



FOODSHARE
feeding a need in our community.

IMPACT REPORT 2025

A Program of



Floyd School of Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2025 marked the **10-year anniversary** of FoodShare South Carolina—cheers to food access, cooperative buying, and food justice!

Over the past 10 years, we have grown significantly: from 24 boxes packed in the basement of (then) Palmetto Health Richland on April 24, 2015, to an average of more than 3,000 boxes distributed across 23 counties every other week.



Our impact has been significant. At the end of 2025, FoodShare Hubs are operating in 23 counties through the **dedicated partnership of our community partners**, who are committed to food access and community development. FoodShare has grown into a **network of community-based organizations** that not only pack and distribute Fresh Food Boxes, but are also dedicated to their communities through programming that addresses economic security, youth engagement, housing stability, workers' rights, and so much more. This demonstrates that **food access is part of a larger movement for justice across the state**, where our residents can live lives of joy and stability, of community and partnership, and of history and pride. FoodShare SC is proud and humbled to be part of this movement.

As we enter into the next 10 years of our work, **we are committed to increasing fresh food access in more counties across our state.** We are already **working with local farmers** to ensure that we are purchasing directly from small, family, and historically marginalized farmers as much as possible. We are continuing our commitment to coalition building that will **fight for increased access to food benefit programs such as SNAP and WIC**, as well as policies that will strengthen and grow fair, local food production and distribution. Most importantly, we want to build pathways for our participants and communities to contribute more to the decision-making, planning, and path forward for FoodShare's next 10 years. **Please join us, and reach out anytime.**





FOODSHARE SOUTH CAROLINA

Our Vision

All South Carolinians have access to healthy, fresh produce in their community.

Our Mission

To improve the well-being of South Carolinians by partnering with communities as they work to create opportunities that strengthen access to healthy, fresh produce.

Our Values

FOOD

Everyone deserves the opportunity to feed themselves, their families, and their communities with dignity and respect - food is deeply personal, cultural, and relational.

EQUITY

Understanding historical and current root causes of inequities and marginalization, working toward equitable outcomes and access, fostering relationships, and ensuring representation.

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Good food is critical for good health.

RELATIONSHIPS & COMMUNITY

Building community, both locally and across the state, is critical in achieving our vision - it is imperative that we center the leadership of communities, especially those most marginalized by our current food system, in our efforts.

INNOVATION & CREATIVITY

We can create opportunity when we allow space for creativity and innovation - we grow by taking chances, learning from and nurturing the shared wisdom of our network and partners.



FOODSHARE fresh food box

it's more than just a box of food.

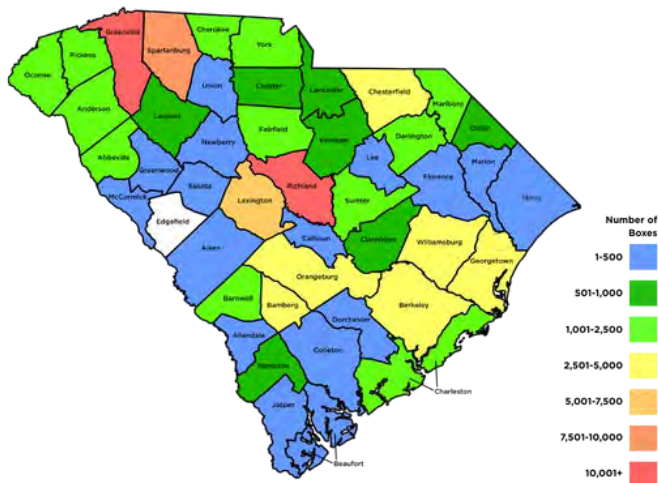


Many communities in South Carolina do not have access or financial resources to eat healthy on a daily basis. Barriers include where people live, age, income, and whether reliable transportation exists. **Without healthy options, health risks increase.** Research shows that chronic diseases such as **heart disease and diabetes** can be prevented and managed through changes in nutrition. Bringing fresh produce into our communities is a form of food equity and a primary tenant of our mission.

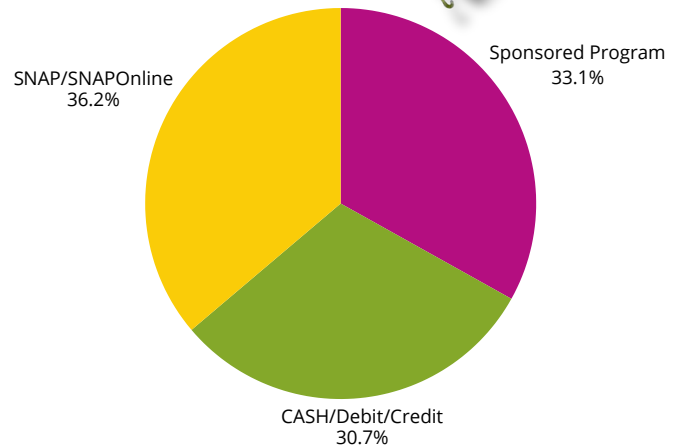
OUR STATE-WIDE IMPACT IN 2025

95,240 boxes
10,168 participants

Filled with 9-11 varieties of top quality fruits and vegetables, unique recipes, tips and nutrition notes, The Fresh Food Box provides the encouragement, knowledge and skills to prepare nutritious, tasty meals. Combining the power of **SNAP** with South Carolina's "**Healthy Bucks**" program, we have provided thousands of families and individuals with increased access to nutritious food.



**FRESH FOOD BOX
DISTRIBUTION IN 2025**



**FRESH FOOD BOX PAYMENT
METHODS IN 2025**

Hub Highlights

We continued to expand our mission and work throughout the state in 2025. This year we were able to add four new hubs to our network in **Calhoun**, **Darlington**, and **Dillon** Counties.

- **Calhoun CommuniT** is our partner for the **Calhoun** Hub and looks forward to adding additional partner sites in the county next year.
- **New Vision Community Development Corporation** is the hub operator for **Darlington** and has worked to cultivate 4 partner sites in less than a year.
- The Dillon hub is operated by the **Dillon County Boys and Girls Youth Center** ensuring fresh produce gets out to families and individuals in the county.

In 2025, we celebrate the return of **United Way of Kershaw County** as a FoodShare Hub operator providing Fresh Food Boxes throughout the county. Our **Orangeburg** hub transitioned hub operators to **Growing COB**, continuing to expand the program throughout that county.

We look forward to continuing to expand our reach in additional areas in the state in 2026 as we continue to work towards our goal of having FoodShare in all 46 counties throughout the state.



Hub Highlights

Anderson:

Ordering 100% from local produce vendor (Carolina Produce). Started a Produce Prescription Program with Access Health for cardiovascular patients supported by The Duke Endowment. Several patients have already reported positive health outcomes due to their increased produce intake because of the Fresh Food Box Duke.

Chester:

Grew from zero partner sites in 2024, to eight partner sites in 2025.

Greenville:

Started offering free door-delivery for all SNAP participants in Greenville in 2025.

Spartanburg:

In a year where boxes across the state went down due to federal cuts in SNAP, Spartanburg had a 10.56% increase in overall boxes purchased with SNAP in 2025 from the year before.



Volunteer Superstars

In 2025, across our 23 county-based hubs, FoodShare South Carolina packed and distributed **over 95,000 Fresh Food Boxes** to community members facing food insecurity. The only way we are able to get the job done is with the generous support of a **strong volunteer force**. In 2025, volunteers contributed **over 6,500 hours** to the FoodShare network across the state. We thank each one of them for supporting their communities.



In 2025, **AARP South Carolina** employees volunteered at 25 box packing days in Richland County for a total of 300 hours.

In 2025, **Will Lou Gray Opportunity School (CMC)** students volunteered at 42 box packing and distribution days in Richland County for a total of 315 hours. Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School has a long-standing commitment to empowering young people with the tools they need to redirect their lives, pursue their potential, and contribute meaningfully to their communities.



Volunteer Superstars





In 2025, the Culinary Medicine (CM) team **strengthened and expanded its kitchen operations and community impact**. The kitchen achieved **SCDA certification** and continued its sampling program, offering 2-ounce recipe samples to participants picking up Fresh Food Boxes at the Richland County Hub—distributing more than 2,000 samples throughout the year. A **new dry storage space streamlined kitchen functionality** while freeing up office space for program growth, and a cookbook library was established to further support culinary education. In response to disruptions in SNAP disbursements in November 2025, the team also launched the **FoodShare Community Kitchen “Holiday Sides” emergency food access pilot program**. In partnership with local organizations and volunteers, the team prepared 250 sets of four produce-forward holiday side dishes—1,000 packaged sides total—available free of charge to FoodShare Richland SNAP participants in November and December.

Student engagement and academic integration remained central to the program’s mission. Three rotations of Culinary Medicine classes engaged 37 students, complemented by guest presentations from **SCDA Retail Food Safety, AMOR Healing Kitchen, Clemson University Learning Institute SNAP-Ed, Prisma Health, and the USC Office of Student Health & Wellbeing**. A Physicians Assistant school workshop reached an additional 30 students, while Culinary Medicine alumni returned to support community programming, demonstrating the program’s lasting impact. Collaboration with the **Nutrition in Medicine Student Interest Group** further expanded interactive community programming and peer-led nutrition education opportunities on the School of Medicine campus.



Partnerships strengthened our impact across the state. Culinary Medicine contributed to the **South Carolina State Nutrition Action Committee's** 5210 Cookbook initiative and partnered with the **Richland County Library** and **Chef Floyd Jeffcoat** for hands-on cooking programs. A series at **Finlay House** equipped Fresh Food Box participants with practical skills such as reducing food waste, batch cooking, using small appliances, preparing one-pot meals, shopping strategically, and cooking with specialty items. Additional collaborations included youth sensory-based programming at the **Harriet Hancock Center**, monthly culinary education and resident volunteer engagement at **Mental Illness Recovery Center (MIRCI)**, and a sustainability partnership with the **USC Sustainability Garden** to compost all kitchen food waste.

At the systems level, Culinary Medicine led the **Food is Medicine SC Teaching Kitchen Community of Practice**, convening quarterly to connect programs statewide. The team presented at major public health and nutrition conferences and sponsored the SC Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics annual conference. They also advanced recipe card standardization and developed a shared toolkit to ensure consistent, produce-forward nutrition education across the FoodShare Hub Network.



Program Spotlight

VeggieRx is a **fruit and vegetable prescription program** designed to increase the intake of fresh produce for patients with diabetes and prediabetes to improve health outcomes (reducing A1C, blood pressure and weight). Participating primary care providers prescribe patients fresh fruits and vegetables that they receive from FoodShare's state-wide Fresh Food Box Program. The long-term goals are to **reduce food insecurity, increase positive health outcomes** and **decrease health care costs**.

VeggieRx Results

Analysis of 175 VeggieRx patients revealed*:

- Average daily intake of fruit and vegetables increased
- Food Insecurity scores lowered
- Participants with nutrition security increased 13%
- Participants reporting good health increased 20%

**Data evaluated by USC Arnold School of Public Health.*



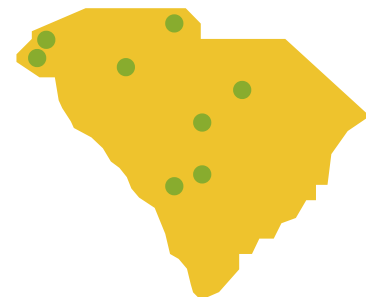
IN 2025:

8 clinics
516 patient referrals
4,082 boxes

Clinics

VeggieRx has ongoing partnerships with

- **Affinity Health Center**-York County
- **Bamberg Family Practice**-Bamberg County
- **Clemson Community Primary Care**-Oconee County - **New in 2025**
- **Clemson Rural Health**-Walhalla, Oconee County
- **CareSouth Carolina**-Lee County
- **Family Health Center**-Orangeburg County
- **Free Medical Clinic**-Richland County
- **Good Shepherd Free Clinic**-Laurens County



Program Spotlight



NeighborShare is a program in the Richland County Hub service area designed to serve homebound participants who cannot access reliable transportation or who face health or physical limitations that prevent them from obtaining their Fresh Food Boxes. **Participants receive home delivery through a network of dedicated volunteers** who ensure their neighbors consistently have access to fresh food.

Volunteer drivers—ranging from retirees to students—deliver between one and ten boxes per route, donating time that fits their schedules. While volunteers handle deliveries, **FoodShare staff manage payment collection to ensure compliance with SNAP guidelines.** As demand continues to grow, NeighborShare is strengthening its logistics and administrative systems to increase efficiency, expand service across Richland and Lexington counties, and reach even more of our neighbors in need in the year ahead.



NEIGHBORSHARE 2025

181 participants

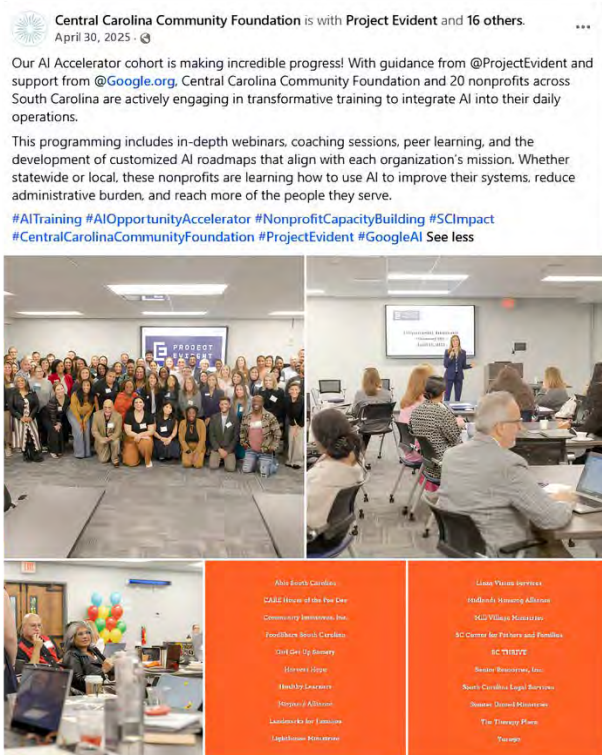
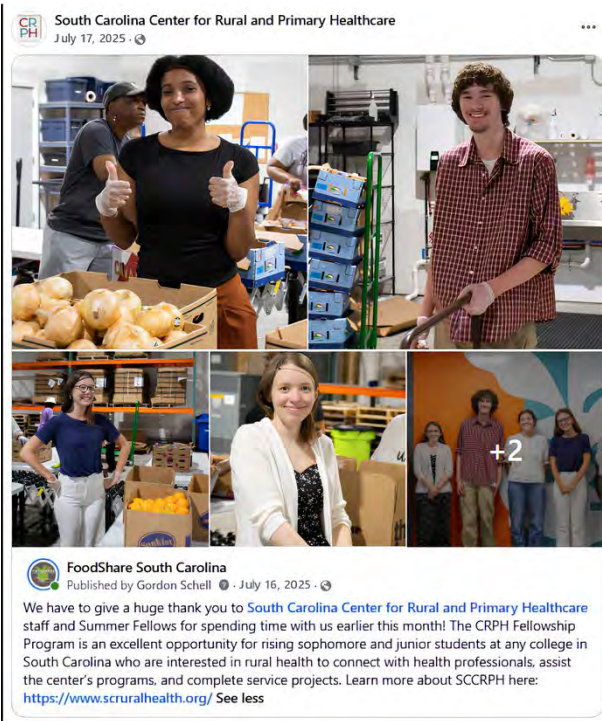
21 volunteer drivers

2,149 Fresh Food Boxes

85% SNAP/EBT

Collaborations

Collaboration harnesses diverse perspectives, accelerates problem-solving, and drives innovation. Here are some of the ways we harnessed the power of teamwork in 2025.



Advocacy



FoodShare South Carolina believes that everyone in the state should have a voice and seat at the decision-making table. That is why we engage in advocacy work that aims to improve access to healthy and affordable food. Working with our participants and hearing their aspirations and concerns formulates our advocacy approach, and we focus on:

- **Increasing food benefit access** in the form of SNAP, WIC, farmers market vouchers and other benefit programs
- **Increasing food benefit eligibility**, including for veterans, seniors and college students
- **Improving local farmer support** so they can continue to grow
- **Growing Food is Medicine programs** and funding in South Carolina

2025 Advocacy Highlights

- Attended the **Anti-Hunger Policy Conference** in DC in May. While in DC, along with other SC-based anti hunger organizations, we met with our Congressional delegation to discuss:
 - Effects on hunger of the budget reconciliation bill, that was at the time still in discussions
 - The negative consequences of SNAP food restrictions
 - Support for implementing Summer EBT in South Carolina
- Worked with participants to plan **legislative visits and letter writing** on the consequences on hunger of HR1 (SNAP work requirements, downloading of administrative and benefits costs to state budgets and eliminations of SNAP-Ed), and Governor McMaster's request for a waiver that would allow SC SNAP to ban certain foods from purchase
 - With another anti-hunger organization, created a toolkit for community-based organizations and other agencies to help their participants/clients navigate the new work requirement changes to the SNAP program
- Contributed op-eds to local SC newspapers **outlining the threat of SNAP cuts** for the state
- **Partnered with No Kid Hungry** as the South Carolina state partner to work on non-congregate rural summer meal assistance and Summer EBT advocacy

Financial Impact

Through our various programs, FoodShare South Carolina **makes a big impact on our local economy**, from supporting our local farmers, to the packaging and transportation industry, to grocery stores and local community organizations.

In 2025, the FoodShare network contributed over \$1.6 million to the South Carolina economy:

- Produce: \$1,376,790
 - \$171,941 (12%) of produce sourced from local farmers
- Cardboard Boxes: \$132,384

At FoodShare South Carolina, **36% of our Fresh Food Boxes are purchased using SNAP**. These sales take advantage of Healthy Bucks, a South Carolina SNAP incentive program and anti-poverty initiative that triples the purchasing power of SNAP dollars when used to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables.



SNAP is one of the fastest and most effective forms of economic stimulation, something we need now more than ever. SNAP quickly injects money into the economy because low-income individuals generally spend all their income on daily needs such as food, housing and transportation. Additionally, every new SNAP dollar spent increases the total monetary value of all finished goods and services produced (GDP) by almost \$1.50 during a weak economy.*

Even more encouraging is the multiplier effect of Healthy Bucks to the local economy. A 2021 study of SNAP incentives across the country, like Healthy Bucks, found that the national average multiplier is 2.3, that means for every \$1 of Healthy Bucks spent, \$2.30 circulates in the local economy.*



***Sources:**

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/the-case-for-boosting-snap-benefits-in-next-major-economic-response>

<https://www.spur.org/publications/research/2021-02-04/economic-contributions-expanding-healthy-food-incentives>

Press

As our program has grown and expanded, we have been fortunate to receive coverage from various media outlets. Our website contains links to all press coverage and is continually updated.

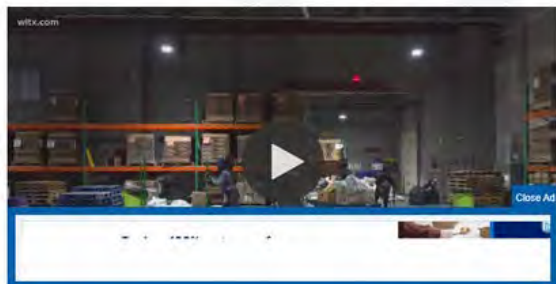
<https://foodsharenc.org/news>



LOCAL NEWS

"It's been a real rollercoaster," South Carolina food banks face planning hurdles amid SNAP confusion

FoodShare South Carolina discusses how they are handling the conflicting messages about SNAP funding



CAROLINA REPORTER

FoodShare operates in 25 counties. It wants to expand to the whole state

By Colin Elam | Oct 14, 2025



Columbia ★ Star

FoodShare South Carolina supports needs of SNAP recipients in South Carolina

November 06, 2025

By Anita Baker

The vision of FoodShare South Carolina is for all who live in our state to have access to healthy, fresh produce in their communities. FoodShare South Carolina, an organization based at the USC School of Medicine, has grown over the past ten years to build a network of volunteers, paid staff, and partnerships with community leaders who provide distribution sites for its Fresh Food Box of fruits and vegetables.

The Fresh Food Box, compiled by FoodShare South Carolina every week, is available for purchase to anyone who wants to participate in the program, including individuals and families who receive SNAP benefits, by signing up on its website.

FoodShare South Carolina's mission is to increase access to, knowledge of, and consumption of vegetables and fruit through community-led projects.

Along with all nonprofit and charity services that meet the needs of those who experience food insecurity in this nation, FoodShare South Carolina will be directly impacted by the effect the United States government shutdown has had on those who receive SNAP benefits.

The News

Duke Energy kicks off monthlong campaign providing more than \$600,000 to help fight hunger in South Carolina

STAFF REPORTS
NOV 12, 2025

[+] ADD POST AND COURIER NEWS ON GOOGLE



People are talking about us!

Comments from 2025 Participant survey at the Richland County Hub.

The Cost



- The value of the box is superior
- [It] helps me to make sure that my family and I are eating our veggies and fruits
- Every box is a great value considering the variety and freshness

- [It] makes it feel manageable especially for vegetables I don't typically consume
- It gives me new ways to eat these foods
- It helps me prepare healthy meals
- I love these! I share with my sister, the recipes. Positively: gives me great ideas!
- I used to sample to try the new recipe because I liked the taste
- I love the cards! I usually try at least 1 recipe a time; it helps us to try different things.
- The last sample convinced me to cook a veggie I always avoided

Recipe Cards & Samples



Overall



- Food is always fresh. Everyone is so kind and helpful
- Always something new to try for my young kids
- Fruits and vegetables are more delicious and affordable. My family is eating healthier
- It's introduced a way to have sustainable fresh food in the house I could not afford before.

FoodShare SC Staff

Meet the staff in Columbia, SC that supported the state-wide network and managed the Richland County hub in 2025.



Adrian González
Network Outreach
Coordinator



Annette Duncan
Business Assistant



Ashley Page Bookhart
Director of Programs
and Rural Outreach



Gordon Schell
Director of Marketing
and Digital Strategies



Jacquie Russell
Program
Assistant



Jessica Burnham
Hub Manager,
Richland County



Kelly Duane
Director of
Culinary Medicine



Kim Hollins
Veggie Rx
Program Manager



**Latifah "LT"
Muhammad**
Hub Manager,
Richland County



Lilly Allen
Community Program
Manager, Culinary
Medicine



Mark DiNovo
NeighborShare
Program Coordinator



Melissa Lewie
Business Director



**Omme-Salma
Rahemtullah**
Executive Director

We are so thankful!

2025 was filled with accomplishments that would not have been possible without the help and support of our partners. Thank you for believing in our mission.



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**CENTER FOR RURAL AND
PRIMARY HEALTHCARE**



**SISTERS of CHARITY
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OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

PRISMA HEALTH



**CENTRAL CAROLINA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**



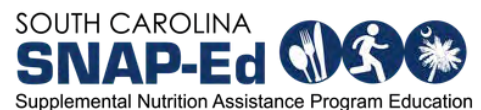
AGFIRST
FARM CREDIT BANK



**MOLINA[®]
HEALTHCARE**



FORWARD CITY



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education



FOODSHARE

feeding a need in our community.



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