

**South Carolina Public Health Preparedness Student Corps (SCPHPSC)**  
Quarterly (9<sup>th</sup>) Progress Report to Funder: April 1– June 30, 2024

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This quarterly report reflects outcomes of the amended (ended 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.

Thirty-seven (37) new project participants were added since the previous report. A total of 903 have been enrolled – surpassing 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 are diverse. Nursing/pre-nursing majors continue to be the largest number (318) of enrollees. This number is followed by public health (144) and biology related (134) disciplines. Other majors range from psychology (27); healthcare administration (78) and medicine (26); to math, computer science, and engineering (18); and social work (17). Students also seek careers related to mass and health communication, chemistry and biochemistry, and language and international health.

In addition to engaging in 27-30 hours of required SCPHPSC activities, students participated in didactic instruction and hands-on experiences designed to increase their knowledge, clinical skills, and leadership competence. Examples of knowledge based resources were the 2024 American Public Health (APHA) Association's Policy Action Institute, National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Preparedness Summit, and SCPHPSC Annual Conference (*Disaster Resilience for All: Building Equitable Responses in a Crisis*). The NACCHO summit also provided the opportunity for some students to model leadership skills through mentored involvement in the development and presentation of a professional poster designed to market the SCPHPSC. Clinical skills instruction continued this period with STOP THE BLEED® and Point of Dispensing training. Students were also guided, by faculty, to collaborate with other community-based organizations (e.g., Horry Council of Aging Meals on Wheels, Horry County Libraries Emergency Preparedness, Socastee Library, Salvation Army, Sweet Feet Diabetic Foot Spa, Life Savior Home Patient Clinic) in the coordination and delivery of educational content about hurricane and vaccination awareness and COVID-19 prevention practices targeting SC Lowcountry community groups.

Major accomplishments reported include the following: **1)** Two of six program sites surpassed (> 100%) their planned student enrollment/completion goal and one site attained (100%) it's enrollment/completion aim, **2)** plans were initiated to accompany a limited cohort of students to the 2024 APHA annual conference and to provide digital access to the APHA Policy Action Institute, **3)** a project related abstract was submitted for presentation consideration at an international forum (e.g., European Public Health Conference) post project end, **4)** first aid kits were provided within a campus environment and first aid fanny packs to student participants within one site, **5)** Lowcountry DHEC

personnel role models were incorporated as presenters at the SCPHPSC Annual Conference, **6**) lead faculty personnel participated in a SC DHEC Lunch and Learn presentation about the project, **7**) the project's social determinants of health related health equity education module was incorporated within a CU honor's course, as a project sustainability outcome, to begin Fall 2024, **8**) an official CU SCPHPSC Student Organization was established with a former project participant as the inaugural president, **9**) there was progressively heightened community outreach, in collaboration with other community based organizations/national campaigns, toward increased hurricane and vaccination awareness and COVID-19 prevention, and **10**) the first project related manuscript was published within a peer reviewed source (Journal of Public Health Management & Practice):

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38865600/>.

One project implementation challenge continued although sites have reported ongoing efforts to resolve the issue: Some students (primarily seniors) lag in engagement and fail to complete all project requirements -- especially immersion (e.g., in person/live) activities as reported by one site. Another site offered insightful rationale for non-completion to include a) senior level students who experience difficulty with time management while simultaneously working to fulfill/master academic course requirements and b) lack of a comprehensive applicant selection committee better able to identify a broader array of students with diverse majors. The pending SCPHPSC Project Evaluation will detail students' level of engagement with all project activities as well as project challenges and successes, in general.

There were no new technical needs requests of SC DHEC. A previous recommendation to incorporate electronic signatures (e.g., DocuSign) within the SC Public Health Reserve Corps Better Impact onboarding process was not actualized. However, project teams were able to satisfactorily manage this action using the available mechanism.

There were no new hires. The CU temporary hires that consisted of an original Project Coordinator and substitute coordinator due to extended medical leave of the former, offered valued support to the project. Both (A. Andreasson/D. Palmieri) ended their employment on June 28, 2024.

There was no other noteworthy project related information. Sites continued to acknowledge the value of the SCPHPSC to their students, faculty, institution, and community.

The lead organization (CU) has continued to engage with subrecipients -- informally via telephone and email communication and formally through monthly statewide meetings (May 22, June 27) and the SCPHPSC Annual Conference convened on April 13, 2024. Subrecipients are also invited to the biannual SCPHPSC Advisory Board meeting -- convened on June 3, 2024.

#### A. Program participants: Number and academic major

	No. New	No. Total	Academic Major
BC	5	138	bio. (43) // pub.hlth. (32) // psych. (24) // soc.wk. (17) // mass.com. (9) // comp. sci. (5) // environ. eng./hlth sci. (3) // finance (5)
CIfU	20	187	bio./biotech./bio.info./envir.sci. (89) math.comp.sci./comp.eng. (18) // chem./biochem. (16) // bus.adm./psych/pol.sci/mass.com/marketing (36) child/elem.edu./Afr.Amer.hist (12) // studio.art/sports.mngmnt. (8) // crim.just. (7) // hist. (1)
CU	0	170	nursing (122) // pub.hlth.sci (33) // lang./internat.hlth. (15)
CCU	12	92	pub.hlth. (79) // bio./bio-chem. (2) // com./hlth.com. (2) // bus. man. (1) // educ. (1) // history (1) // psych./soc. (2) // exercise sci. (4)
FMU	0	216	pre-nursing/nursing (122) // hlthcare.adm. (78) // biol. (10) // hlthcare.informatics/soc./undecided (4) // psych. (2)
MUSC	0	100	nursing 74 (69 undergrad. + 5 grad. studies) // medicine (26)

37	870
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**B. Types of project events (education, clinical, leadership)/No. Attendees (SCPHPSC related)**

	Type	Name
BC	1. Leadership 2. Education 3. Education 4. Education 5. Education/Clin.	1. NACCHO Preparedness Summit/4 2. SCPHPSC Annual Conference/16 3. APHA Policy Action Institute/1 4. SCPHA Annual Conference/4 5. STOP THE BLEED® Training/24
ClfU	1. Education	1. APHA Policy Action Institute/6
CU	1. Education 2. Education	1. SCPHPSC Annual Conference/26 2. NACCHO Preparedness Summit/3
CCU	1. Education  2. Education  3. Education  4. Education  5. Education  6. Education  7. Clinical	1. National Public Health Week (Apr. 2, 4, 5, 6 and Relay for Life-Apr. 4, 19): Provided education/engaged with community (tabling events) to distribute emergency preparedness, hurricane awareness, and COVID-19 prevention/vaccinations awareness info to community members/91 2. Horry Council on Aging/Meals on Wheels (Apr. 25, May 2, 6, 7, 9, June 4): Provided education through door knock campaigns to distribute emergency preparedness, hurricane awareness, and COVID-19 prevention/vaccinations awareness info to community members/187 3. Horry County Libraries Emergency Preparedness/Socastee Library (May 7): Provided education through tabling events to distribute emergency preparedness, hurricane awareness, and COVID-19 prevention/vaccinations information to community members/10 4. Senior Community Resource Fair/Salvation Army (May 16): Provided education through tabling events to distribute emergency preparedness, hurricane awareness, and COVID-19 prevention/vaccinations awareness to community members/5 5. Elder Care Education (May 21: Sweet Feet Diabetic Foot Spa/May 24: Life Savior Home Patient Clinic): Provided education through presentations and distributed emergency preparedness, hurricane awareness, and COVID-19 prevention/vaccinations awareness information to community members/17 6. Ed's Hurricane Hustle 5K & Expo (May 1) to provide education through tabling events to distribute emergency preparedness, hurricane awareness and COVID-19 prevention/vaccinations to community members/90 7. Point of Dispensing activity (April 19)/12
FMU	1. Education	1. SCPHPSC Annual Conference/16
MUSC	n/a	

**C. Major activities/accomplishments completed and No.**

	Activities/Accomplishments	No.
BC	1. Completed Medical Reserve Corps Orientation/Training/31 2. Registered 1 faculty/1 student to attend the APHA Policy Action Institute	2
ClfU	1. Began process for 5 students/3 faculty and staff team to attend the upcoming 2024 APHA Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota in October. 2. Registered 2 students/4 faculty and staff members to attend the digital APHA Policy	3

	Action Institute 3. Provided > 30 first aid kits for Claflin University Summer Programs	
CU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributed to the SCPHPSC Annual Conference planning to include Lowcountry DHEC personnel role models as content presenters</li> <li>SCPHPSC Quarterly Funder Report #8 was submitted/accepted by SC DHEC (6.26.24)</li> <li>Participated in a SC DHEC Lunch and Learn presentation (5.17.24)</li> <li>Confirmed (4.26.24) incorporation of project's Social Determinants of Health Equity Module into the CU School of Nursing's undergraduate honor's seminar (NH3280) (2 credits) course during Fall 2024</li> <li>Convened a SCPHPSC Advisory Board meeting (6.3.24)</li> <li>Confirmed establishment of the CU SCPHPSC Student Organization as approved by the CU Center for Student Leadership and Engagement. Former SCPHPSC participant (Vittoria M.) will serve as president until officer elections are held (Oct. 2024) for January 2025 operation.</li> <li>First project related manuscript was published (6.13.24) -- coauthored by former CU team member (Dr. Natasha Malmin): Malmin, N., &amp; Van Nostrand, J. (June 4, 2024). Comparison of laws that impact volunteer response in three disaster-prone southeastern states. <i>Journal of Public Health Management &amp; Practice</i>. doi:10.1097/PHH.0000000000001965</li> </ol>	7
CCU	1. Reached different demographics in Horry County by working with Meals on Wheels to impact communities ( <i>see item B above: nos. 1-5</i> )...Took advantage of national campaigns (i.e., National Public Health week, Hurricane Awareness week) and start of hurricane season to make greater impact (i.e., 402 community members affected).	16
FMU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of 13 students/3 faculty participated in the SCPHPSC Annual Conference.</li> <li>An additional (beyond planned goal) 13 students completed all project requirements.</li> <li>Distributed 50 First Aid Fanny Packs to participating students (6/1/24).</li> <li>A total of 165 students completed all project requirements – exceeding the goal of 150.</li> <li>Submitted (6/10/24) abstract on project implementation/outcomes to the upcoming 17<sup>th</sup> European Public Health Conference that is currently under review.</li> </ol>	5
MUSC	1. Students completed all requirements with all stipends submitted for distribution. Students who were unable to attend the in person SCPHPSC Annual conference viewed the recorded sessions and the final evaluation survey was distributed to them.	2

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

	Challenge	Resolution
BC	n/a	
CifU	1. A number of students did not complete the program.	1. We believe that the issue could have been alleviated if a more diverse applicant screening committee, representing all majors, would have been better equipped to identify applicants more able to complete.
CU	n/a	
CCU	1. Primarily senior level students not completing <i>in-person</i> (vs online) immersion activities.	1. We focused on “tried and true” strategies that worked in the past (e.g., engagement in live community-based outreach opportunities) that resulted in improved results this quarter.
FMU	n/a	
MUSC	n/a	

**E. Technical needs requested from SC DHEC**

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

**F. Description of new hires (Title/Role)**

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

**G. "Other" noteworthy project related information**

BC	1. Benedict College has been honored to participate in such a great program--Our students, campus, and community have greatly benefited from this program.
CifU	1. We are glad we were able to participate in this opportunity with everyone.
CU	1. We (Public Health Sciences) really enjoyed working with you all on the public health preparedness initiative. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to get some great practical public health experience and training!
CCU	1. This has been a very impactful program and it has meant a lot for the students and provided unique and exciting experiences. We have decided to continue the training in the required course and also keep up the volunteer activities through our public health club.
FMU	n/a
MUSC	1. This has been an amazing program and I am so grateful to the entire team who made this possible, including Dr. Shirley Timmons and her team and Clemson as well as the many DHEC leaders who have been actively engaged. A project with the SC Sea Grant Consortium has emerged as a result of this partnership that will build on health system disaster resilience.

**H. CU formal engagement with subrecipients**

Engagement	Date
1. SCPHPSC Annual Conference	4.13.24
2. Statewide Monthly Subrecipients Meeting #20	5.22.24
3. Statewide Monthly Subrecipients Meeting #21	6.27.24