



South Carolina  
FOUNDATION

Grantee Highlights

Spring 2024



## From the Executive Director

I am pleased to share the Spring 2024 Grantee Highlights Report with you.

The BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation strives to foster connections and collaboration between the organizations we support to accelerate the impact of our partners. In the fall of 2023, we held our first-ever regional grantee appreciation events. We were pleased to honor our grantees for their amazing work to improve the health of the communities they serve.

We held these events regionally to recognize the contributions of each and the potential of all. We desired to ensure grantees had the chance to strengthen relationships with each other. We see the possibility and power that the cross-pollination of ideas between grantees can have towards enabling even more positive change in the communities they serve.

Throughout this issue, you will find examples of how grantees from around the state have found new ways to serve and bridge resources with need. I hope you are inspired by the strides being made to improve health and increase access to care in their communities. Together, we can ensure local action will have a lasting impact on the overall health of our great state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Erika Kirby', with a long, sweeping underline.

**Erika Kirby**  
*Executive Director*



## About the Foundation

### Our Vision

To bridge health and health care in South Carolina

### Our Mission

The mission of the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation is to promote and support healthier South Carolinians, particularly the economically vulnerable, by supporting solutions to address gaps in health care and serving as an agent of change to support innovation and value-added public-private partnerships.

### Our Values

We have a unique position as a statewide health foundation that allows us to support select systemic population health issues and approaches across South Carolina.

We recognize that improving health is complex; therefore, we support a continuum of approaches ranging from providing direct care for the economically vulnerable to advancing policy, systems and environmental changes.

We prioritize efforts that will improve the health of future generations of South Carolinians.

We empower organizations to increase effectiveness toward improved health outcomes.

We support efforts that represent community and statewide priorities that are locally determined, culturally relevant and data-informed.

We equip our partners to connect learning to action and use data for continuous improvement.

We are a catalytic partner, supporting organizations and programs as they gain sustainability by leveraging funds, and we value innovative projects that can expand to multiple geographic areas in South Carolina.

## Health Priorities

### Mental Health

We are building resilience and well-being for individuals and families by strengthening the mental health workforce, improving quality and coordination of mental health care, and enhancing collaboration in communities to support families.

### Oral Health

We aim to improve the oral health care system by increasing access, enhancing workforce development, and supporting quality and innovation.

### Diabetes

In partnership with Diabetes Free SC, we're aligning the efforts of diabetes-focused community partners across the Palmetto State.

### Unmet Needs

We are helping to convene and coordinate key stakeholders to better address individual, community and structural determinants of health equity by understanding how to meet unmet needs.

## 2023 Regional Grantee Appreciation Events



Photo: Midlands Region Grantee Appreciation Event

“No matter how long we’ve been at work pursuing partnerships, there are always more connections to make! We were pleasantly surprised at the number of new connections made.”



Photo: Upstate Grantee Appreciation Event

“It was so inspiring to hear about all the great work our nonprofits are doing to better our community thanks to the support of the BCBS of SC Foundation.”



Photo: Pee Dee Grantee Appreciation Event

“It’s a good reminder that we need to be communicating regularly with nonprofits across the state.”



Photo: Lowcountry Grantee Appreciation Event

“The BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation is investing in a number of health-related organizations around the Upstate. The breadth of giving was particularly interesting.”

# Funding Categories



## 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.



## 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.

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## Prevention Point 1: Infant, Early Childhood and Maternal Mental Health

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
A Child’s Haven	Flourishing Families Healthy and Whole	06/2023 – 05/2026
City of Spartanburg	“Hello Family” Pay for Success	10/2021 – 12/2029
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
South Carolina Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs)	South Carolina Safe Babies Court Team Collaborative Approach	10/2021 – 09/2024
South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Fellowship Program Exploratory Work Group	01/2024 – 01/2025

## Prevention Point 2: Parenting Supports

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Carolina Youth Development Center	Expanding Services to Youth in the Lowcountry	01/2022 – 12/2024
Children’s Trust of SC	Positive Parenting To Support Adolescent Mental Health	06/2023 – 05/2026
South Carolina Department of Social Services	Increasing Likelihood of Reunification Through Parent Peer Mentor Program	02/2023 – 01/2025
University of South Carolina (USC) Institute for Families in Society	Raising Adolescents To Be Tomorrow’s Leaders	01/2022 – 12/2024

## Mental Health

### Prevention Point 3: School- and Community-Wide Prevention

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Communities in Schools of South Carolina	Post-Pandemic Social Emotional Learning Supports for Students in Low-Income Communities	01/2022 – 12/2025
Communities in Schools of South Carolina	Student Mental Health Initiative	01/2022 – 12/2024
National Alliance on Mental Illness	South Carolina Youth-Centered Mental Health Awareness and Education	06/2022 – 05/2025
South Carolina Department of Mental Health	Zero Suicide Communities of Care	01/2021 – 05/2024

### Prevention Point 4: Connection to Community Supports

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Healthy Learners	Creating Community Capacity To Support Youth Mental Health and Well-Being	01/2022 – 12/2024
South Carolina Department of Mental Health	Roads 2	01/2022 – 12/2024
University of South Carolina (USC) School Behavioral Health Team	South Carolina School Mental Health Internship and Educational Program	06/2021 – 05/2024
Mental Illness Recovery Center Inc.	Transitional Living Program for Female Youth	01/2024 – 01/2027

## Prevention Point 5: Connection to Mental Health Services

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Columbia International University	Columbia International University	01/2023 – 12/2025
Epworth Children’s Home	Epworth Center for Counseling Expansion	04/2023 – 03/2027
Mental Health America of Greenville County	Capacity Building for 988 Implementation in South Carolina	06/2022 – 05/2025



## Mental Health

### Prevention Point 4: Connection to Community Supports

# USC School Behavioral Health Team South Carolina School Mental Health Internship and Educational Program Project

Through the Foundation's grant, the University of South Carolina's School Behavioral Health Team (SBHT) increased mental health support for the state's elementary, middle and high school students. They also opened sustainable workforce pathways for undergraduate students and graduate students who wish to work in the mental health field.

SBHT trained 32 undergraduate school mental health liaisons and 35 graduate South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SCDMH) Magill interns to take part in internships at public schools across the state. At the undergraduate level, these interns helped implement prevention and early intervention strategies to support students' diverse mental health needs. At the graduate level, SCDMH Magill interns directly provided effective and new mental health interventions for students and families requiring individual mental health services. All interns also gained valuable work experience in the field, which may lead them to pursue careers as school-serving mental health clinicians.

Moreover, SBHT explored how graduate students would benefit from specialized training in school mental health topics related to best practices and policies. As a subset of the program, the School Mental Health Graduate Enhancement builds on the curriculum offered through various clinical graduate programs.

A total of 80 graduate students have been trained through this program. It prepares graduate students to enter the mental health workforce with the skills they need to become effective school mental health providers.

Interns developed many unique projects to help the students and staff at their sites. For example, one intern authored monthly newsletters about social emotional learning. These newsletters gave teachers advice on how to improve their students' mental well-being. Another intern created a "kindness tree." She had students and staff cut out their handprints, decorate them with inspiring messages and assemble them into a colorful tree.

When one intern realized some Spanish-speaking students at her site could not access important information, she created a variety of bilingual documents that gave these students and their families access to vital resources. Another intern organized a bake sale. She used the money from this sale to revamp the school counseling office's "comfort corner."

Together, these interns and support staff reached more than 24,000 students. The project inspired many interns to pursue a career in mental health. Twenty interns reported that they now plan to pursue graduate training or careers in the field.

# Mental Health

## Prevention Point 4: Connection to Community Supports



*Photo: One intern helped students and staff create a "kindness tree."*

“Funding from the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation has been instrumental in creating a school mental health career ladder in South Carolina. Our undergraduate interns and graduate trainees routinely identify our program as being a key factor in their decision to enter school mental health graduate programs and professional careers. This funding is opening opportunities for students to see behind the traditionally closed doors of the mental health profession.”

— **Courtnie Collins, Psy.D.**  
**Research Assistant Professor, University of South Carolina**

## Mental Health

### Prevention Point 5: Connection to Mental Health Services

# Mental Health America of Greenville

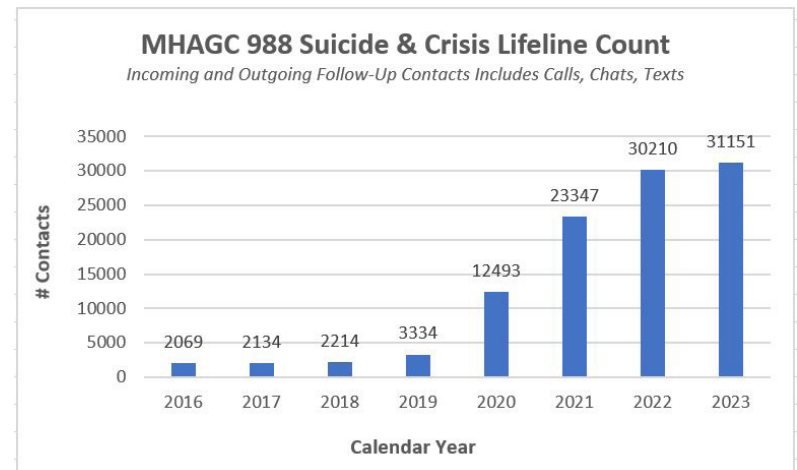
## Capacity Building for 988 Implementation in South Carolina

Mental Health America of Greenville County (MHAGC) has been key in saving lives across South Carolina. It is the only call center in the state handling Suicide & Crisis Lifeline calls. The Foundation's grant helped equip MHAGC to support South Carolina's 988 service. The grant also advanced a robust quality improvement strategy to address an increase in call volume to 988. Without the Foundation's support, MHAGC would have faced major setbacks in its ability to respond to people who reached out to the 988 Lifeline in crisis.

The launch of the easy-to-remember 988 phone number on July 16, 2020, marked a big milestone in crisis care. However, MHAGC had been answering Lifeline calls since 2007, even as other centers in the state closed. MHAGC was the sole responder in the Upstate region at that time. The South Carolina Department of Mental Health would later establish a center in Charleston. In the lead-up to the 988 launch, MHAGC could answer only 5 percent of incoming calls.

The Foundation's initial grant to MHAGC helped the organization update its outdated phone system. The new phone system not only allowed MHAGC to handle Lifeline calls efficiently, but it also allowed staff and volunteers to work remotely. This proved critical during the COVID-19 pandemic. The upgraded system also empowered MHAGC to collect essential data metrics.

These metrics enhanced MHAGC's ability to analyze and optimize service delivery.



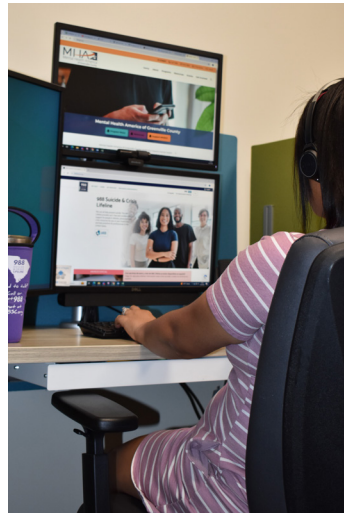
Continued support from the Foundation has further strengthened MHAGC's operational capacity, particularly in the realm of data analysis. MHAGC has been able to develop a robust database that provides real-time statistics and insights. This ensures that MHAGC adheres to best practices, maintains high standards of engagement with people in crisis and fosters equity in service provision.

MHAGC was also able to hire its first human resources professional. This has not only generated organizational growth, but it has prioritized the well-being of MHAGC's workforce. Through leadership consulting and mentorship, MHAGC has been able to foster a culture centered on values such as well-being, equity, collaboration, accountability, respect and empathy (WE CARE).

These values serve as a guiding compass for MHAGC's operations. They ensure the organization remains steadfast in its commitment to serving those in crisis.

In partnership with the Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center, MHAGC was able to answer 82 percent of in-state 988 calls in January 2024, thanks to the increased capacity and new technology. This is the highest percentage of in-state calls MHAGC has ever answered.

Partnering with the Foundation has allowed MHAGC to become stronger and better equipped to fulfill its mission of providing lifesaving services to people in crisis across South Carolina. This project continues to improve health outcomes by saving lives and providing hope to individuals and families in need.



Need to talk?

Call or text 988 or  
chat at 988sc.org.



We're here for you 24/7.

“The BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation’s support was instrumental to the success of the 988 services provided by MHAGC. The Foundation helped MHAGC go from responding to just 2,000 individuals in a year to more than 2,000 each month. I will forever be grateful to the Foundation. They not only invested but demonstrated that they shared our dream to spread hope, save lives and serve those in distress.”

— Jennifer Piver,  
Executive Director

Mental Health America  
of Greenville County

**988** SUICIDE & CRISIS  
LIFELINE

Need to Talk? Anyone. Any Time. Any Reason.

Call or Text 988. To Chat 988sc.org





# Oral Health

## School-Based Oral Health

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Beaufort Jasper Hampton Comprehensive Health Services	School-Based Oral Health Expansion — Implementation	08/2023 – 07/2025
ChildSmiles Dental	School-Based Oral Health Expansion Initiative — Readiness and Planning	03/2023 – 08/2023
Family Health Centers	School-Based Oral Health Expansion Initiative — Readiness and Planning	03/2023 – 08/2023
Medical University of South Carolina	School Based Oral Health Initiative	10/2020 – 6/2023
Fetter Health Care Network	School-Based Oral Health Initiative — Implementation	01/2022 – 12/2024
Fetter Health Care Network	School-Based Oral Health Expansion Initiative — Readiness and Planning	03/2022 – 02/2023
Health Care Partners of South Carolina Inc.	School-Based Oral Health — Readiness and Planning	06/2021 – 06/2023
Health Care Partners of South Carolina Inc.	School-Based Oral Health Expansion Initiative — Implementation	01/2022 – 12/2025
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

## Equipment and Supplies

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Midlands Technical College	Upgrading the Electronic Health Records System in the Dental Clinic at Midlands Technical College	06/2023 – 05/2024
North Charleston Dental Outreach	North Charleston Smiles	06/2023 – 05/2024
Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach Services (OLMCOS)	Increasing Access to Comprehensive Oral Health Care for Underserved Populations	06/2023 – 05/2025
Trident Technical College Foundation	TTC Dental Clinic and Community Services Expansion	01/2023 – 06/2024
Florence Darlington Technical College	Little Smiles Initiative: Empowering Oral Health	01/2024 – 12/2024
Greenville Technical College	2023 Equipment for Dental Programs at Greenville Technical College	12/2023 – 12/2024
Horry-Georgetown Technical College	Dental Sciences Lab Equipment	01/2024 – 12/2024
Midlands Technical College	Equipment Upgrade for the Dental Clinic at Midlands Technical College	12/2023 – 12/2024
Spartanburg Community College (SCC) Foundation	Increasing Student Proficiency with Equipment for SCC's Dental Assisting Program	01/2024 – 12/2024
Trident Technical College Foundation	Trident Technical College — Improving Oral Health	12/2023 – 12/2024

## Oral Health

### Workforce

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Medical University of South Carolina	Improving Oral Health Outcomes Through Integrated Care: Co-Location of Dental Hygienist in Primary Care	01/2020 – 12/2024
Medical University of South Carolina	MENTORS: Making Efforts Necessary To Overcome Rural and Underserved Oral Health Inequities in South Carolina	01/2022 – 06/2024
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control	South Carolina Oral Health Institute	01/2021 – 06/2024

### Social Determinants of Health

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
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
University of South Carolina (USC) Arnold School of Public Health	Community Health Worker Institute	01/2023 – 12/2025
Wholespire	Connecting Coalitions to Health Initiatives	01/2021 – 12/2024
Institute for Child Success	Mapping Local Opportunities To Improve Social Drivers of Health for Children	12/2023 – 12/2025

## North Charleston Dental Outreach

### North Charleston Smiles

The Charleston Baptist Association founded North Charleston Dental Outreach (NCDO) in 1998 as an emergency evening clinic in a church parsonage. The clinic's goal was to meet the urgent dental needs of local patients who couldn't afford care in a private office.

NCDO opened a new clinic Nov. 16, 2022. It is open four days a week during regular business hours. The clinic offers diagnostic, preventive, restorative, emergent and educational services at no cost to those who are in need.

North Charleston has one of the highest poverty rates in the state. Most of NCDO's patients are from low-income households. In 2023, NCDO treated more than 1,800 patients and provided more than \$1 million in services to the people in its community.

The BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation's grant was a key part of NCDO's success. NCDO used the grant to purchase three state-of-the-art operatories, or dental treatment stations. These operatories contain vital equipment dentists and hygienists need to treat patients. NCDO also used the grant to purchase three X-ray sensors and a handpiece maintenance system. Finally, the grant covered a portion of one dental assistant's salary.

Lisa Summerlin, program administrator and dental hygienist at NCDO, is grateful for the Foundation's support. Summerlin recalled how the clinic's old equipment was unreliable and often needed costly repairs. She spoke of the life-changing impact the new equipment will have on patients.

"The patients we see, treat and befriend are the reason we do what we do," said Summerlin. "We care about each person's health and

well-being, and we want to offer them an opportunity to thrive as human beings."

Summerlin remembered how one patient made her reflect on the impact NCDO has on the North Charleston community.

"One lady left our office crying after receiving treatment for a long-standing toothache," said Summerlin. "When we asked her why she was crying, she said it was not from pain but from joy at having finally been treated. She said she had nowhere else to go to get care. Experiences like that drive you."

Summerlin said that the new equipment will also help the clinic attract and retain students and volunteers. Thirty-five dentists and three dental hygienists currently volunteer at the clinic. The clinic welcomes 100 students and eight residents from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and Trident Technical College. The clinic gives dentists and hygienists, many of whom are retired, a way to give back to the community. It gives students the chance to experience one-on-one mentorship that they don't always get at school.

Both Summerlin and Dr. William Sasser, dental director at NCDO, are excited as they look to the future. They believe NCDO is in a strong position to continue helping those in need.

"We know we'll be leaving a good legacy behind to those who will eventually step up and run the clinic. Everything they need to thrive is here for them," said Summerlin. "Thank you to everyone at the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation for our grant award."

# Oral Health

## Equipment and Supplies

### NCDO Patients

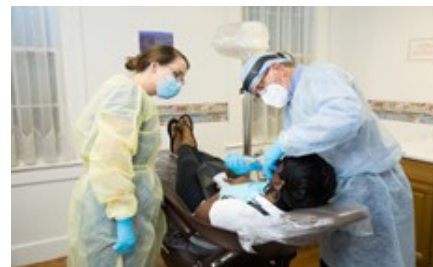
- \$25,422** A patient's median household **income**
- 74%** Patients with a **single mother** as head of household
- 63.7%** Patients whose highest degree is a **high school diploma** or **GED**
- 90%** Patients with **no dental** insurance
- 50%** Patients who are **over** the age of **50**
- 80%** Patients who are from **minority** populations

### NCDO Staff and Volunteers

- 4** The number of full-time staff
- 100** The number of students from MUSC and Trident Technical College
- 8** The number of residents
- 35** The number of volunteer dentists
- 3** The number of volunteer dental hygienists
- 32** The number of volunteers in hospitality, office and upkeep roles

### NCDO's mission is to:

- Enhance and sustain the clinic well into the future.
- Improve the oral and systemic health of patients.
- Offer mentoring opportunities to undergraduate and dental students from MUSC and dental hygiene students from Trident Technical College.
- Engage retired dentists and dental hygienists.
- Offer dental services to veterans.
- Develop, educate and strengthen the at-risk, under-resourced North Charleston community.
- Foster a generation of students and residents who will one day give back to their own communities.



## Medical University of South Carolina

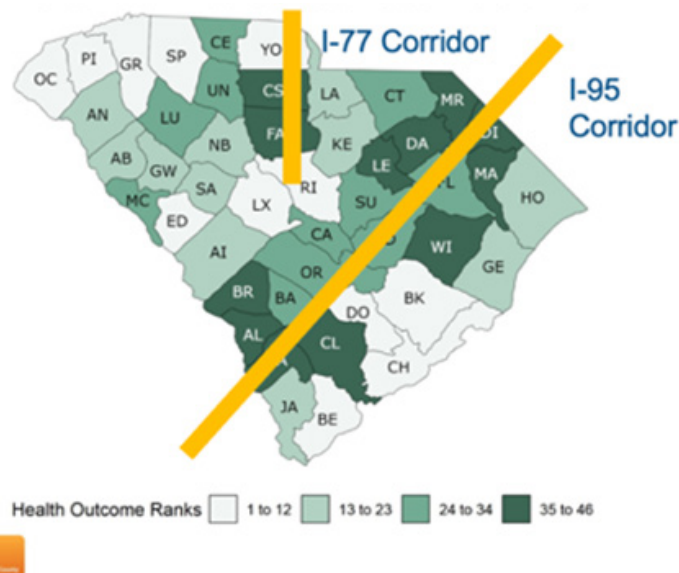
### Improving Health Outcomes Through Integrated Care: Co-Location of Dental Hygienist in Primary Care

The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) increased access to preventive dental care in rural areas through its Co-Location of Dental Hygienist in Primary Care program.

Many people who live in rural areas cannot access dental care due to geographic isolation, a lack of transportation, poverty and limited insurance. This is the case in South Carolina's Pee Dee region. To make matters worse, the Pee Dee also suffers from a dentist shortage.

The map shows the Pee Dee's poor health outcomes. The first chart shows the percentage of Pee Dee residents who are enrolled in Medicaid. The next chart shows the number of dentists needed in each Pee Dee county. The blue bars highlight the counties with MUSC hospitals that can support the Co-Location of Dental Hygienist in Primary Care program.

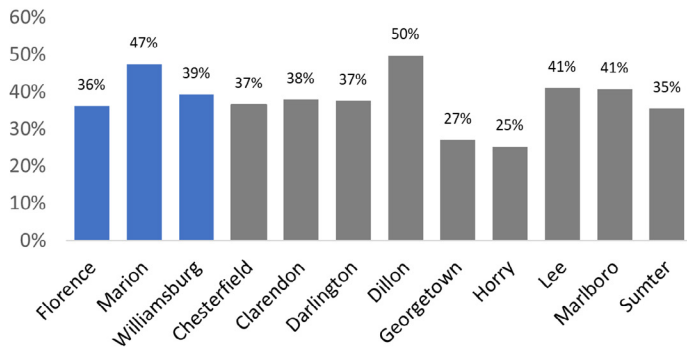
2023 Health Outcomes — South Carolina



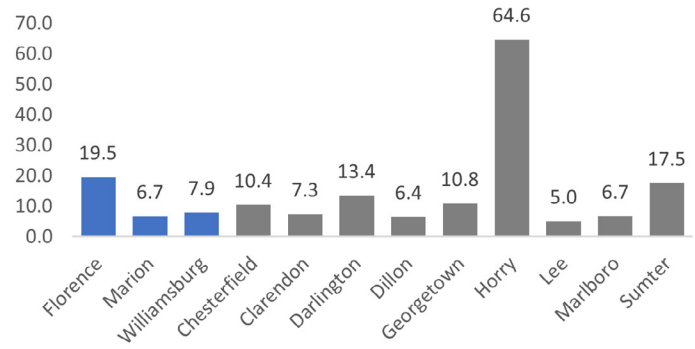
# Oral Health

## Workforce

Percent of Population Enrolled in Medicaid, Pee Dee Region by County, SFY 2023



Number of Dentists Needed by Pee Dee Region, by County in 2022 Source: HRSA Area Resource File



With the Foundation’s support, MUSC decided to address this shortage by hiring a dental hygienist as a community oral health integration navigator (COIN). This hygienist would provide vital dental services to patients in the Pee Dee.

### Patient Impact

The Foundation’s grant allowed MUSC and the COIN to affect many children’s lives.

While most cases have been routine, there have been times when the COIN was needed for urgent concerns beyond what was expected. The primary care team would engage the COIN when they found suspicious areas of inflammation in the head and neck regions during routine well-child visits. The COIN played a key role in referring children with these symptoms for follow-up specialty care. The COIN was able to find these children the care they needed despite barriers such as insurance status.

As a further example, the COIN or the primary care team often found active tooth decay in patients. In some cases, the children’s parents were aware of the problems but unable to access dental care due to certain social factors. Thanks to the network of local referral dentists that MUSC’s project had cultivated, the COIN was able to connect these children to care.







# Diabetes Free SC

Goal 1: To improve pregnancy outcomes and the health of women with, or at risk for, diabetes

## Management of Maternal (MOMs) Diabetes Programs

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Prisma Health — Midlands	Promoting Equity in Maternal Health and Diabetes Outcomes in South Carolina	01/2024 – 12/2025
Prisma Health — Upstate	MOMs — Comprehensive Management of Maternal Diabetes in the Upstate	08/2023 – 07/2025

## Women's Health Initiative

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Clemson University	Regional Integrated Life Cycle Diabetes Program for Women	06/2022 – 05/2025
Medical University of South Carolina	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 Women's Diabetes Program	06/2022 – 05/2025

## Goal 2: To reduce lifelong risk of diabetes in children

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Alliance for a Healthier Generation	Building a Bridge for School and Community	06/2023 – 05/2026
Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation	Kids in Parks: Statewide Expansion in South Carolina	06/2022 – 05/2026
Medical University of South Carolina	Prevention and Treatment of Diabetes Through a School Wellness Model	06/2023 – 05/2026

## Goal 3: To prevent diabetes and its complications in adults

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Health Sciences South Carolina	Improving Surgical Outcomes in Patients With Diabetes by Perioperative Optimization	06/2021 – 05/2024
USC School of Medicine	FoodShare: Supporting a Statewide and Community-Centered Food Distribution Network and Diabetes Prevention Model	06/2020 – 05/2025

### Community Health Workers in Federally Qualified Health Centers

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Affinity Health Center	Community Health Workers Reducing Diabetes in South Carolina	07/2021 – 06/2024
Beaufort Jasper Hampton Comprehensive Health Services	Community Health Workers Reducing Diabetes in South Carolina	07/2021 – 06/2024
CareSouth Carolina Inc.	Community Health Workers Reducing Diabetes in South Carolina	07/2021 – 06/2024
HopeHealth Inc.	Community Health Workers Reducing Diabetes in South Carolina	07/2021 – 06/2024
Tandem Health SC	Community Health Workers Reducing Diabetes in South Carolina	07/2021 – 06/2024
USC Center for Community Health Alignment	Community Health Workers Reducing Diabetes in South Carolina	07/2021 – 06/2024

# Diabetes Free SC

## Management of Maternal (MOMs) Diabetes Programs

### Prisma Health Midlands

## Promoting Equity in Maternal Health and Diabetes Outcomes in South Carolina

The Foundation's 2020 grant to MOMs in Control Midlands increases access to specialty care and multidisciplinary care teams for pregnant women with diabetes. Prisma Health and Carolina Diabetes and Kidney Center paired maternal fetal medicine (MFM) with endocrinology. This pairing eliminates barriers to care and improves birth outcomes across the region. Originally based in Sumter, the program has now expanded to Columbia. MOMs in Control serves women across the 16 counties.

MOMs in Control quickly learned that its patients need ongoing care, education and support. The relationships built between patients and the care team during pregnancy offered a unique chance to create a care model that gives women continuous care after they give birth. This model also welcomes all women of childbearing age at high risk for Type 2 diabetes or diabetes-related complications. The model's goal is to improve the health of women and their families for generations to come.

Funded in July 2022, Women in Control of Diabetes (WICO) provides postpartum, interpregnancy and preconception care to women. WICO focuses on individualized care and collaboration with community providers. Both MOMs in Control and WICO incorporate community health workers (CHWs), registered nurses, diabetes educators and providers to increase a patient's access to multiple services and resources in a single visit.

The Foundation's grant has created opportunities for the collaborative to:

- Increase access to MFM and endocrinology specialty care.
- Increase access to diabetes technology.
- Establish an MFM satellite clinic in Sumter equipped with technology to provide Level 2 ultrasounds. Patients previously had to travel to Columbia or Florence for this service.
- Provide multidisciplinary, team-based care designed to keep the patient the most important member of the care team.
- Address barriers to care by integrating CHWs, diabetes educators, dietitians and nurses into a single appointment.
- Implement mental health and social determinants of health screenings with individualized and appropriate follow-up by a care team member.
- Leverage partnerships with community organizations such as FoodShare South Carolina, Healthy Start and Perinatal Awareness for Successful Outcomes (PASOs) to address social determinants of health.

Building a team of passionate providers and staff has been a key component to program successes. The MOMs in Control Midlands team encourages each team member, from front desk staff to providers, to engage with patients and the community, as well as pursue learning opportunities to improve care and work toward the vision of eliminating health care disparities in our state.



## Patient Experience

“Attending the MOMs clinic allowed me to feel welcomed and heard during my pregnancy. Everyone in the facility is welcoming and helpful. Any question I have is addressed in a timely manner.”

## MOMs in Control Midlands and WICO by the Numbers

**3,518** The number of team-based care **visits**

**94%** The **show rate** to MOMs visits

**103** The number of **retinal screenings**

**> 2,000** The number of continuous **glucose monitors**

**1,360** The number of **FoodShare** boxes

**> 700** The number of **community health worker** encounters

**273** The number of **patients enrolled** in WICO

**16** The number of **insulin pump** starts



# Diabetes Free SC

## Management of Maternal (MOMs) Diabetes Programs

### Prisma Health Upstate

## MOMs: Comprehensive Management of Maternal Diabetes in the Upstate

The Upstate MOMs program is based at Prisma Health's OB/GYN Center in Greenville, South Carolina. It is one of two MOMs sites funded by the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation to support the goals of Diabetes Free SC. Upstate MOMs uses a team-based, multidisciplinary model to provide specialized care for pregnant women with diabetes.

Dr. Thompson Gailey founded the Greenville OB/GYN Center in 1974. The center serves women who may not access care outside of pregnancy due to social determinants of health (SDOH). With 2,868 deliveries in 2023, it is one of the largest prenatal clinics in South Carolina.

Dr. Megan Schellinger, in maternal fetal medicine, and Dr. Stanley Von Hofe, an endocrinologist, started the Diabetes Clinic at the OB/GYN Center in 2016. They added certified diabetes educators to the team that same year. In 2020, the Foundation funded the expansion of the Diabetes Clinic and the establishment of the MOMs in Control of Diabetes in Pregnancy Program. The program received another two years of funding from the Foundation in 2023.

Diabetes is a major and growing health problem in South Carolina. Roughly half the state has diabetes or prediabetes. South Carolina is ranked 49th in the percentage of women ages 18 – 44 who reported being told by a health care professional they have diabetes. The national rate of diabetes in pregnancy has increased 33.4 percent over the last decade. The increase includes Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. Rates of gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) have risen the most. Women with GDM have a tenfold increased risk of being diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes in 5 – 10 years.

Uncontrolled diabetes in pregnancy is linked to adverse maternal

and fetal outcomes.

Diabetes during pregnancy requires an experienced, multidisciplinary team. A large number of patients enter the MOMs program with various health issues caused by inequities, such as limited or no access to diabetes care or education, endocrinology support, and diabetes technology. These inequities exacerbate difficulties for patients with gestational diabetes.

Understanding the growth in South Carolina's population and the increase in diabetes rates, MOMs programs are helping to combat one of the state's biggest health issues. Upstate MOMs served 1,156 pregnant women between June 2020 and March 2023. Nearly one-third of MOMs patients are uninsured.

The program addresses patients' social determinants of health by providing:

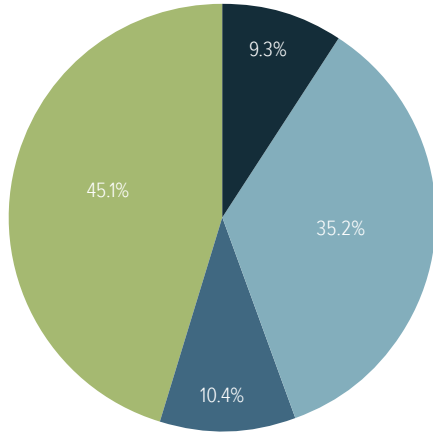
- Fresh food boxes.
- Food pantry items.
- Hygiene bags.
- Insulin samples.
- Transportation and resource navigation.

The Upstate MOMs telehealth team serves outlying areas with remote patient monitoring. This service reviews glucose logs, continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) reports and insulin pump reports.

The MOMs patient graph shows the array of health care professionals who work to improve patient outcomes. The demographic pie graphs give a snapshot of the Upstate MOMs patient population.

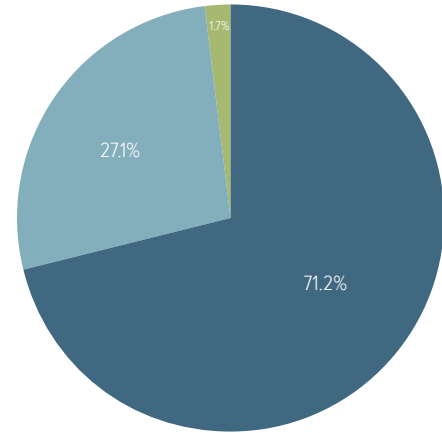
# MOMs Upstate Demographics

June 2020 – March 2023



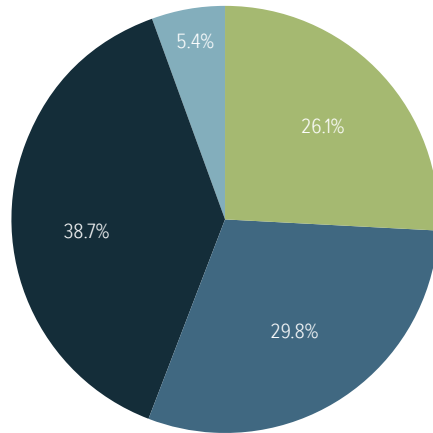
**Diabetes Type (n/%)**

- Type 1 — 45 (9.3%)
- Type 2 — 170 (35.2%)
- Pregestational/Suspected Type 2 — 50 (10.4%)
- A2GDM — 218 (45.1%)  
*Gestational Diabetes Management with Medication*



**Preferred Language (n/%)**

- English — 344 (71.2%)
- Spanish — 131 (27.1%)
- Other — 8 (1.7%)



**Race (n/%)**

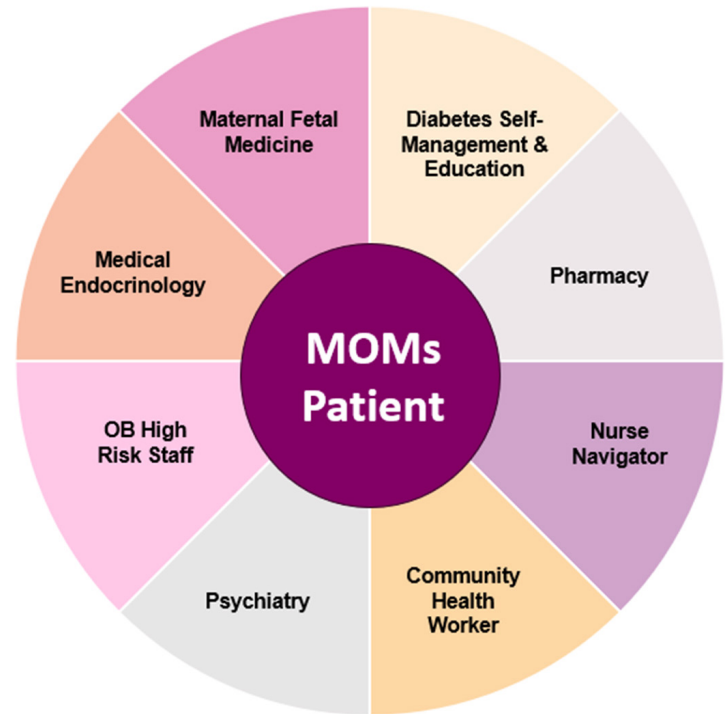
- African American — 126 (26.1%)
- Hispanic — 144 (29.8%)
- White — 187 (38.7%)
- Other — 26 (5.4%)

# Diabetes Free SC

## MOMs Upstate by the Numbers

June 2020 – March 2023

- 15,340** The number of telehealth glucose logs reviewed by clinical providers
- 3,440** The number of diabetes education sessions
- 2,821** The number of hours of diabetes education phone support for remote patient monitoring
- 1,534** The number of continuous glucose monitors provided
- 1,100** The number of diabetes supplies, including insulin samples
- 530** The number of outpatient insulin starts
- 9** The number of people whose vision was saved due to screens for retinopathy



“The BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation has given us the opportunity to provide equal and equitable care to patients who otherwise wouldn’t be able to access it. The Foundation’s continued support has been lifesaving for countless women and unborn children.”

— Dr. Megan Schellinger

Prisma Health Upstate







## Staff Experience

“MOMS advocates for patients by providing care and follow-up that they’d otherwise not receive. I love the program’s interaction with patient needs.”

— High-Risk OB Nurse



## Patient Experience

“Reading nutrition labels is beneficial to finding healthier options.”

“I appreciated having all my appointments in one.”



# Unmet Needs and Emerging Opportunities

## Increasing Access to Care

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Healthy Learners	Serving More Children Through Regional Network Expansion	06/2023 – 05/2026
Impact America	Focus First: Increasing the Reach of a High-Tech Vision Care Initiative	06/2023 – 05/2025
Lions Vision Services, a South Carolina Charity	Vision for South Carolina: A Collaborative Vision Health Initiative (VFSC)	01/2022 – 12/2024
South Carolina Free Clinic Association	Advancing Free Clinic Care	01/2020 – 12/2025
USC Arnold School of Public Health	The EACH (Ensuring Access to Coordinated Health) Mom and Baby Collaborative	01/2021 – 12/2024
South Carolina Free Clinic Association	Take Care South Carolina	01/2024 - 12/2025
American Cancer Society	Prevention and Screening Intervention	12/2023 – 12/2024
Reach Out and Read	Expansion of Oral Health Initiative	01/2024 – 01/2027

## Workforce

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
Charleston Southern University	Community and Home-Based Health Initiative for BSN Students	01/2015 – 07/2026
Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine	Underrepresented Minority Physician Scholarships	01/2022 – 12/2030
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 – 12/2030
USC Upstate Foundation	Developing Nurse Faculty To Strengthen the Nursing Pipeline	01/2022 – 06/2025

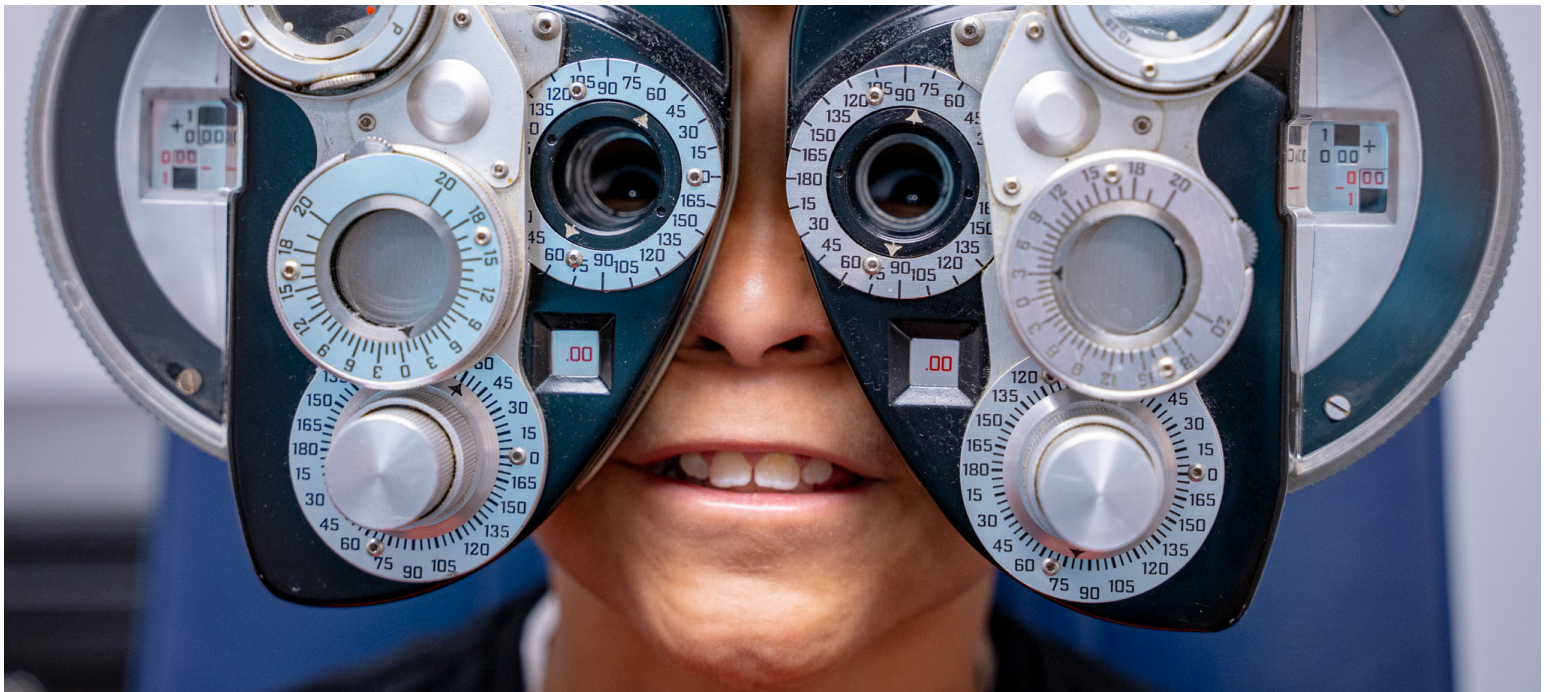
# Unmet Needs and Emerging Opportunities

## Special Projects

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
MDC Inc.	Investing in Leaders of the Carolinas	01/2022 – 12/2026
South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services	Establishing a Center of Excellence in Addiction	11/2018 – 12/2024

## Investing in the Health and Wellbeing of South Carolina Children and Families

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Period
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control	Improving Fitness of SC Public School Students	01/2020 – 12/2024
Spartanburg Academic Movement	Spartanburg Movement 2030	01/2024 – 12/2028



# Unmet Needs and Emerging Opportunities

## Increasing Access to Care

### Healthy Learners

#### Serving More Children Through Regional Network Expansion

Healthy Learners is on a mission to transform the futures of children in poverty in South Carolina. Research has proven that education helps children go further in life. It empowers them to get higher-wage jobs and make positive life choices. It also empowers them to make their future communities stronger, healthier and more vibrant. Many children in poverty struggle to achieve educational success due to fixable health challenges that have not been addressed. These challenges are known as health barriers to learning. Healthy Learners was created to address these challenges head on. It strives to ensure every child receives the health care he or she needs to thrive in school.

Although Healthy Learners has been changing lives for more than 30 years, it was having a hard time growing. Equipped with new leadership and a new strategy to serve more children in more communities, Healthy Learners embarked on its mission expansion strategy in 2020. That same year, Healthy Learners joined in partnership with the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation to expand services. By proactively finding children with health barriers to learning through vision, hearing and dental screenings, Healthy Learners was better able to provide these students with the health care services they need to succeed.

The initial goal of the expansion strategy was threefold:

- To conduct proactive health screenings to improve process efficiency
- To provide services in one neighboring county for each of the five program office locations
- To create four regional office hubs in the Midlands, Pee Dee, Lowcountry and Upstate that would provide a sustainable framework for continued regional growth

While the COVID-19 pandemic slowed initial progress, Healthy Learners used the Foundation's grant to grow over the next three years. It expanded into Williamsburg, Marion, Laurens, Newberry and Hampton counties. This marked the nonprofit's first expansion in 15 years.

The Foundation's investment was the catalyst for Healthy Learners to leverage other large funding sources from the private sector that were impressed by the new growth strategy. Healthy Learners is continuing to seek additional public and private funding investments and exploring partnership opportunities with managed care organizations. It is currently having conversations with managed care organizations and state transportation providers to explore partnership opportunities.

### Parent Experience

“As a single parent, the program allowed me not to have to take off of work and lose household income.”

## Success Story: Love Multiplied

When you visit one of our local elementary schools, you may meet Ebony. She is an outgoing fifth grader who serves as the principal's ambassador and is on the honor roll. She dreams of being a video game creator. As she gives you the school tour, you feel like you've instantly made a friend.

However, if you rewind to the second grade, Ebony's life looked quite different. Growing up with her single mom, grandmother and three siblings, Ebony's life was both beautiful and challenging. Her family moved around a lot to find sustainable housing. Because her mom worked at a local cleaning company to pay the bills, Ebony spent most days with her grandmother.

Ebony enjoyed school, but she was dealing with a nagging problem that affected her focus, confidence and ability to learn. Her teeth hurt — a lot. She told her grandmother about the problem. But, because Ebony's family was new to the area and had no access to transportation, her grandmother could not set up an appointment or travel to a trusted dental provider.

Both Ebony and her grandmother needed help.

The school nurse connected Ebony and her family to Healthy Learners. Ebony had six deep cavities and needed three crowns and three extractions. After four appointments and many hours of coordinated care, Ebony could smile again.

Over the last three years, there have been many ups and downs on Ebony's health care journey. But because of partners like the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation, Ebony is able to thrive. Her confidence has soared, her grades have improved, and she is serving her school and community with the same love and compassion she has received. In the words of St. Augustine, "One loving heart sets another on fire."

Year	Unique Students Served	Number of Services
2019	1,910	5,699
2020	1,419 (COVID-19 closures)	3,755
2021	1,898 (COVID-19 recovery)	8,906
2022	2,362	12,629
2023	3,036	15,828



# Unmet Needs and Emerging Opportunities

## Increasing Access to Care

### South Carolina Free Clinic Association Advancing Free Clinic Care

SCFCA provides training, technical assistance, resource development and advocacy to 37 free clinics at more than 70 sites throughout the state. It works with its member clinics to help low-income and uninsured South Carolinians access quality health care.

The majority of SCFCA's patients earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but they don't earn enough to afford copays for office visits. They also don't earn enough to afford prescription medications, even if the premiums are free.

SCFCA and its member clinics help these patients by:

- Providing care, prescription medications and medical supplies.
- Expanding to address newly identified patient needs.
- Offering wellness programs, such as chronic disease education, smoking cessation programs and transportation assistance.
- Working with licensed volunteers and paid providers to make the best use of resources.
- Fighting food insecurity with programs that give fresh fruits and vegetables to patients.
- Training community health workers to provide services in clinics.
- Putting patients in touch with community resources that improve their health.

SCFCA also works to increase awareness of free clinics.

It does this by:

- Making sure patients know services are available.
- Ensuring safety-net providers know about free clinics so they can work jointly to get quality services for uninsured patients.
- Helping legislators, state agencies and funders understand the impact of the clinics and their return on investment.

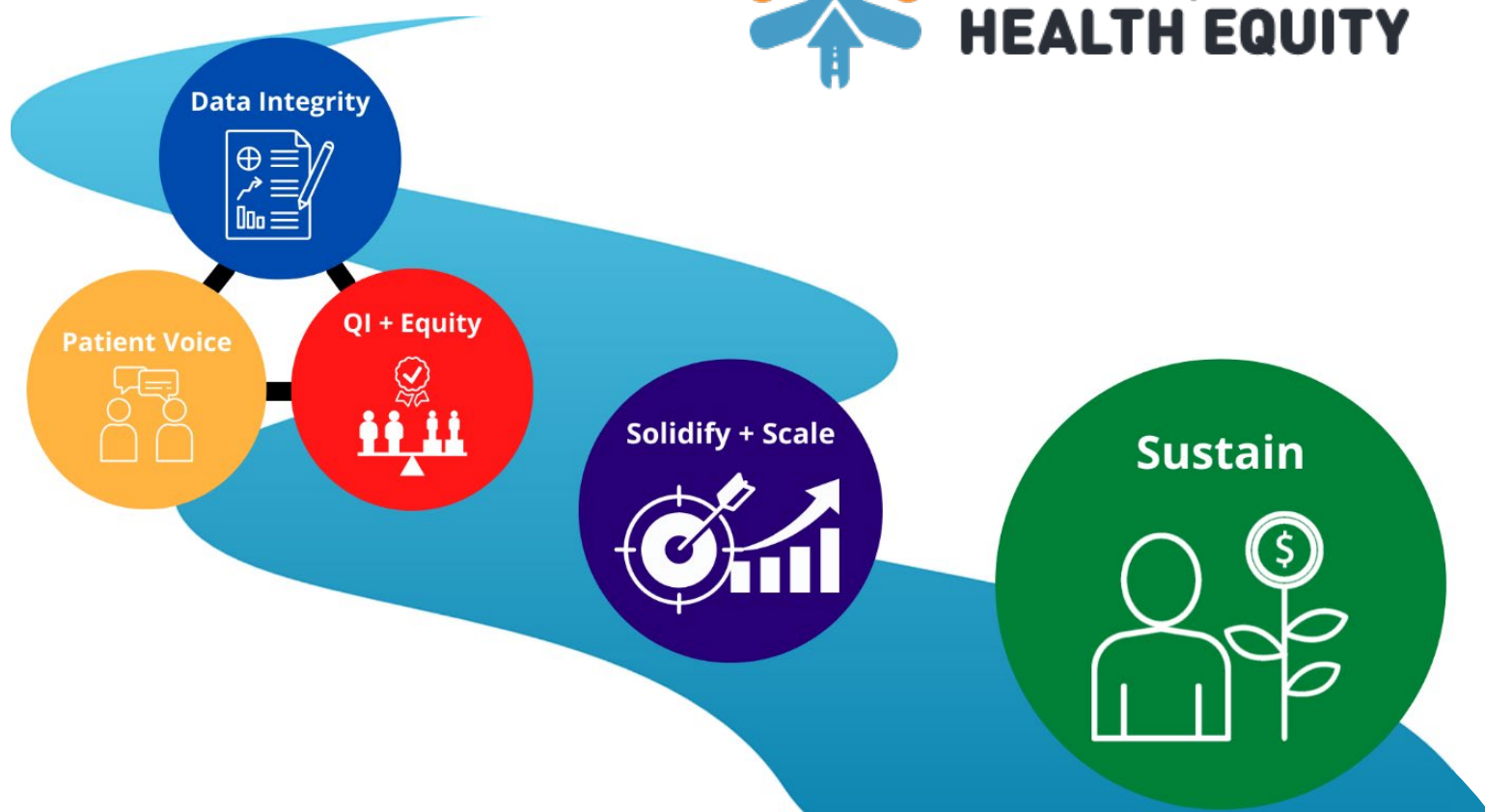
Over the past 20 years, the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation has provided vital support to the SCFCA and its member clinics. Base grant funding has allowed clinics to treat an average of 40,000 patients each year. The clinics have been able to expand their hours of operation and the types of services they provide. The Foundation also made possible the SCFCA Certification Program, which requires clinics to adopt policies and comply with standards. Finally, the Foundation has supported the SCFCA's collection of annual data.

In addition, the Take Care South Carolina grant will foster healthier communities by establishing a quality improvement approach with clinics to participate in the National Association of Free Clinic (NAFC) Roadmap to Health Equity to demonstrate the impact free clinics in South Carolina are providing for patient and their health outcomes.

This project will equip clinics with a process to assess progress by capturing data to promote health equity through a set of quality measures that will demonstrate quality of care on both process and patient level outcomes.



## Roadmap to HEALTH EQUITY



“The services provided by the SCFCA free clinics are more important now than ever. The clinics provide quality health care services, prescription medications and medical supplies to uninsured patients on a consistent basis. Because of this, patients can better manage their chronic diseases and avoid unnecessary visits to local emergency departments. We are very grateful for the funds that have been provided by the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation for SCFCA and its free clinics. Together, we are making a difference and creating a healthier South Carolina!”

— Virginia Ann Mullikin  
Executive Director, SCFCA

The BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.