide Prevention.

At this time, Zero Suicide Communities of Care is in 10 counties in South Carolina. Its employees connect with people who help others in their communities.

"Our outreach coordinators teach community partners how to provide support for people who are at risk," said Barnes. These partners include small businesses, real estate agencies, food banks, homeless shelters and shops.

The people at Zero Suicide Communities of Care hear personal accounts when they work with community partners. "A resident told us she survived a suicide attempt last year. This is why she's passionate about sharing the information we provide at our events," said Aiken County outreach coordinator Maranda Beaver.

"A business owner shared her daughter's friend was celebrating a one-year anniversary of surviving a suicide attempt," said Richland County outreach coordinator Carla Atkinson.

Groups often ask Zero Suicide Communities of Care to present on suicide prevention. "The Foundation grant helped us develop a training module for community use," said Barnes. "We're also able to offer suicide prevention workshops for adults."

The organization hopes to expand the program to more counties soon.





SC Thrive Mental Health First Aid

Over the three-year period, SC Thrive:



Certified **1,484** South Carolinians in mental health first aid.



Facilitated **108** classes.



Held **24** Mental Health Matters webinars to train **825** people.

In 2015, South Carolina had less than **0.025%** of the population trained. After seven short years, South Carolina has a total of **1.57%** of the population trained a **6,000%** increase.



“As a result [of this grant], certifying more adults in the warning signs and symptoms of behavioral health concerns including suicide will have a positive effect in the prevention of suicidal deaths and access to mental health resources available in our state. This is something we are extremely proud of. It could never have happened without funding from the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation.”

— Tricia Richardson, CEO at SC Thrive

Adolescent Mental Health Grantees

Carolina Youth Development Center	Expanding Services to Youth in the Lowcountry	01/2022 – 12/2024
Communities in Schools of South Carolina	Student Mental Health Initiative	01/2022 – 12/2024
Healthy Learners	Creating Community Capacity to Support Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing	01/2022 – 12/2024
South Carolina Department of Mental Health	Roads 2	01/2022 – 12/2024
University of South Carolina (USC): Institute for Families in Society	Raising Adolescents To Be Tomorrow's Leaders	01/2022 – 12/2024



Healthy Learners Youth Mental Health



With its grant, Healthy Learners:

- Held six youth MHFA trainings, instructing **52** adults.
- Held one teen MHFA training, instructing **10** teens.

“Healthy Learners is extremely proud to have been the first organization, with the support of the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation, to implement teen mental health first aid (MHFA) in the state of South Carolina. We believe empowering youth directly with information and resources to help themselves and their peers is the key to decreasing stigma and increasing the chances of getting prompt help for youth with mental health challenges.”

— Amy Splittgerber, executive director of Healthy Learners.

Mental Health: Treatment

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Epworth Children’s Home	Epworth Center for Counseling Expansion	01/2023 – 12/2027
FAVOR Greenville	Expansion of Assertive Community Engagement Recovery Coaching	07/2021 – 02/2023
South Carolina Department of Mental Health	The Mental Health/Law Enforcement Alliance Project	06/2019 – 05/2023
South Carolina Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs)	Empowering South Carolina Communities and CACs To Deliver a Best-Practice Response to Child Abuse	06/2019 – 05/2024
USC School Behavioral Health Team	South Carolina School Mental Health Internship and Educational Program	06/2021 – 05/2024



Epworth Children's Home Midlands Counseling Center

The 2019 Foundation grant to the Midlands Counseling Center at Epworth Children's Home:

- Provided services to nearly **1,000** children and families that would have otherwise either not gotten services or had to wait 3 – 4 months to get services at the Department of Mental Health.



73% of patients served were ages 0 – 24 and came from situations of abuse and neglect, chronic poverty, and traumatic family conditions.



68% of patients were Medicaid insured.

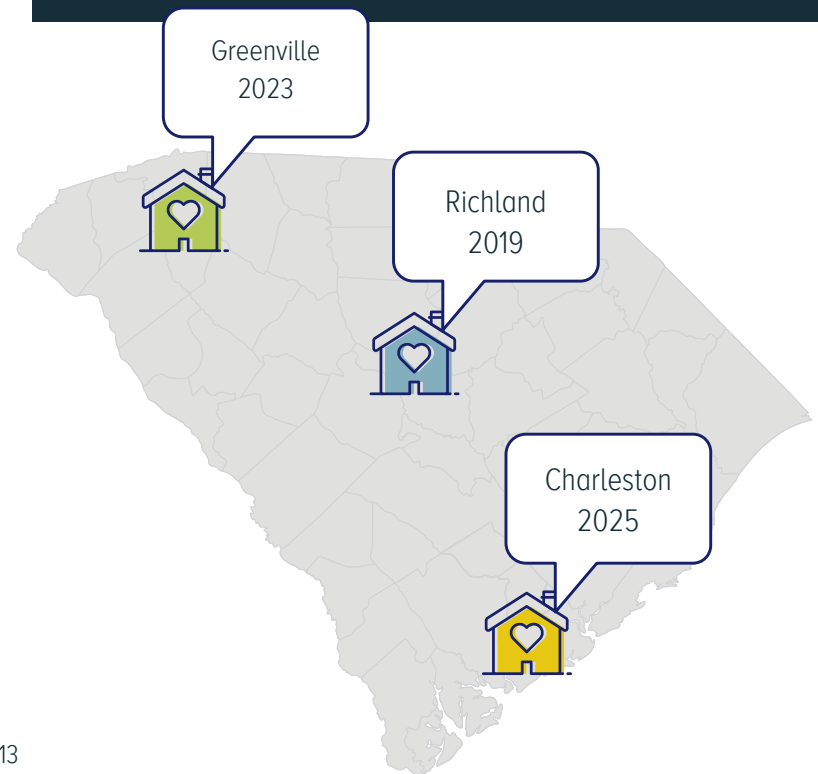


60% of counseling services were referred from the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SC DSS) and Department of Juvenile Justice.

Their most recent 2022 grant will allow for the continued expansion of the Counseling Center to Greenville and Charleston for increased access to needed mental health services.

The BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation grant supported affordable and accessible behavioral health services to children, youth and families. Epworth Center for Counseling's reputation continues to grow, with 95% of clients reporting satisfaction and 100% willing to refer friends or family for services."

**— Beth Williams,
CEO of Epworth Children's Home**





South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SC DMH) Mental Health and Law Enforcement Alliance Project

The Law Enforcement Alliance Project allowed five communities to create Alliance teams. In these, a mental health clinician serves within a law enforcement office to respond to the needs of communities, families and children faced with trauma. This allows for prevention of and early intervention surrounding mental health issues related to trauma.



To date, these clinicians have served more than **1,600** individuals and provided more than **250** consultations requested by law enforcement officers.



“This project allowed us to pilot a model to be used throughout the state and is a proud moment. Due to what has been done in this project, other law enforcement agencies have begun asking SC DMH for opportunities to embed clinicians in their agencies.”

— Stacey Rowell, program coordinator in the Office of Emergency Services at the SC DMH



University of South Carolina (USC): Enhancing Capacity in School Mental Health

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says nearly 10% of children ages 3 to 17 have anxiety or attention-deficit disorders.

CDC data also shows suicide is a leading cause of death for 15- to 19-year-olds. With so many children and teens affected by mental health issues, there is a dire need for services.

USC is leading the charge to help. It's getting students ready for careers in school mental health.

Enhancing Capacity in School Mental Health offers two programs. One is an internship program for undergraduates. The other is an enhancement program for graduate students. Both programs recruit students from across South Carolina.

"Our programs are not the typical experience," said Dr. Courtne Collins, research assistant professor at the university. "They provide real-world experience, and we get to really connect with our students."

Internship for Undergraduate Students

The program for undergraduates puts interns in K-12 schools. There, they work with psychologists, social workers, counselors and other professionals who support the mental health of students. The internship trains students in basic skills to support school mental health experts. It also gives them exposure to potential career paths.

Interns help with schoolwide and small group tasks that relate to the specific needs of their schools. Tasks might include teaching about mental health in classrooms, handing out social-emotional evaluations and helping experts in group settings. Each of the milestone tasks for interns supports the overall success of mental health services in schools. Tasks also expose them to the daily work of mental health experts.

The program's first cohort had seven interns. The number of students and school districts served has grown each semester since. This semester, the program placed 15 interns in six school districts across the state.

"It's powerful to see how the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation is supporting school mental health services," said Collins. "We're excited about the feedback from school districts."

Graduate Student Enhancement Program

Students in the graduate enhancement program are seeking advanced degrees in mental health services. They get virtual trainings from experts in school mental health.

The trainings teach graduate students who are in mental health-related programs. These might include social work, rehabilitation counseling, clinical mental health or counselor education. They train students to be more effective in the school system.

Continued on next page...





USC: Enhancing Capacity in School Mental Health *Cont'd*

The program also recruits graduate students who may not know what field they want to work in. Funding from the Foundation helps make both programs possible. “Grant funds from the Foundation have enabled us to exceed the number of interns we set out to support, and our programs have been well received,” said Collins. “We hope to expand our programs for more students to be able to take part.”



Early Childhood

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
City of Spartanburg	“Hello Family” Pay for Success	01/2020 – 12/2026
South Carolina Infant Mental Health Association	Enhancing Child Serving Provider Competencies for Infant Mental Health	01/2019 – 06/2023
South Carolina Infant Mental Health Association	South Carolina Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Network	01/2020 – 12/2023
South Carolina Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers	South Carolina Safe Babies Court Team Collaborative Approach	10/2021 – 09/2024
The President and Fellows of Harvard College	Planning for a Longitudinal Evaluation of Health and Social Service Utilization Based on Nurse-Family Partnership’s Pay for Success Project	04/2020 – 08/2023
USC Arnold School of Public Health	The EACH (Ensuring Access to Coordinated Health) Mom and Baby Collaborative	01/2021 – 12/2023



City of Spartanburg Hello Family

Hello Family has officially launched in Spartanburg and all four programs are up and running.

- **BirthMatters:** Community-based doulas educate and support low-income moms under age 24 until each baby is 6 months old through home visits and other supports.
 - **82%** of babies born through this program were at a healthy birth weight, **82%** were breastfed, and **86%** did not require admission to the neonatal intensive care unit.
- **Family Connects:** This universal postnatal nurse home visitation model looks at potential risks and connects families with community resources.
 - More than **334** Spartanburg residents were enrolled. More than **236** home visits were completed.
 - The top three most common referrals included:
 - Primary care physicians.
 - Postpartum appointments.
 - Utility assistance.
- **Triple P (Positive Parenting Program):** This parenting support program is offered to all families at various levels of intensity, ranging from educational trainings to individual counseling.
 - **81%** of participants showed gains in family functioning and resilience after participating in Triple P.
- **Quality Counts:** Training, professional development and technical assistance to center-based child care programs improve the quality of early care services.
 - More than **400** children were served in child care centers that received coaching and professional development to improve the quality of early child care.





USC Ensuring Access to Coordinated Health (EACH) Mom and Baby Collaborative

The EACH Mom and Baby Collaborative is an effort between the Center for Community Health Alignment (CCHA) at USC, BirthMatters, Perinatal Awareness for Successful Outcomes (PASOs) and the South Carolina Office of Rural Health Family Solutions to scale successful community health worker (CHW) models that have been effective in improving birth outcomes in the state.

Through funding from the Foundation:

- The EACH Collaborative has received an Emerging Practice designation from the Association of Maternal-Child Health Programs.
- South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SC DHHS) asked to fund more perinatal CHWs as part of the CHWs Changing Outcomes in South Carolina pilot project through CCHA after seeing the perinatal CHW toolkit.



School-Based Oral Health

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Beaufort Jasper Hampton Comprehensive Health Services	School-Based Oral Health Expansion — Implementation	06/2020 – 12/2024
ChildSmiles Dental	School-Based Oral Health Expansion Initiative — Readiness and Planning	03/2023 - 09/2023
Family Health Centers	School-Based Oral Health Expansion Initiative — Readiness and Planning	03/2023 - 09/2023
Fetter Health Care Network	School-Based Oral Health Expansion Initiative — Implementation	01/2023 - 12/2025
Florence Darlington Technical College	School-Based Oral Health Expansion Initiative — Readiness and Planning	03/2023 - 09/2023
Health Care Partners of South Carolina	School-Based Oral Health Expansion Initiative — Implementation	01/2023 - 12/2025
Health Care Partners of South Carolina Inc.	School-Based Oral Health — Readiness and Planning	06/2021 – 05/2023
Medical University of South Carolina	School-Based Oral Health Expansion Initiative — Readiness and Planning	10/2020 – 06/2023
Medical University of South Carolina	School-Based Oral Health — Implementation	06/2021 – 05/2023
ReGenesis Health Care	School-Based Oral Health — Implementation	06/2021 – 05/2023



Affinity Health Center

Healthy teeth and gums are key to our overall well-being. Poor oral health can lead to serious illnesses. These include things like heart disease and pneumonia. Yet many South Carolinians don't have dental insurance and can't afford to pay for dental care. Affinity Health Center has stepped up to help. It provides dental care to those who need it most.

Located in Rock Hill, South Carolina, Affinity's dental program started in 2013 with a grant from the Foundation. The grant paid for the construction of a dental clinic and its equipment. It also paid for salaries for a part-time dentist and dental assistant.

Prior to this, Affinity provided medical care and support services to 500 patients with HIV, but it could not offer the dental care its patients needed.

"The Foundation was instrumental in enabling us to start our program," said Anita Case, CEO at Affinity Health Center. "In addition to financial support, the Foundation provided resources and other support."

In 2015, Affinity became a community health center. It expanded its services to additional vulnerable groups. It built a larger facility in 2018 and opened its dental practice full-time, serving patients five days a week. In 2020, Affinity added a hygiene practice to the program along with a full-time hygienist and an additional dental assistant.

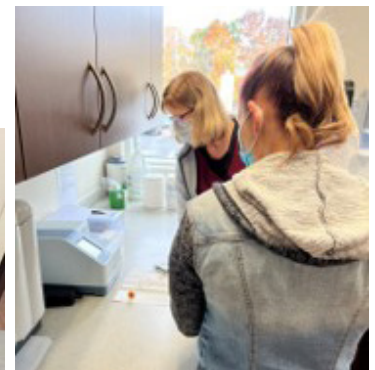
"We've been able to address the growing needs of our patients and communities thanks to support from the Foundation and federal and private grants," said Case.

To integrate dental services into primary care, Affinity:

- Works patients into the schedule quickly when the doctor discovers a dental issue during a medical visit. The dentist is committed to making this happen.
- Screens for diabetes during patient dental visits. A BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina corporate award, in conjunction with Diabetes Free SC, helped Affinity add this much-needed service.

Affinity recently got a federal grant to add a dental residency program. The goal of the residency program is to recruit and train dentists who want to work in underserved communities.

At this time, Affinity serves 1,582 patients. In 2022, patients visited the dental clinic an average of 2.3 times. To keep up with demand, the health center aims to add an additional dentist.





Reach Out and Read (ROR) Carolinas Oral Health Integration

Reach Out and Read is implementing a quality improvement pilot program with 14 pediatric providers. It is to support parents in establishing oral health habits for their children and increase the number of children referred to a dentist before age 1:

- Families get books on healthy dental hygiene to establish positive messages about teeth and dental visits and encourage parents about the importance of reading a book at bedtime.
- In year 2, **more than 3,600** oral-health-themed books were given during well-child visits with ROR-trained clinicians. This is a **99%** distribution rate to patients falling within the well-child visit age selected by the clinic as the oral health visit.
- Many clinics reported an increase in dental varnishes since taking part in the oral health project, and an increase in dental referrals.

Social Determinants of Health

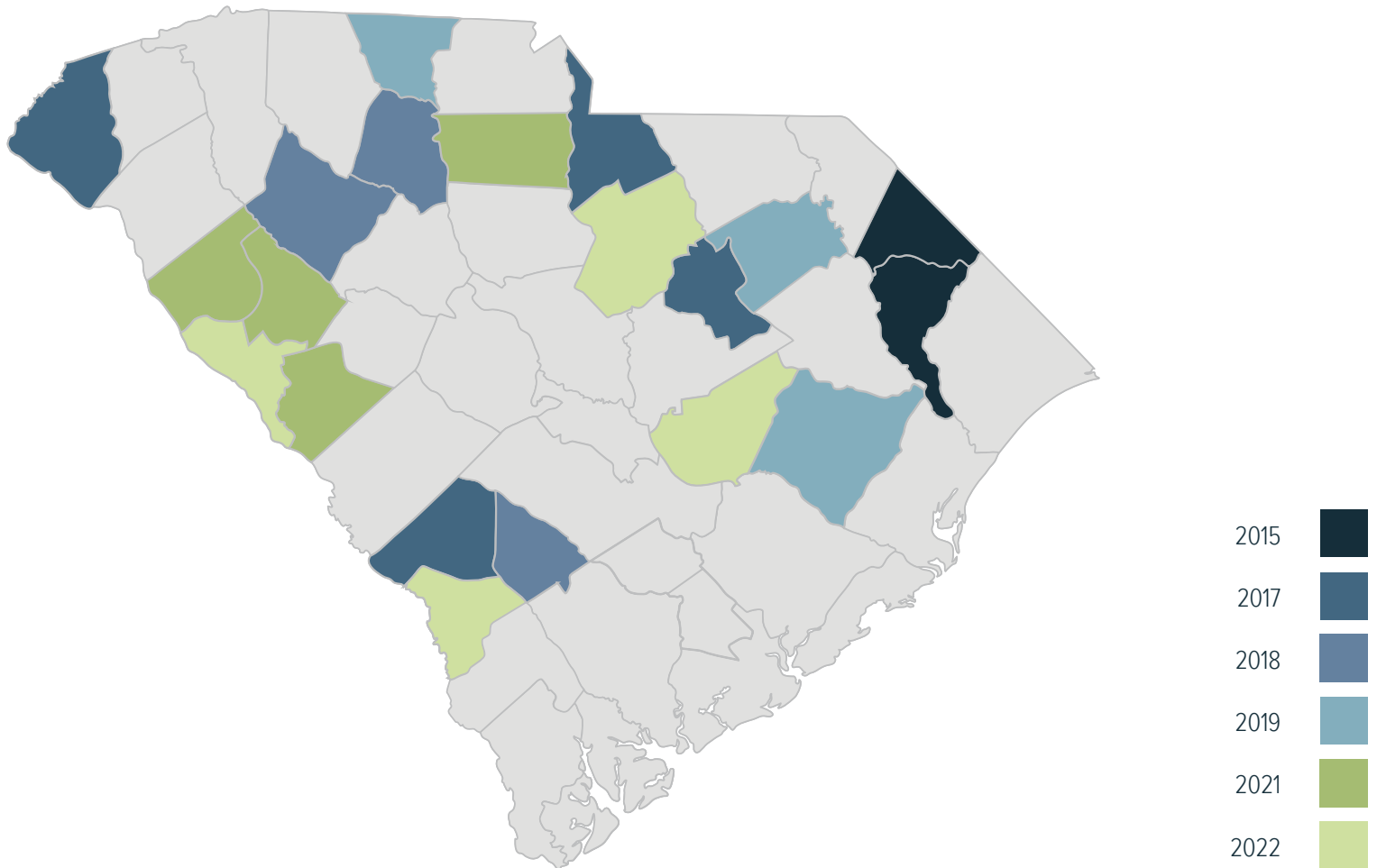
Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Clemson University	Community Food Assessments for Rural South Carolina	02/2020 – 06/2023
South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs	Veteran Services Case Management and Referral Integration	06/2021 – 05/2024
South Carolina Office of Rural Health	Community Health Transformation	01/2021 – 12/2024
USC Arnold School of Public Health	Community Health Worker Institute	03/2019 – 12/2022
USC Arnold School of Public Health	Community Health Worker Institute	01/2023 – 12/2026
Wholespire	Community Health Transformation	01/2021 – 12/2024



South Carolina Office of Rural Health Blueprint for Health

After seeing the growing gap of readiness among our most rural counties to plan for and address health and social problems in their areas, the Foundation partnered with the South Carolina Office of Rural Health. They began a training and learning collaborative to build the capacity of these communities to apply for and get state,

regional and national grants to address health issues identified and selected through the Blueprint for Health process. The map shows those that took part in a multiyear program to equip their leaders and strengthen their communities.





Community Health Workers in Federally Qualified Health Centers

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Alliance for a Healthier Generation	Healthy Schools — Key to a Diabetes Free South Carolina	06/2020 – 05/2023
BlueRidge Parkway Foundation	Kids in Parks: Statewide Expansion in South Carolina	06/2022 – 05/2026
Health Sciences South Carolina	Improving Surgical Outcomes in Patients With Diabetes by Perioperative Optimization	06/2021 – 05/2024
Medical University of South Carolina	Diabetes Prevention Through School-Based Wellness	06/2020 – 05/2023
Prisma Health — Midlands	Removing Treatment Barriers for Diabetic Pregnant Patients in Rural Areas	06/2020 – 05/2023
Prisma Health — Upstate	Enhancing Diabetes Care in Pregnancy Through Clinical Collaboration and Telehealth	06/2020 – 05/2023
USC	Food Is Medicine SC Landscape Assessment and Evaluation Capacity Building	06/2022 – 05/2023
USC School of Medicine	FoodShare: Supporting a Statewide Produce Distribution Network and Diabetes Prevention Model	06/2020 – 05/2025



BlueRidge Parkway Foundation Kids in Parks Statewide Expansion



At TRACK Trails throughout the state...

- Kids have **walked 36,000 miles**.
- Engaged in **18,000 hours** of outdoor activity.
- Burned more than **5 million calories**.



If you include their parents and siblings...

- **55,000 total people** have **walked 63,000 miles**.
- Engaged in **31,500 hours** of outdoor activity.
- Burned **9.5 million calories**.



Prisma Upstate and Prisma Midlands Management of Maternal (MOMs) Programs in Control of Diabetes Clinics

The clinics have seen more than **1,000** pregnant women since MOMs launched in 2020.

They have served **500 more women** through remote patient monitoring.

The data shows:

- **90%** of patients delivered with either an A1C controlled **below 6.5%** or an A1C that was decreased by at least 5 percentage points since their enrollment. This decreases the likelihood of complications or admittance of the baby to the neonatal intensive care unit.
- Consistent postpartum care of MOMs patients increased from **58%** in 2020 to **84%** in 2022.





Alliance for a Healthier Generation and Boeing Children's Wellness Healthy Schools Programs

These school-focused organizations aim to address the Diabetes Free SC (DFSC) goal of decreasing lifelong risk of diabetes in children.

Seven DFSC schools were among America's healthiest schools in 2022.

To date, Alliance for a Healthier Generation and the Boeing Center for Children's Wellness at the Medical University of South Carolina have served:

These schools improved practices or policies around healthy eating and active living through the help of these organizations, leading to healthier South Carolina children.



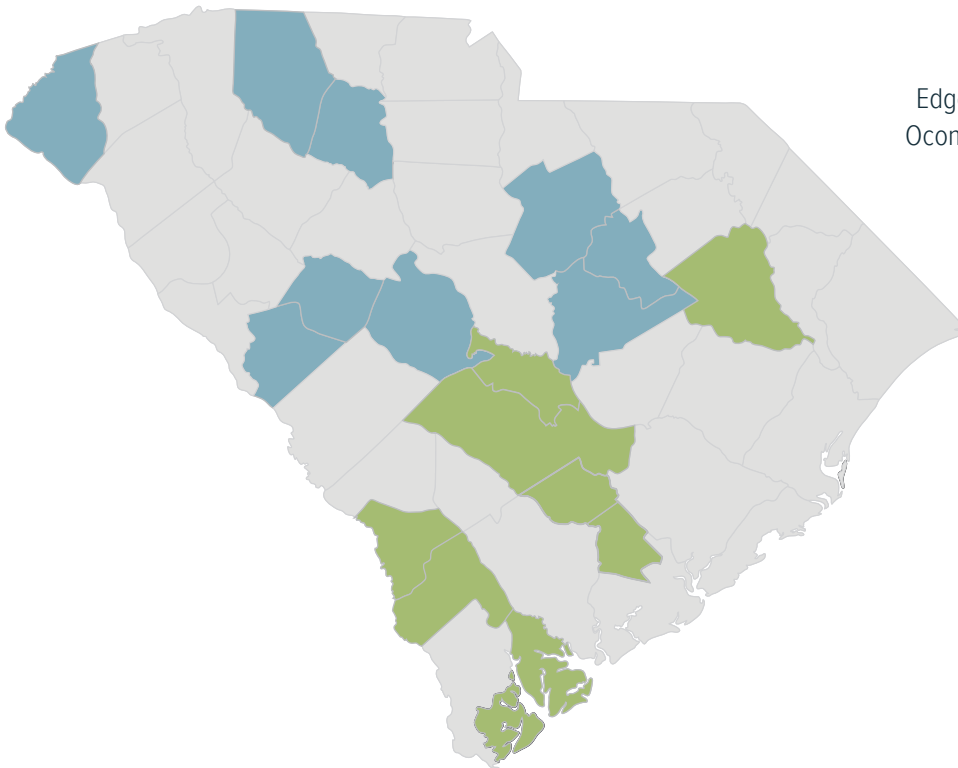
18 school districts.



187 schools.



135,000 children.



Alliance for a Healthier Generations:

Edgefield, Kershaw, Lee, Lexington 1, Lexington 3, Oconee, Saluda, Spartanburg 5, Sumter and Union

Boeing:

Allendale, Beaufort, Florence 1, Dorchester 4, Calhoun, Orangeburg and Hampton



Diabetes Free SC: Women’s Health Initiative Grantees

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Clemson University	Regional Integrated Life Cycle Diabetes Program for Women	06/2022 – 05/2025
Medical University of South Carolina Foundation	Diabetes Prevention in Young Women With Obesity and at High Risk for Diabetes	06/2022 – 05/2025
Prisma Health — Midlands	Women’s Health Initiative: Women in Control of Diabetes	06/2022 – 05/2025
Prisma Health — Upstate	Wellness and Empowerment for All Women	06/2022 – 05/2025
Rural Health Services	Rural Health Services (RHS) Women’s Diabetes Program	06/2022 – 05/2025

Since the Women’s Health Initiative launched in the summer of 2022, all five sites have begun enrolling patients. Combined total enrollment has already exceeded 250 patients.

Healthy Eating, Active Living

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control	Improving Fitness of South Carolina Public School Students	01/2020 – 06/2023



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC): FitnessGram

Funded since 2013, the Foundation has supported SC DHEC to build the statewide FitnessGram data infrastructure to improve the physical activity and fitness levels of students across the state by allowing our state to measure and track the physical activity data of South Carolina children:

- Currently, 67 of 75 school districts take part in South Carolina FitnessGram during the 2022 – 23 school year. This represents 90% of the state’s public school districts, with more than 1,000 schools and a reach to about 718,339 students across the state.
- 67,000 students from 514 public schools in 47 school districts contributed data to the FitnessGram project for the 2021 – 2022 school year.
- The percentages of students who scored in the Healthy Fitness Zone on the tests of these fitness components include:



Weight Status (BMI) **58%**.



Cardiorespiratory Fitness (PACER or Mile Run) **43%**.



Upper Body Strength (Push-Ups) **55%**.



Abdominal Strength and Endurance (Curl-Ups) **66%**.



Trunk Extensor Strength and Endurance (Trunk Lift) **76%**.



Flexibility (Back-Saver Sit and Reach) **69%**.

SC DHEC received funding from the CDC in November 2022. It includes the costs of the FitnessGram site licenses for school years 2023 – 2027.



Wellness Inspired School Environments (WISE)

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Alliance for a Healthier Generation	Wellness Inspired School Environments (WISE)	08/2019 – 12/2022
Chesterfield County School District	Wellness Inspired School Environments (WISE)	01/2020 – 10/2022
Fairfield County School District	Wellness Inspired School Environments (WISE)	10/2020 – 10/2022
Georgetown County School District	Wellness Inspired School Environments (WISE)	03/2020 – 10/2022
Marlboro County School District	Wellness Inspired School Environments (WISE)	11/2019 – 09/2022



Wellness-Inspired School Environments

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation, in partnership with the Foundation, wanted to turn schools in four South Carolina counties into Wellness-Inspired School Environments (WISE) to improve the health and wellness of the children in each community. The goal was to have 50% of selected schools make changes related to nutrition or physical activity, integrating these initiatives so wholly into the school culture that they seemed like the norm.

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation chose to focus on school districts in Fairfield, Georgetown, Marlboro and Chesterfield counties in South Carolina for the 2019 – 2022 school years.

Lasting change requires persistent support, and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation was ready to provide that support. Its plans included training, technical help, partnerships with local initiatives and sharing successes. Perhaps most importantly, the Alliance for a Healthier Generation was also able to provide an in-depth toolkit that enabled schools to engage students, families and community members.

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation's initiatives and support improved the health and wellness of almost 20,000 students and their families. At 94% implementation, it exceeded its 50% participation goal — in spite of disruptions caused by COVID-19. They were able to give more than \$450,000 from the Foundation directly to schools, providing the most targeted support many schools wellness leads had ever received.

Overall, the Alliance for a Healthier Generation:

- Increased capacity of schools in South Carolina to support student health.
- Increased engagement from school staff and stakeholders, including setting up and expanding school wellness councils and implementing local wellness policies.

- Improved evidence-based nutrition, physical activity, and staff wellness policies and practices, directly helping students and staff.

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation continues to be involved with the districts, although the grant program has ended. The impact will be felt for a long time, as many schools bought new physical education (PE) and physical activity equipment, installed water filling stations, and planted school gardens. What's more, the individuals trained during this time will be able to continue promoting healthy lifestyles and sharing their successes with others:

- “For the three teachers interviewed, it was the first time they had the opportunity to purchase items, including class sets of equipment, so they could introduce students to activities including pickleball, badminton and hockey. One teacher described he previously only had a few balls of various sorts, which meant students had to wait to participate in the planned activity. He added it was the first time he had seen the middle school students excited about coming to PE class.” — Seth Shelby, program manager with Alliance for a Healthier Generation

“The on-site and continual support of the Alliance for a Healthier Generation staff made an enormous difference and should be continued; this is critically important in small rural districts where PE teachers often do not meet as a group or have professional development specifically for them.” -- Donna Crawford, director of the Healthy Schools and Communities Program for Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

Safety Net Providers

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Healthy Learners	Healthy Learners' Rural Expansion: Screen/Refer/Serve	06/2020 – 05/2023
Lions Vision Services	Vision for South Carolina: A Collaborative Vision Health Initiative	01/2022 – 12/2024
Midlands Housing Alliance	Addressing the Needs of the Medically Fragile Homeless Population in the Midlands	06/2018 – 06/2023
Prisma Health — Upstate	Community Paramedicine	01/2019 – 12/2023
South Carolina Free Clinic Association	Advancing Free Clinic Care	01/2020 – 12/2023



South Carolina Free Clinics



Greater Greenwood United Ministries Free Medical Clinic now provides a medical home that offers primary medical care, internal medicine, gynecology, an in-house pharmacy, diabetic education, dental clinic, eye screenings and eyeglasses, foot care clinic, in-house laboratory, and case management.



Anderson Free Clinic launched its mental health counseling program. As of November 2022, it has conducted 251 mental health counseling appointments.



Edisto Indian Free Clinic reported concerns about mental health issues expanded since the pandemic. They sought and got funding for a part-time psychiatric nurse practitioner to address these issues.



Greenville Free Medical Clinic now uses the Epic electronic medical record (EMR). The clinic has access to Prisma Health and Lexington Medical Center's Epic EMR, which results in a quicker turnaround on receiving diagnostic information. This helps providers respond to patient needs in quickly.



York County Free Clinic was renamed Palmetto Community Health Care and expanded its service area to include Lancaster County. Its patient population increased 20% over 2021.

Healthy Learners Rural Expansion

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“I don’t want to underemphasize how crucial this funding was to Healthy Learners to completely transform our methods of serving children. This funding was the catalyst to our transformation. For 2022, we had some extremely ambitious goals! We exceeded our goals for number of children served, number of services provided and number of screenings.

This Foundation grant has really been able to serve as the catalyst to revamp Healthy Learners to be more proactive and push us beyond how we have been operating the past 20 years to make us a better organization overall.”

— Amy Splittgerber, executive director at Healthy Learners

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Palmetto Vision Alliance

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Funding from the Foundation has made it possible for partner agencies to work together comprehensively to address vision care, including vision rehabilitation and training services. This collaboration is the first of its kind for vision care. As such, it will allow us to increase access to and the reach of our vision rehabilitation services. These efforts have also helped partner agencies communicate more regularly and effectively to better serve South Carolinians and work toward better vision care for our state.

— Daniel Prohaska, president and CEO of Lions Vision Services

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Quality and Value

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Carolinas Center for Hospice and End of Life Care	South Carolina Advance Care Planning Initiative	12/2017 – 12/2023
South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services	State Opioid Response Government Performance and Results Act Data	11/2018 – 02/2025
South Carolina Department of Social Services Mobile Caseworker Tools	Pilot Program - Human Services Portal	06/2016 – 12/2022



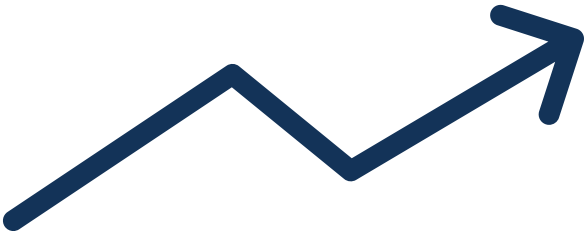
South Carolina Department of Social Services (SC DSS) Mobile Caseworker Tools

With this funding, SC DSS was able to develop a mobile application and central portal for case workers to access client information and enter data while on home visits rather than having to rely on paper charts or wait until in the office, increasing timely charting and increasing efficiency.

“Although this project started out as a pilot, the application is used throughout all 46 counties supporting Family Preservation, Investigations and Foster Care with their case practice.”

— Jose Encarnacion, IT director, SC Department of Social Services

The percentage of timely safety assessments increased from **21%** at the beginning of 2021 to **46.7%** by the end of that year.



Workforce

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Charleston Southern University	Community and Home-Based Nursing Initiative for BSN Students	01/2015 – 07/2023
Columbia International University	Columbia International University Counseling Initiative	01/2023 – 12/2026
Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine	Underrepresented Minority Physician Scholarships	01/2022 – 12/2030
USC College of Nursing	TeleMentalScale	04/2019 – 03/2024
USC College of Nursing	Nursing Faculty Fellows Pipeline Pilot Program	01/2022 – 12/2024
USC School of Medicine at Greenville	Levi S. Kirkland Scholarships	01/2021 – 12/2031
USC Upstate Foundation	Developing Nurse Faculty To Strengthen the Nursing Pipeline	01/2022 – 06/2024



University of South Carolina College of Nursing Faculty Fellows Program

This grant launched a pilot faculty pipeline program at USC’s College of Nursing to increase the overall number of faculty with the aim of then increasing the number of undergraduate nursing students able to be trained.

“USC is very proud of the excitement this grant has inspired among our faculty and community. The faculty have been eager to help mentor and train these doctoral student fellows into successful colleagues. Faculty have been as welcoming of the Fellows as if already faculty and treat them as colleagues. We have hired three outstanding fellows who will fulfill a critical clinical teaching need in the College of Nursing upon graduation.” — Dr. Jeanette Andrews, Ph.D., Registered Nurse, Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, Dean of the USC College of Nursing

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