



The McClaren Institute for Health & Quality of Life



 Urban League
McClaren
Institute for Health
& Quality of Life



Urban League of
The Upstate

Health Inequity is the New Pandemic

Together, We Can Solve It.



A woman is turned away from the emergency room twice with pregnancy-related concerns, arriving the third time and delivering her baby prematurely. She dies within 24 hours of delivery, though previous medical visits indicated preeclampsia forming.

Black women are 200 to 300% more likely to die of pregnancy related causes than white women.¹

1. "Maternal Mortality", Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, April 26, 2023, www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternal-mortality/

In South Carolina, People of Color (BIPOC) comprise 36% of the state's overall population, yet they represent less than 25% of the state's licensed healthcare workforce.²

A Black patient faces a complicated diagnosis of colorectal cancer. He asks questions of doctors who do not look like him, unsure of who to trust. Research shows that racial concordance can improve communication, trust, and adherence to medical advice.



2. South Carolina Office for Healthcare Workforce, South Carolina AHEC. A Snapshot of Health Workforce Diversity in South Carolina. April 2021. <https://www.scahec.net/scohw/data/reports/135-SCOHW-Health-Workforce-Diversity-2021.pdf>



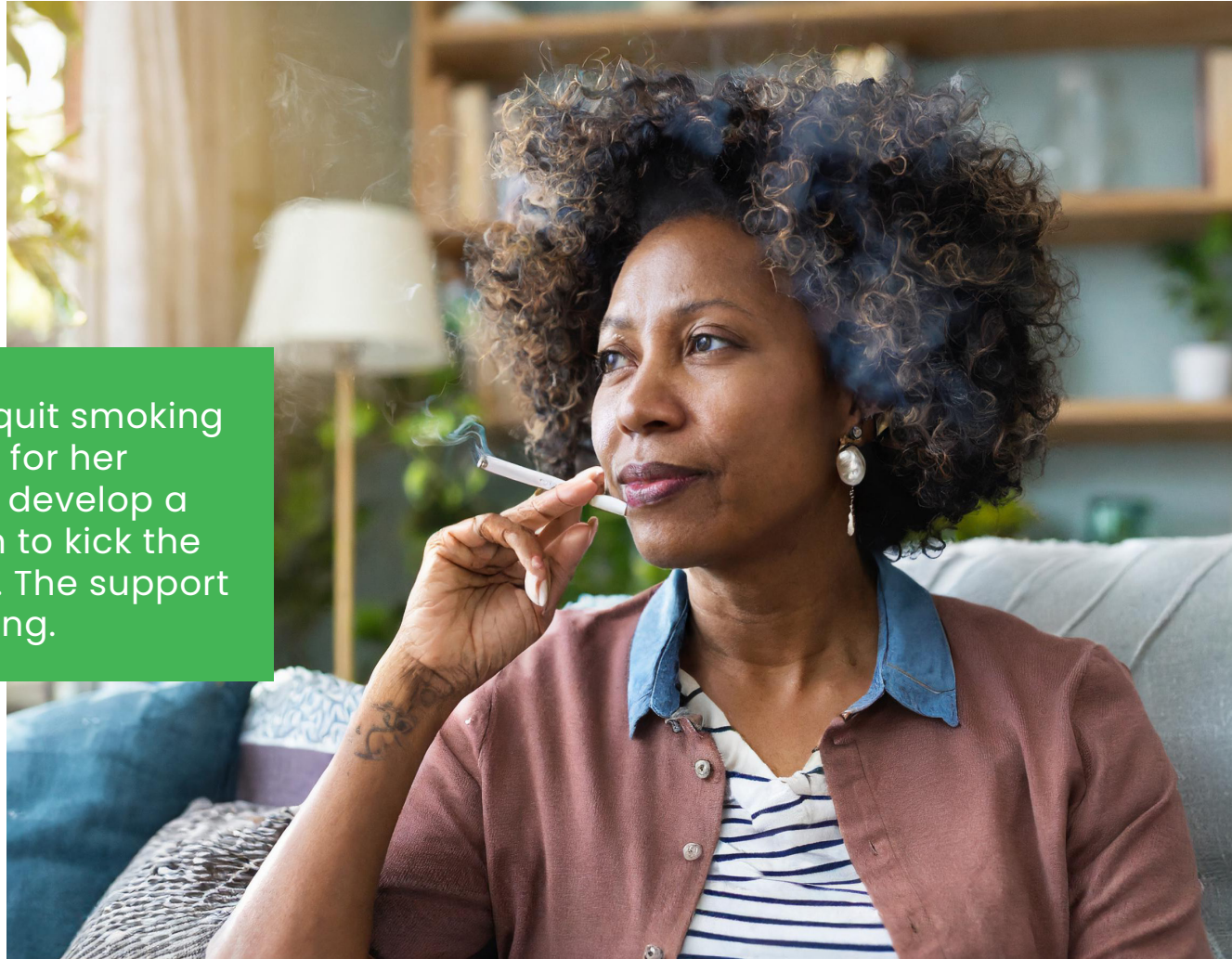
The COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected Black people—and the data now shows vaccine hesitancy dramatically increased the number of infections and deaths. This hesitancy is rooted in distrust in the government and medical profession, based on real instances of racism, violence, and harassment. And in the instance of COVID-19, this hesitancy proved deadly.

Black individuals experienced COVID-19 death rates of more than 2.7 times the amount of white Americans according to the CDC.³

3. Cato T. Laurencin, "Addressing Justified Vaccine Hesitancy in the Black Community", <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>, Published online March 30, 2021.

73% of Black individuals who smoke want to quit smoking but are less successful due to lack of access to culturally competent smoking cessation treatment and resources.⁴

A 42-year-old mother is trying to quit smoking because she knows it isn't healthy for her young kids and she has started to develop a chronic cough. But she can't seem to kick the habit she started as a young teen. The support structure she needs to quit is lacking.



4. American Lung Association. "Addressing Tobacco Use in Black Communities". <https://www.lung.org>.

Stories like these are just a small collection of real, horrifying truths the Black community faces daily.



The McClaren Institute for Health & Quality of Life is fighting for change and equity, one partnership at a time.

Powered by the Urban League of the Upstate, this new facility and programmatic hub will tackle health inequity head-on.

"Nothing can be changed until it is faced."

- James Baldwin

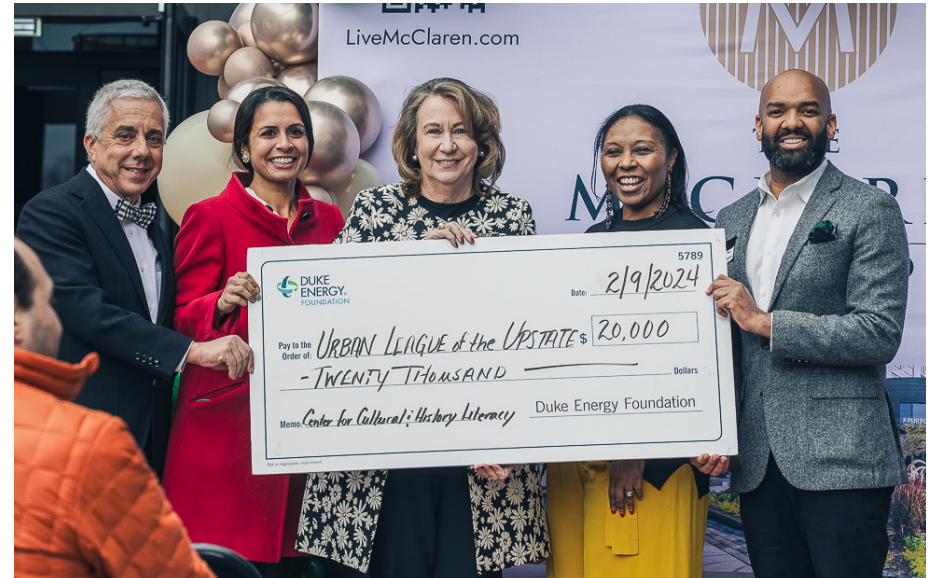


Why is the Urban League of the Upstate the right leader of this effort?

The Urban League of the Upstate (ULUS) has reorganized its work so that it is both nationally aligned and locally relevant, focusing on the National Urban League's signature programs to enhance health and quality of life for the underserved.

After being gifted the McClaren Medical Shelter, a historically significant property to the cultural history of Black citizens in Greenville County, the moment was right to respond to the health and cultural literacy needs and requests of the communities we serve.

The mission of the ULUS is to advance equity by empowering the Black community and underserved individuals throughout the region. The National Urban League is laser-focused on Health Equity as a key initiative, supporting local efforts through funding, advocacy, and programming.





A Collaborative Project and Physical Hub

The McClaren Institute for Health & Quality of Life will focus on addressing healthcare and wellness disparities for Black people and the underserved living in the Upstate of South Carolina by emphasizing programs around the five social determinants of health: **education access and quality, health care access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, social and community context, and economic stability.**

The physical location in the renovated, historic McClaren Medical shelter will serve as a hub for services, education, and outreach efforts.

Programs in Development

For its early years of operation, five new programs have already been established, but the ULUS is raising funds for new programming focused on health and wellness to activate the on-site service capabilities.



Community Based Health and Wellness Services

In partnership with LiveWell Greenville, the McClaren Institute Community Navigator will specifically focus on the Black community to increase access and awareness for services connected to the five social determinants of health (focusing on initiatives related to pop-up clinics, nutrition education, smoking cessation, and physical activity). To aid in this programming, a specific Community Navigator has been designated to oversee the work. The Navigator will be bilingual to also target the Hispanic population in the Upstate. Funding has been secured for three years.



McClaren/AHEC Health Equity Scholars

The Upstate Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is partnering with the McClaren Institute to launch the McClaren AHEC Scholars Program. This program, aimed at empowering and nurturing future healthcare leaders, selects a cohort of 10 high school students annually from the AHEC Health Careers Program. They participate in a rigorous curriculum to showcase and inspire careers in the medical field—online learning modules, monthly Health Careers Academy sessions, and a comprehensive summer program. From college readiness to the social determinants of health, this program propels students towards their future healthcare careers—hopefully in the Upstate of South Carolina. The first cohort was announced in spring of 2024.



McClaren Mental Health Advocacy & Education

The ULUS is partnering with mental health experts to facilitate programming, advocacy, and education surrounding mental health. Dr. Asa Briggs, a Black mental health professional with a Master’s from Vanderbilt University and Doctor of Nursing Practice from Yale University, will begin serving as the McClaren Mental Health Educator/Counselor.



College Unbound (Coming in 2025)

The ULUS is partnering with the Jolley Foundation to bring College Unbound to the Upstate. The McClaren Institute will host a cohort of 10 adult scholars in the fall of 2025. College Unbound provides opportunities for adults who were not able to complete their degree to do so from anywhere, building empowerment, opportunity, and economic advancement. All coursework is offered online, and each participant can tailor his/her curriculum to prepare for leadership positions in the healthcare industry.



McClaren Cultural and Historical Literacy Center Programming

While the physical McClaren Cultural and Historical Literacy Center will exist on the bottom floor of the building, programming is already underway. In collaboration with Visit Greenville SC, Kendra Williams is leading City Tours of Historical Sites significant to the Black community under the moniker of the McClaren Institute.

The Building: A Historic Home for Health & Quality of Life



The McClaren Institute for Health and Quality of Life site is a historic landmark situated at the corner of Academy and Wardlaw in Downtown Greenville. It has been redesigned and reimagined to maximize its potential and create a hub for the fight for health and quality of life equity.

Some programs and offerings will operate from the space, but it will also serve as a home base for education and outreach taking place throughout the Upstate. As part of the project, the Urban League of the Upstate is moving its Greenville headquarters to the facility.

*For Display Purposes Only.



The Lower Floor

The key feature of the Lower Floor will include a multimedia Cultural and Historical Literacy Center displaying historic contributions of Black citizens to the Upstate's growth and development. This interactive center will serve to educate, inspire, and motivate aspiring leaders towards building a better quality of life for the underserved communities in the Upstate.

The Lower Floor will also include a meeting space, open office seating, and a boardroom that will work as multipurpose opportunities for large and small group education, programming, and affinity group meetings. It will be available for rental for nonprofits and exist as an extension of space for health and wellness partners.



The Upper Floor

The Upper Floor will be a hub for the Urban League and its partners to address Upstate health disparities—by offering programming on site and as a resource center for initiatives happening throughout the region.

The Upper Floor will maintain its original design of "patient rooms" but will be renovated to provide multiple functions. Four spaces will be activated for specific health and wellness related services, bolstered by a reception/waiting area and the ULUS office.



Hallowed Ground: The McClaren Medical Shelter History

As stewards of the historic McClaren Medical Shelter as the building was formerly known, the Urban League of the Upstate is seeking to honor the legacy of Dr. Edward E. McClaren.



About Dr. Edward E. McClaren

Dr. McClaren attended Howard University, and instead of pursuing a career in the more welcoming north. He came to Greenville to address the health needs of the Black community. He built the only clinic for Black people in the area with his own funds (\$15,000)

during the Jim Crow era. Most area hospitals were heavily segregated and didn't accept Black patients. The clinic provided emergency, surgical, and maternity care.

Dr. McClaren's original clinic, founded in 1949, still stands today. The McClaren building is one of few remaining structures in historic Greenville's Black-owned business and cultural district.

Projected Project Timeline



November 2023

Site preparation began with Jordon Construction.



February 2024

Weatherization and stabilization projected completion. Site prepped for construction. McClaren programming kicks off.



March 2024

Construction begins.



Spring 2025 (Anticipated)

McClaren Institute opens.



Statement of Need

The McClaren Collaborative

The McClaren Institute for Health and Quality of Life is a collaborative program and physical space for a consortium of healthcare providers, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions in the Upstate.

Key Stakeholders include:

- Urban League of the Upstate
- City of Greenville
- Greenville Convention and Visitors Bureau
- College Unbound
- LiveWell Greenville

Foundational Donors:

- Johnston Design Group
- Cargo
- Daniel-Mickel Foundation
- Greenville Health Authority
- The State of South Carolina
- The City of Greenville
- National Urban League

And YOU.

The missing piece.



Capital Support

Needed: \$1.8 million

Estimates produced by the Johnston Design Group indicate the complete physical renovation, redesign, and construction of the McClaren Institute for Health and Quality of Life will total \$1.8 million minimum. Additional funds raised will present opportunities to enhance and add improvement offerings.

Construction Cost Estimates	
Restoration, Renovation, and Pre-Construction	\$600,000
Construction and Build Out	\$575,000
Urban League Cultural and Historical Visitor's Center	\$626,370

Naming Opportunities:

Physical naming opportunities are available for the spaces in the building, as well as programs and scholarships.



Donate Now



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**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!**



Follow along with all ULUS initiatives at
urbanleagueupstate.org.



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