

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

### Rural Practice Loan Forgiveness

The Rural Practice Loan Forgiveness program boasts 29 health professional students, including medical, nurse practitioner and physician assistant students committed to practice in rural South Carolina upon completion of their graduate program. This unique loan forgiveness opportunity affords students, passionate about serving rural and underserved areas, the ability to reduce the financial costs of education for their service commitment.

#### Recipient Highlight

When third-year PA student Raina McKenzie started her graduate studies at the University of South Carolina back in 2019, she knew she wanted to one-day return to her hometown of Kingstree, SC to work and serve her community. What she did not know, was that a significant portion of her student loans could be forgiven to do exactly that. For McKenzie's PA program specifically, the Rural Practice Loan Forgiveness program offers a forgivable student loan award of up to \$40,000 in educational costs. Already interested in providing healthcare to underserved communities, the program was a perfect way for McKenzie to pursue her dreams while helping those in need.

**“The most rewarding part of participating in this program is knowing that I am going to be giving back to my own hometown [Kingstree, SC].”**

**29** committed rural practitioners in the Rural Loan Forgiveness Program for medical, physician assistant, and advance practice registered nurse students

**\$3.4 million** disbursed in forgivable loans with an additional **\$2 mil** set aside for the upcoming academic year

