



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Carolina Rural Incentive Grant Program Now Accepting Applications

The Rural Incentive Grant Program was initiated by the South Carolina Legislature in 1989 to address the maldistribution of clinicians in rural and underserved South Carolina communities.

The program provides incentive grants to eligible providers who contract to practice for four years in a rural or underserved area of South Carolina. Eligible health professionals include: primary care physicians (Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and OB/Gyn); general surgeons and psychiatrists; credentialed nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and physician assistants.

The amount of the incentive grant will vary—physicians are eligible for a total of \$60,000-\$100,000 (minimum-maximum) and advanced practice providers are eligible for a total of \$30,000-\$50,000 (minimum-maximum) depending upon the type of practice setting and the population of the county.

All recipients must be U.S. citizens and licensed by the State of South Carolina and board certified. Applications are encouraged from residents who will be completing their training within the year, but it is expected that the resident will become board certified.

Providers who have previously received an award from the Rural Physician Incentive Grant Program or the Rural Physician Loan Repayment Program are not eligible. Providers must also have practiced in the community for less than five years to be considered. Clinicians working in state prisons may qualify. Half-time options are also available.

A recruitment incentive grant is also available to residents graduating from a South Carolina Family Medicine Residency Program and going into practice in one of the state's whole county Geographic Health Professional Shortage Areas. Due to a limited number of slots, these incentive grants are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Applications for incentive grants are due by March 15, 2021.

For more information about the program, please visit the South Carolina AHEC Recruitment and Retention Programs webpage at www.scahec.net/recruitment.

South Carolina AHEC connects students and professionals with the tools, training and resources necessary to provide quality healthcare, with a focus on primary care in rural and underserved communities. South Carolina AHEC provides education, recruitment and retention programs to build and support the healthcare workforce South Carolina needs.

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If you would like more information about the Rural Incentive Grant Program, please contact Kristin Cochran at 843-792-6977 or cochrak@musc.edu.

South Carolina Rural Incentive Grant Program

About the Program

To address the maldistribution of healthcare providers in South Carolina, the Rural Incentive Grant Program provides financial incentives to qualified healthcare providers who contract to practice in rural and underserved areas for up to 4 years.

Physicians

- Practicing in counties with populations less than 50,000 = up to \$25,000 per year
- Practicing in rural areas of other counties or working in federally qualified health centers in urban areas = up to \$15,000 per year

Advanced Practice Providers

Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Midwives & Physician Assistants

- Practicing in counties with populations less than 50,000 = up to \$12,500 per year
- Practicing in rural areas of other counties or working in federally qualified health centers in urban areas = up to \$7,500 per year

How to Apply

Apply online at www.scahec.net/recruitment

Required Materials:

- Completed Application
- Curriculum Vitae
- Completed Practice Site Profile

Applications are due by 11:59pm on March 15. The application cycle opens in the fall of each year.

Eligibility

- Primary care physicians (family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN) as well as general surgeons and psychiatrists
- Nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and physician assistants
- Must practice in an outpatient setting in an underserved area*
- Must work 40 hrs/week to qualify for full-time incentives, 20 hrs/week for part-time incentives
- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Have practiced in the community for less than 5 years
- Cannot have previously received an award from the Rural Incentive Grant Program or Rural Physician Loan Repayment Program

*see map on page 2

Applicant Scoring

Preference is given to applicants based on:

- Level of Community Need
- Specialty
- Retention Factors
e.g., education and/or training in SC, rural residency, SC AHEC IPC or AHEC Scholars completer, connection to the community
- Underrepresented Minority
- Committee Recommendation

Example Funding Scenarios

A full-time family medicine physician practicing in Kingstree could receive \$25,000/year for 4 years.

A full-time family medicine physician practicing in Dillon could receive \$15,000/year for 4 years.

A full-time nurse practitioner practicing in Union could receive \$12,500/year for 4 years.

A full-time nurse practitioner practicing in Seneca could receive \$7,500/year for 4 years.

This information is for illustrative purposes only. Funding levels are determined based on each applicant's practice location(s).

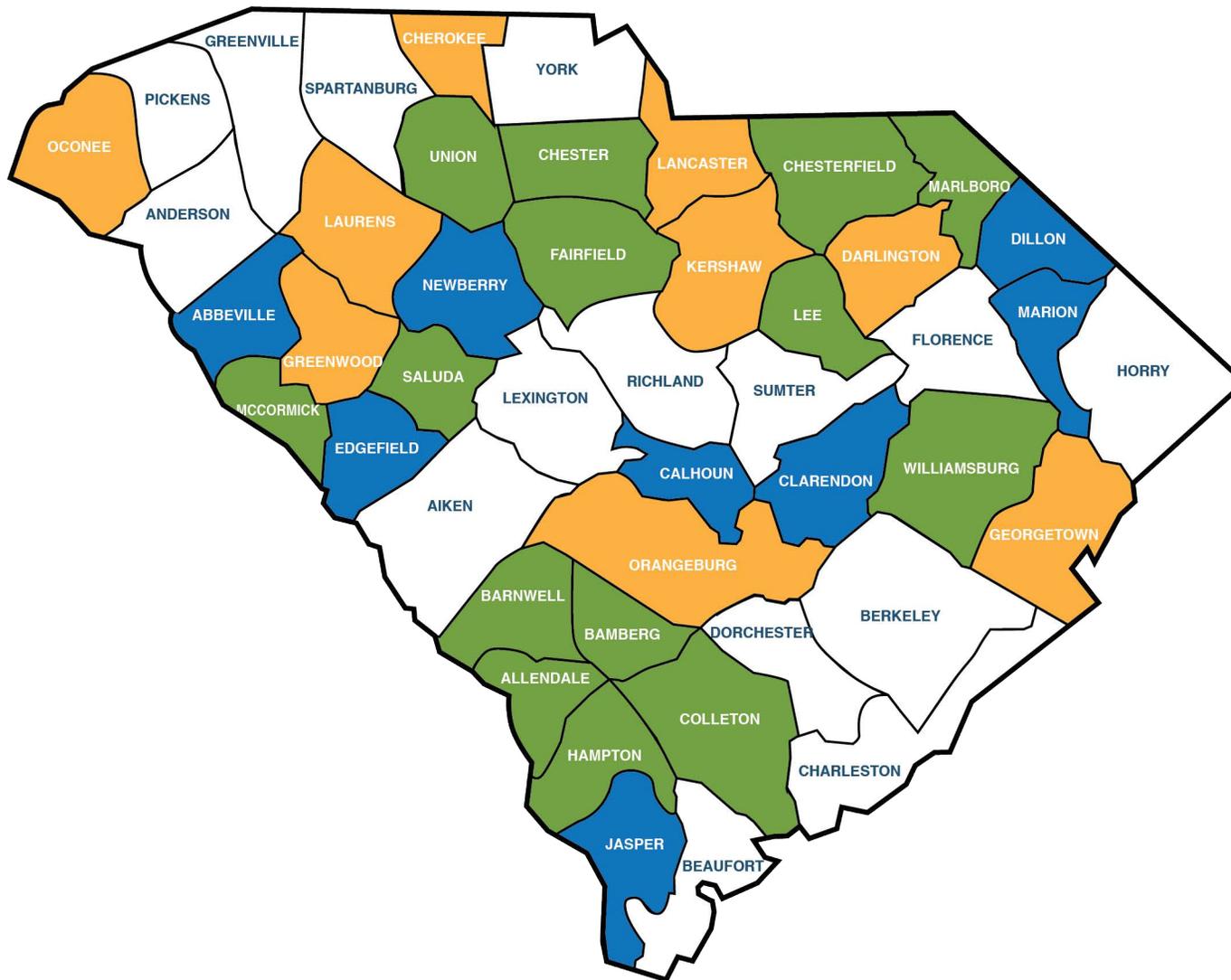
Questions? Contact:

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South Carolina Rural Incentive Grant Program | County Designations



First Priority: Geographic HPSA*
 Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Chester, Chesterfield, Colleton, Fairfield, Hampton, Lee, McCormick, Marlboro, Saluda, Union & Williamsburg

Second Priority: Counties with population less than 50,000
 Abbeville, Calhoun, Clarendon, Dillon, Edgefield, Jasper, Marion & Newberry

Third Priority: Counties with population more than 50,000
Must practice in a rural area or urban FQHC to qualify
 Cherokee, Darlington, Georgetown, Greenwood, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Oconee & Orangeburg

Fourth Priority: Counties with population more than 100,000
Must practice in a rural area or urban FQHC to qualify

Aiken, Anderson, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester, Florence, Greenville, Horry, Lexington, Pickens, Richland, Spartanburg, Sumter & York

*Geographic Health Professions Shortage Areas (HPSA), rural and non-urbanized determinations are made based on SC DHEC's Office of Primary Care and 2010 U.S. Census data.

Please contact Kristin Cochran at cochrak@muscc.edu or 843-792-6977 to determine the eligibility of a specific site address.