

South Carolina Public Health Preparedness Student Corps (SCPHPSC)
Quarterly (7th) Progress Report to Funder: Oct. 31– December 31, 2023

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This quarterly report reflects outcomes of the amended (to end June 30, 2024) grant funded (#NU90TP922168) project (SCPHPSC) designed to increase access to an interdisciplinary and sustainable pipeline of culturally competent students for emergency and public health response within local, state, and global communities. It reflects planned and unplanned project activities implemented by South Carolina's Clemson University (CU) as lead organization and subrecipients Benedict College (BC), Claflin University (ClfU), Coastal Carolina University (CCU), Francis Marion University (FMU), and the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC).

As applicable, the report highlights 1) the number of new and total enrolled student participants and their academic majors/programs of study; 2) types of education, clinical, or leadership-centered project related events; 3) major activities/accomplishments completed; 4) challenges or departures from the project's work plan; 5) identification of technical resources needed from the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC); 6) description of "new hires" to original project teams; 7) "other" noteworthy project related information; and 8) description of the lead organization's formal engagements with subrecipients. These data are presented in summary, as well as per subrecipient sites, within headings A through H.

One hundred twenty eight (128) new project participants were added since the previous report. Currently, a total of 715 have been enrolled -- reflecting 89% of the planned 27-month program period goal of 800: BC (150), ClfU (150), CU (150), CCU (100), FMU (150), and MUSC (100). Participants' academic majors overall continue to be diverse with nursing/pre-nursing (234) being the majority -- followed by public health (126) and biology related (120) disciplines. Other majors range from psychology (23), healthcare administration (62) and American history (36), to medicine (25), psychology (23), and social work (14). Students also seek careers related to mass and health communication, computer science, healthcare informatics, and language and international health.

Along with completion of required SCPHPSC activities, students were engaged in disaster preparedness and emergency management associated experiences designed to increase their knowledge, clinical skills, and leadership acumen. Some gained insights from touring the SC Emergency Management Division that leads the state emergency management program by supporting local authorities to minimize the loss of life and property from all hazard events. Others were privy to scholarly presentations at the 2023 American Public Health Association's conference that focused on the program theme "*Creating the Healthiest Nation: Overcoming Social and Ethical Challenges*." Some learned a) requirements for earning an Environmental Policy and Management master's degree, b) advanced hemorrhage control, c) public health response and emergencies related to the opioid epidemic, and d) the impact of public health emergencies on impoverished populations. Clinical and leadership experiences that complemented student learning consisted of over 100 earning certification in the College of Surgeon's STOP THE BLEED® (STB) training -- adding to the over 4 million who have already completed this critical instruction in the United States, alone. Examples of student leadership experiences include participation in a college level Public Health Advisory committee, serving as representative of the SCPHPSC Advisory Board, and service within a local (MUSC) SCPHPSC Advisory Board.

Major accomplishments cited, by project teams, range from a project completer being hired (Program Assistant) full-time within Public Health Preparedness for the Midlands Region and overall success toward attaining the planned goal for number of project completers to faculty team members' immersion in continued education that can enhance their ability to support project participants. Faculty attended national professional forums to include the 2023 Environmental Protection Agency International Decontamination Research and Development and American Public Health Association annual conferences. Some faculty also presented a project poster (*The MRC: Understanding the State of Knowledge in a Post Covid-19 Landscape*) at the latter

meeting and faculty, from two project sites, have been invited to present at the 2024 National Association of County and City Health Officials preparedness summit.

Other major accomplishments include the following: **1.** Version #2 of the SCPHPSC website (scphpsc.com or scphpsc.org) continues to be updated to document newly occurring project events. **2.** A recently implemented SCPHPSC Student Ambassador role consisting of project completers and designed to support ongoing enrollees, at one site, received several applications toward filling openings for this position. **3.** In-person and virtual SCPHPSC new participant orientation sessions were convened for a new project target group of students enrolled in the CU department of Public Health Sciences where faculty and staff, in general, were also oriented to the project. **4.** Six project students volunteered to share their SCPHPSC experiences as content for a project marketing video being developed to highlight potential roles of college students as public health workforce members. **5.** A 2024 Annual SCPHPSC Conference planning task force was convened and operates to coordinate this event to be held in Charleston SC at the MUSC. **6.** Additional student members were recruited within one subrecipient’s (i.e., MUSC) local SCPHPSC Advisory Board. **7.** Continued community outreach, to isolated Lowcountry SC communities, to disseminate disaster management education related to hurricane and viral infection (Covid-19, flu, Respiratory Syncytial Virus) management.

One challenge (and resolution) to project implementation was reported. While the majority of student participants make steady progress to project completion, a few lag in engagement -- requiring heightened faculty effort to reengage them to completion. The current resolution is to employ focused tracking of and timed reminders to these students. In addition, this issue will be collectively analyzed by project teams at the January 2024 Statewide Monthly Meeting to generate further strategies to address it.

There were no new technical needs requests of SC DHEC. Status of a previous need regarding the capability to use electronic signatures (e.g., DocuSign) for the SC Public Health Reserve Corps onboarding process is pending action.

There were two new hires during this period. An administrative assistant joined the BC team to facilitate faculty’s ongoing support of project enrollees and project outcomes and a temporary Program Coordinator joined the CU team to assume the role of the primary staff person during a family leave period.

Other noteworthy project events were primarily implemented by CU as lead organization: **1.** Quarterly Report #6 was successfully submitted and disseminated to project faculty and SCPHPSC Advisory Board members. **2.** SCPHPSC Health Equity Modules were shared, upon request, to a MUSC non-project related faculty member -- viewed as a valued element of project sustainability. **3.** STB training was advocated to community health faculty as a CU School of Nursing clinical skill for all undergraduates and resulted in the decision to offer it beginning fall 2024 semester. These four faculty members have now become STB instructors as a sustainable outcome of the SCPHPSC. **4.** The need to increase CU’s department of Public Health Sciences (PHS) students’ awareness of public health careers within SC DHEC was highlighted. Attention to this insight is ongoing and has been communicated to Ms. Karen Fradua -- SC DHEC’s Community Partnership Coordinator for follow-up with PHS faculty team member Dr. Kathleen Cartmell. **5.** It is also noteworthy that one subrecipient (CCU) continues to operate with decreased staff until a replacement is obtained.

A. Program participants: Number and academic major

	No. New	No. Total	Academic Major
BC	31	107	bio. (34) // pub.hlth. (28) // psych. (20) // soc.wk. (14) // mass.com. (6) // comp. sci. (4) // environ. eng. (1)
ClfU	16	164	bio./biotech./bio.info./envir.sci. (76) // Afr.Amer. hist. (36) // math.comp.sci./comp.engin. (18) // chem./biochem. (14) // early child/elem.edu. // studio.art/sports.mngmnt. (8) // crim.just. (7)

CU	65	165	nursing (130) // pub.hlth.sci (27) // lang./internat.hlth. (8)
CCU	0	80	pub.hlth. (71) // bio./bio-chem. (2) // com./hlth.com. (2) // bus. man. (1) // educ. (1) // history (1) // psych. (1) // soc. (1)
FMU	16	179	pre-nursing/nursing (104) // hlthcare.adm. (62) // biol. (8) // hlthcare.informatics/soc./undecided (3) // psych. (2)
MUSC	0	100	nursing (75) // medicine (25)
	128	715	

B. Types of project events (education, clinical, leadership)/No. Attendees (SCPHPSC related)

	Type	Name
BC	1. Leadership 2. Education 3. Education 4. Clinical	1. Public Health Advisory Committee meeting/28 2. SC Emergency Management Preparedness Center tour/8 3. American Public Health Association annual conference/4 4. STOP THE BLEED [®] training/31
CIfU	1. Edu./Leadership 2. Clinical	1. Environmental Policy and Management Master's Degree-University of California-Davis program recruitment/31 2. STOP THE BLEED [®] training/56
CU	1. Education 2. Leadership	1. Engaged Public Health Sciences (PHS) students (new target group) in Mandatory SCPHPSC project orientation/35 2. Engaged student participant as SCPHPSC Advisory Board member/1
CCU	1. Education 2. Education 3. Education 4. Education 5. Education 6. Education 7. Education	1. 11/03/2023: Distributed emergency preparedness materials (hurricane and flooding), Covid-19 prevention/vaccination at Horry County Library-Conway, tabling event/35 2. 11/04/2023: Distributed emergency preparedness materials (hurricane and flooding), Covid-19 prevention/vaccination at Horry County Library-N. Myrtle Beach tabling event/50 3. 12/06/2023: Door-to-door materials distribution: Emergency preparedness (hurricane, flooding) and Covid-19 prevention/vaccination with Horry County Council on Aging Meals on Wheels (route 1)/30 4. 12/07/2023: Door-to-door materials distribution: Emergency preparedness (hurricane, flooding) and Covid-19 prevention/vaccination with Horry County Council on Aging Meals on Wheels (route 3)/21 5. 12/11/2023: Door-to-door materials distribution: Emergency preparedness (hurricane, flooding) and Covid-19 prevention/vaccination with Horry County Council on Aging Meals on Wheels (route 5)/15 6. 12/11/2023: Door-to-door materials distribution: Emergency preparedness (hurricane, flooding) and Covid-19 prevention/vaccination with Horry County Council on Aging Meals on Wheels (route 6)/20 7. 12/12/2023: Door-to-door materials distribution: Emergency preparedness (hurricane, flooding) and Covid-19 prevention/vaccination with Horry County Council on Aging Meals on Wheels (route 7)/20
FMU	1. Education 2. Education 3. Education	1. 10.3.23 - Project kick-off: Introduced concept of public health emergency management/review of project requirements/25 2. 10.4.23 - Project kick-off: Introduced concept of public health emergency management/review of project requirements/24 3. 10/12/2023 - Held pharmacist facilitated training to discuss trends in opioid epidemic and public health response/emergency implications -- Hosted by

		Sigma Theta Tau International and marketed to SCPHPSC students/5
	4. Education	4. 10/26/23 - Held "Alumni Panel" with former public health students to discuss their roles, in the field, and how public health preparedness/emergency training translates to real world/10
	5. Education	5. 11/1/23 - Partnered to host Poverty Simulation where students learned how populations living in poverty are impacted by public health emergencies and access to healthcare/6
	6. Educ./Clin.	6. 11/16/2023: partnered with SC DHEC to offer STOP THE BLEED® training to SCPHPSC students/15
MUSC	1. Education 2. Leadership	1. Advanced hemorrhage control workshop/20 2. MUSC local Advisory Board/7

C. Major activities/accomplishments completed and No.

	Activities/Accomplishments	No.
BC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Participants (31) completed required project requirements: a) SC PHRC training, b) Health Equity modules, c) Covid-19 Contact Tracing, d) FEMA Incident Command System, and e) National Incident Management System courses One project completer was hired as full-time employee of the Midlands PHRC 	2
CIFU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted 16 additional students to the SCPHPSC for a total of 164 Attendance to SCPHPSC related national conferences by team members Dr. Ross Johnson and Gloria McCutcheon: Environmental Protection Agency 2023 International Decontamination Research & Development (Charleston, SC) and 2023 American Public Health Association (Atlanta, GA), respectively Received four applications for SCPHPSC student ambassador role Application to Health Career Connections Summer 2024 program submitted by one SCPHPSC student Invited to present SCPHPSC related poster at March 2024 NACCHO annual conference Acquired 150 individual first aid kits for SCPHPSC project participants 	6
CU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Completed version#2 of SCPHPSC website with ongoing updates: scphpsc.com or scphpsc.org Presented SCPHPSC poster (<i>The MRC: Understanding the State of Knowledge in a Post Covid-19 Landscape</i>) at the 2023 American Public Health Association annual conference Invited to present SCPHPSC poster (<i>Building a Pipeline Program to Support A Public Health Workforce</i>) at March 2024 NACCHO annual conference Convened 2024 Annual SCPHPSC Conference planning task force consisting of statewide project representatives Coordinated recruitment of students from each subrecipient site to be interviewed for a SCPHPSC video production Created potential SCPHPSC video script to be considered by contracted videographer (M. Berry) to best portray intended goal/impact of project: 12.18.23 Engaged PHS students (new project target group) in completion of SC PHRC (Upstate) registration/paperwork, SC DHEC required training, and FEMA modules Hosted three learning sessions (in-person & Zoom) about SCPHPSC that all public health and language and international health students were invited to attend Shared information about the SCPHPSC to all Public Health Sciences faculty and staff at a departmental meeting and via email Request that PHS faculty share SCPHPSC information with their students and presented four in-class informational sessions 	10

CCU	1. Outreach (disaster management education) to 191 community members in hard to reach areas -- considering a recent North-Eastern storm that impacted the region (i.e., flooding, electric power outage) and prevention of viral infections (e.g., Covid-19, flu, RSV)	1
FMU	1. Partnered to host six different educational or clinical skill workshops/trainings for SCPHPSC students 2. Supported 138 students to complete all SCPHPSC requirements and receive stipend (since onset of project) resulting in 92% of goal met to date (138 of 150 goal) -- an additional 8 are midway to completion of requirements 3. Previous year SCPHPSC student participated in project video production interview	3
MUSC	1. Identified 4 additional students for local SCPHPSC Advisory Board toward 7 total: 5 Students and 2 faculty 2. Convened (11.10.23) 1 st local SCPHPSC Advisory Board meeting 3. Assisted participants to develop individual SCPHPSC project immersion activities (10 hrs.) based on their own interest and schedule 4. Notified participants of local research activities as one option for immersion (e.g., MUSC Research Day attendance) 5. Made extreme heat related educational resources available to students through project Brightspace page--online learning management system used to house project materials 6. Supported students' health equity focused immersion activity related to their interest in shadowing providers within settings that serve diverse/medically underserved populations (e.g., East Cooper Community Outreach Center) 7. Made emergency preparedness educational resources (e.g., global disaster research and community support) available to students through Brightspace page 8. Faculty leaders participated in 2024 SCPHPSC conference planning committee	8

D. Challenges (i.e., departures from project work plan) and resolutions

	Challenge	Resolution
BC	n/a	
ClfU	n/a	
CU	n/a	
CCU	n/a	
FMU	1. Majority of students are motivated to stay engaged and complete all requirements but a handful (~30 of 179 recruited) have only completed 1-2 activities and then disengage.	1. We track individual student progress and send tracking document for students to see what remains to be completed and reminders about upcoming trainings, etc., but seek other strategies to reengage those sluggish to complete.
MUSC	n/a	

E. Technical needs requested from SCDHEC

BC	n/a
ClfU	n/a
CU	n/a
CCU	n/a
FMU	n/a
MUSC	n/a

F. Description of new hires (Title/Role)

BC	Ms. Barbara Roeback (barbara.roeback@benedict.edu) was hired as Administrative Assistant
CIFU	n/a
CU	Ms. Deana Palmieri (dpalmie@clmson.edu) was hired as temporary Program Coordinator
CCU	n/a
FMU	n/a
MUSC	n/a

G. "Other" noteworthy project related information

BC	1. BC is appreciative to be a part of such a great program.
CIFU	2. Successful 1 st attempt by students to complete online STOP THE BLEED [®] -- All uploaded completion certificates without difficulty
CU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6th Quarterly Funder Report submitted/accepted by SC DHEC: 10.11.23 Disseminated 6th Quarterly Funder Report to all project team and Advisory Board members: 10.11.23 Project Health Equity modules shared with subrecipient MUSC faculty (non-project team member) per request: 10.20.23 Convened meeting (virtual) with MUSC team leader (K. Jordan) to discuss potential to enroll SCPHPSC waitlisted students as accommodated by allocated budget: 10.20.23 Designed/disseminated STOP THE BLEED[®] clinical skills check off form for use by CU community health course faculty as project sustainability act: 12.07.23 Thank you for all your work in making this a great program--Julia and I are enjoying working with you all on the SCPHPSC. There is an idea to enhance students' opportunities to engage with and get to know SC DHEC, with a focus on having them learn about career options (for PHS's winter immersion session or all SCPHPSC students): Have 2-3 DHEC staff who work in different areas (e.g., epidemiology, behavioral science/health education, specific health promotion programs such as vaccination or environmental health) to present what they do in their respective careers and allow students to ask questions. This could help students to start thinking about specific areas within public health that might be of interest.
CCU	1. Sangeeta Saxena and Fredanna McGough are doing the bulk of project activities without a replacement for former team member Mary Kate Powell as of yet.
FMU	n/a
MUSC	1. This cycle is going well! Thank you!

H. CU formal engagement with subrecipients

Engagement	Date
1. Statewide Monthly Subrecipients Meeting #16	10.30.23
2. 2 nd Annual SCPHPSC Advisory Board Meeting	12.04.23