Rural Incentive Grants address the undersupply of clinicians in rural and underserved South Carolina communities. The program provides incentive grants for physicians and advanced practice providers (advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants) who commit to practice in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for 4 years.

Incentive grant opportunities include:

- Provide $25,000 per year for 4 years for qualified physicians in counties with a population of less than 50,000.
- Provide $15,000 per year for 4 years for qualified physicians in counties with a population over 50,000 who work in rural (non-urbanized) areas or an urban FQHC.
- Provide $12,500 per year for 4 years for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and physician assistants (PAs) in counties with a population of less than 50,000.
- Provide $7,500 per year for 4 years for APRNs and PAs in counties with a population over 50,000 who work in rural (non-urbanized) areas or an urban FQHC.

Conditions and restrictions apply. More information about criteria and eligibility available on website. Providers must submit application to be considered. Find out more about the program, funding opportunities, and the application process via the link below.

To find out more about this program:

www.scahec.net/recruitment.html

Kristin Cochran, MHA
Director of Recruitment & Retention
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# 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

# 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

# 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).

# 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

# Questions? Contact:
Kristin Cochran, MHA
Recruitment & Retention Programs
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843-792-6977

[www.scahec.net/recruitment](http://www.scahec.net/recruitment)

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**How to Apply**

Apply online at [www.scahec.net/recruitment](http://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.
South Carolina Rural Incentive Grant Program | County Designations

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

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

**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 U.S. Census data.

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