



United Way  
of the Midlands



Government and Community Services (GCS) is a proactive outreach arm of the County. GCS focuses on facilitating improved community outreach, administration of government services, and the resolution of community issues. GCS recognizes an “Organization of the Month” that exemplifies the importance of supporting the community and assisting in getting resources to those most in need.

This month, GCS recognizes United Way of the Midlands’s WellPartners Dental and Eye Health (WellPartners). WellPartners helps uninsured and underinsured people of the Midlands community gain access to the health care services they need to live healthier, better lives. WellPartners offers free dental and vision health services to children and adults in Fairfield, Lexington and Richland counties.

Dental clinics are co-located in the Richland and Lexington County Health Departments, and the eye clinic is in the Richland County Health Department. WellPartners is owned and operated by United Way of the Midlands with support from partners like Richland County. Richland County supports WellPartners by providing in-kind support for clinic space and funds through grants like the Community Development Block Grant program.

Proper dental and eye care is about more than just teeth and eyes. Nearly one third of adults in the workforce have uncorrected vision problems, and that makes it harder for them to be productive. It even makes it harder to get to work, because poor eyesight is a factor in more than half of all vehicle accidents. Children with dental pain are three times more likely to miss school than children who have access to good dental care. Dental health is about more than teeth. Did you know that gum disease can complicate diabetes? Or that heart disease and gum disease often go hand in hand? Developing good dental habits is a step on the road to wellness.

### **Services**

WellPartners Adult and Children’s Dental Health provides a dental home with preventive checkups, cleaning, polishing, fluoride, sealants, restorative services, simple extractions and oral hygiene education. WellPartners Adult Eye Clinic provides eye exams which encompass routine care, detection, diagnoses and treatment for diseases and disorders related to the eyes and visual system. We provide eyeglasses, referrals for specialty care and funding for medically necessary eye surgeries and procedures.

### **Who is eligible?**

WellPartners Adult Dental and Eye Health:

- Adults 18 and older who:
  - Have a valid Fairfield, Lexington or Richland County ID
  - Have no dental insurance/ eye care insurance
  - Have proof of low income (living on less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level)

WellPartners Children’s Dental:

- Children five years of age or older who:
  - Are enrolled in public school in Richland or Lexington counties
  - Are enrolled in free or reduced lunch program
  - Are not eligible for Medicaid or any other type of insurance
  - Are referred by a school nurse\*\*

All WellPartners children’s dental paperwork and appointments are managed through the school system by the child's school nurse. Please see your child's school nurse for more details and to determine eligibility.

### **Richland County Clinic Locations and Hours**

#### **Children’s Dental Clinic - Richland**

Richland County Health Department  
 2000 Hampton Street, Suite 4090  
 Columbia, SC 29204

Phone: 803-888-1590

Hours: Tuesday- Friday 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

#### **Adult Dental Clinic - Richland**

Richland County Health Department  
 2000 Hampton Street, Suite 3145  
 Columbia, SC 29204

Phone: 803-888-1690

Hours: Monday- Thursday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
 Friday 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

#### **Adult Eye Care Clinic - Richland**

Richland County Health Department  
 2000 Hampton Street, Suite 3145  
 Columbia, SC 29204

Phone: 803-888-1692

Hours: Monday- Thursday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Please feel free to call the clinics to learn more or visit <https://www.wellpartners.org/>