



South Carolina Rural Behavioral Health Professional Incentive Program

About the Program

The South Carolina Rural Behavioral Health Professional Incentive Program provides incentives for behavioral or mental health professionals who commit to practice in a non-urbanized area of South Carolina in an outpatient setting for a period of four years.

Eligible Disciplines/Roles

- Clinical nurse specialist in psychiatry/mental health (APRN, CNS),
- Psychologist (PhD, PsyD),
- Social worker (LMSW, LISW),
- Licensed professional counselor (LPC),
- Marriage and family therapist (LMFT),
- Addiction counselor (LAC, CACII, CCS, MAC, NACACII, ADC, AADC),
- Mental Health Professional (MHP) employed at the SC Department of Mental Health

Providers within these disciplines with associate licenses are eligible to apply.

Applicant Scoring

The intent of this program is to assist behavioral health professionals in establishing or joining practices in non-urbanized areas of the state. Candidates are prioritized using an objective checklist that awards points for categories such as community need and retention factors (e.g., education and/or training in South Carolina).

How to Apply

Applications will open in January and are due in April. Applicants who are selected for funding are notified in July. All application materials must be submitted through the online application portal by the deadline to be considered. More information on the application process can be found on the [Recruitment & Retention Programs webpage](#).

Eligibility

- Must have completed an accredited graduate training program and hold a valid and active license or work for the SC Department of Mental Health as a Mental Health Professional
- Must be in an eligible profession/role
- Must provide behavioral/mental health services in an outpatient setting in a non-urbanized area
- Work 36 hrs/week to qualify for full-time incentives, 20 hrs/week for part-time incentives
- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Preference will be given for applicants who have practiced in the community less than 5 years at time of application
- Must not have an outstanding contractual service obligation to the federal government (i.e., National Health Service Corps), the state government (i.e., Rural Incentive Grant Program), or any other entity

Find more information and apply online at:
www.scahec.net/recruitment



How do I know if I practice in a non-urbanized location?

The Rural Health Information Hub's "Am I Rural?" tool* can be useful in determining if your practice location is located in a non-urbanized area. To run a self-query, follow the steps below:

- 1 Navigate to www.ruralhealthinfo.org/am-i-rural
- 2 Enter your practice location in the text box and click "Locate."
- 3 Click "Run Report" in the location information on the map next to the address.
- 4 On the results page, scroll down to the "Common Rural Definitions" section.
- 5 Check the "Urban Areas, 2020" row:
 - If it says "Located within an Urban Area" your practice location is urbanized.
 - If it says "Not located in an Urban Area" your practice location is non-urbanized.

**The "Am I Rural?" tool is a product of the Rural Health Information Hub (RHlhub) and available on their website at www.ruralhealthinfo.org. It is one of many tools to determine if a location falls under federal definitions for urban/non-urban as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau. If you have concerns about how your practice location is defined, please contact us.*

Funding Categories

- \$15,000 per year for up to four years (\$60,000 total) for qualified behavioral health professionals practicing full-time in non-urbanized areas of South Carolina
- \$7,500 per year for up to four years (\$30,000 total) for qualified behavioral health professionals practicing part-time in non-urbanized areas of South Carolina

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