

A large, dark silhouette of a palm tree dominates the center of the image, set against a vibrant sunset sky with orange, red, and blue hues. The tree's fronds are spread out, and its trunk is thick and textured. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

South Carolina Center for  
**Rural and Primary Healthcare**

# 2019 Impact Report





# Who We Are

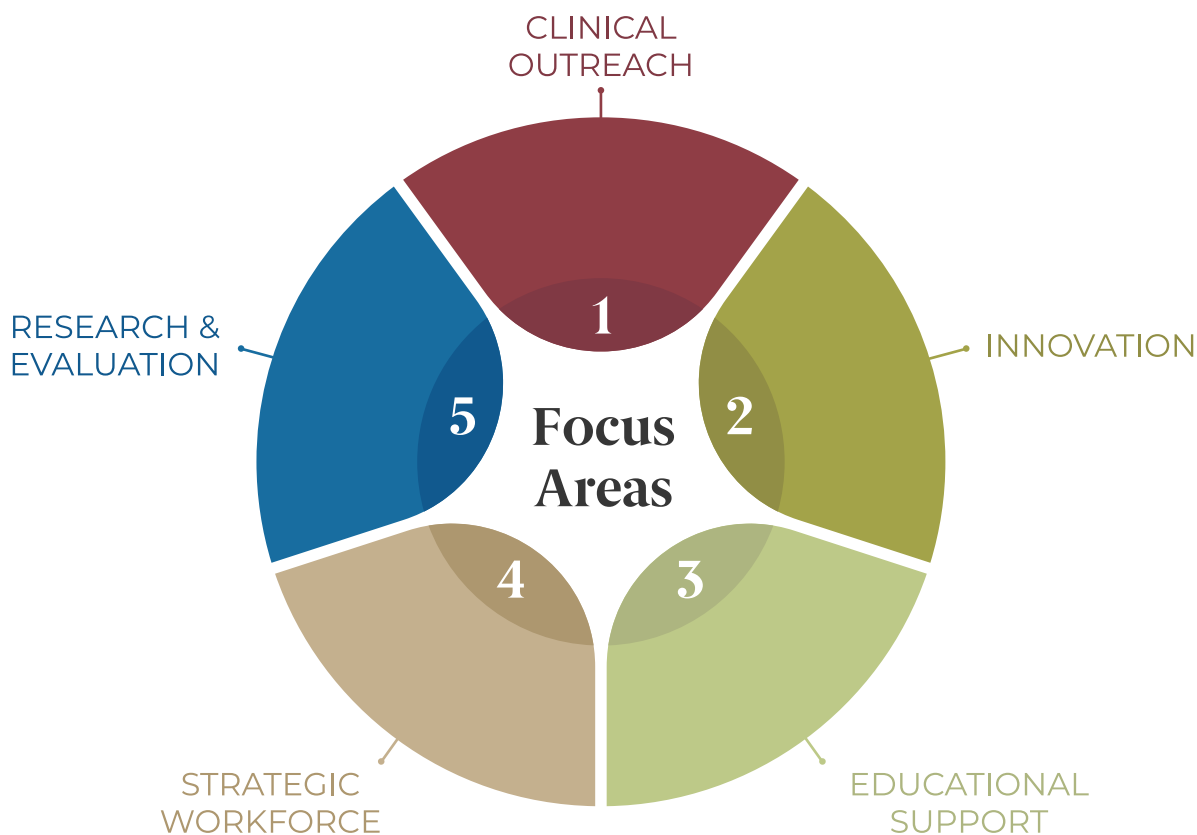
SC Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare Staff: Kevin Bennett, Samantha Renaud, Alanti McGill, Michele Stanek, Brittany Wesley, and Chuck Carter.

## Our Mission

Support and develop rural and primary care education, delivery, and sustainability in South Carolina through clinical practice, training and research.

## Our Vision

All South Carolinians will have access to high quality and high value healthcare regardless of where they live.



# Director's Letter

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We are pleased to share the many ways our Center is impacting the health and well-being of rural South Carolinians. Our overall strategy includes: 1) identifying gaps in healthcare services; 2) supporting education and training; 3) supporting innovative approaches to common challenges; and 4) providing critical evidence needed to guide solutions for rural communities.

We work with partners throughout our state to identify, coordinate and test solutions to pressing problems. This may involve providing immediate support for a program, provider, or organization or providing critical investment to identify, generate, or evaluate potential solutions. Regardless, we use a data driven approach to measure and better understand the impact our interventions have.

Our Center has positively impacted rural health in several ways this year. The ICARED program continues to deliver essential medical specialists to rural communities, and we've been excited to grow this program in the Midlands, Pee Dee, and Upstate. These include pediatric subspecialties (including cardiology, pulmonology, and endocrinology); infectious disease; psychiatry; and primary care. These programs have allowed over 3,000 patients to receive care in their own communities and prevented 300,000 miles of excess travel to receive care.

The second year of our statewide Rural Innovations program supported 7 additional innovative projects focused on enhancing access to quality health care and improving health outcomes in rural communities.

We continue to invest in the future rural healthcare workforce. This year, the Center supported 15 new health professional students through our Rural Practice Loan Forgiveness program. These future physicians, physician-assistants and nurse practitioners are committed to practicing in rural South Carolina.

We've collaborated with Prisma Health to expand rural primary care physician residency training in SC by opening two new training programs: the new Family Medicine residency in Sumter, SC, and an expanded rural track in Winnsboro, SC. These programs both expand clinical training in rural SC and also immediately improve access to quality healthcare in underserved areas.

A handwritten signature in gold ink that reads "Chuck Carter, MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized "C" and "M".

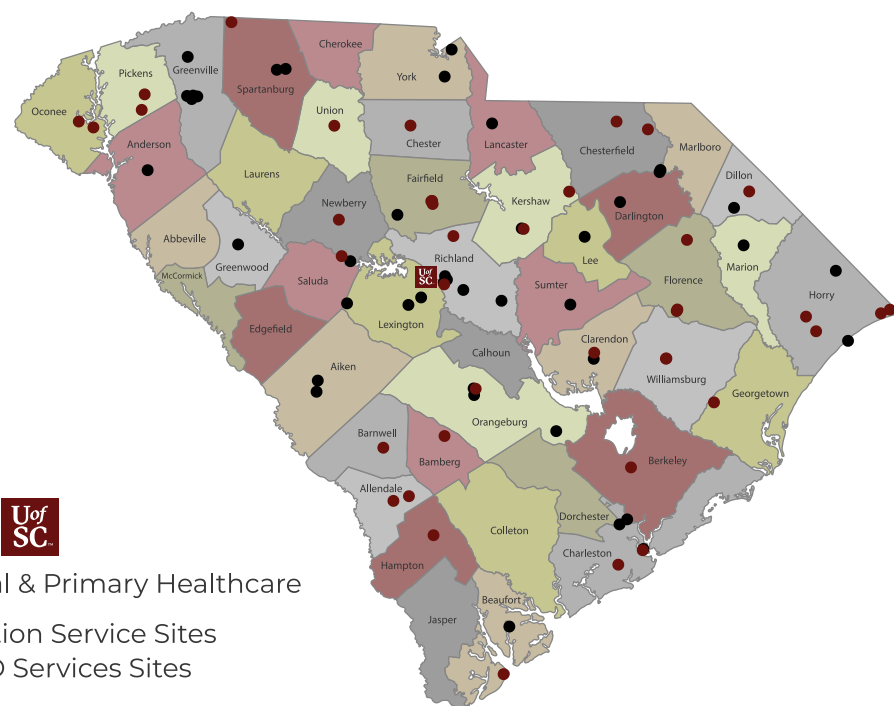
Chuck Carter, MD



# Our Impact

- **17** committed rural practitioners in the Rural Loan Forgiveness Program for MD's, PA's, and APRN's
- Over **3,000** patients served through the ICARED program in 2018-2019
- **342,126** miles avoided in 2018-2019 by providing healthcare services in rural areas
- **150** medical students and resident gained rural health experience in our various programs
- **7** Additional Rural Innovation projects funded (# total since 2017)

## Our Service Sites



# Our Programs

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The SC Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare is improving the quality of life in rural South Carolina by providing high quality health care services and by expanding health professions training in rural areas. We are grateful that this investment is helping to build a healthier state while improving the pipeline of health professionals with an interest in practicing in rural South Carolina settings.

**LES HALL, MD**  
Executive Dean, UofSC School of Medicine

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# Clinical Outreach

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**The Improved Care and provision of Rural access to Eliminate health Disparities (ICARED)** program supports rural clinical practice through onsite primary care, subspecialty support, and telemedicine.

Transportation barriers can be an impediment for rural residents with specialty care needs. Through ICARED support, specialists travel to rural health practices to serve patients in their own community. This program supports subspecialists, including pediatric subspecialists, maternal fetal medicine specialists, psychiatrists and adult cardiologists to augment the care in the rural communities.

## Keeping Care Local: Pediatric Subspecialties

Pediatric subspecialists, supported by the ICARED program, provide vital services to children and families living in rural communities.

In FY 18-19, ICARED clinics conducted 3,108 encounters, allowing rural patients to avoid nearly 250,000 miles of travel.

This expansion has also given UofSC medical students and residents the opportunity to practice in a rural community: 35 medical students and 17 residents have been involved in these patient care visits.

I see a baby boy who is now 7 months old at our Orangeburg outreach clinic. He has a history of a life-threatening arrhythmia that requires frequent office visits and medication adjustment. His family has very limited resources and does not have the transportation capabilities to come to Columbia for every visit, so we see him in Orangeburg. His family has been able to come to these closer appointments much more easily and as a result he has remained in a normal heart rhythm for over 4 months now.

**MARGARET GRAY, MD**  
Pediatric Cardiologist





# Innovation

## Rural Innovations Cooperative Agreement Program

Proactive, innovative approaches to improving care for rural patients are imperative in the dynamic, ever-changing healthcare landscape. Our Rural Innovations Cooperative Agreement Program identifies and supports programs and strategies that address unmet needs to improve rural health.

The program serves as a launchpad for novel ideas to transform health outcomes in rural communities. Beyond that, it also provides opportunities for successful programs tested in other settings to be replicated and scaled in a rural South Carolina.

Pee Dee Region	Upstate Region	Lowcountry Region	Midlands Region	Statewide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chesterfield Health Equity Project</li> <li>Chesterfield Working Well</li> <li>HIV PrEP Implementation Toolkit</li> <li>Rural Primary Care Resident Procedural Training Initiative</li> <li>Increasing HIV Screening and Linkage to Care for HIV PrEP or HIV Treatment</li> <li>Health Education and Active Living</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pharmacy Advancement in Rural Experiential Development with the Palmetto Experiential Education Partnership (PAIRED with PEEP)</li> <li>Expansion of a Collaborative Care Behavioral Health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foodshare SC</li> <li>Healthy Tri-County Diabetes Prevention Program Expansion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medically Supervised Weight-Loss Program in a Rural Health Clinic</li> <li>Community Health Worker Pilot Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving South Carolina Rural Behavioral Health Workforce Recruitment and Retention</li> <li>Coordinating Healthcare for Correctional Agencies in Rural Setting</li> <li>Rural Practice Enhancement Micro-grants</li> <li>Implementation of Evidence-based Cancer Screenings in Rural Health Clinics</li> </ul>

















