This series is dedicated to recognizing the South Carolina coalitions that are leading the way in the improvement of health outcomes for ALL people in South Carolina.

Coalitions highlighted in the “Coalitions’ Work Series” are actively working to improve outcomes in the five priority areas of the Alliance: Improve the health of babies, improve the health of children, prevent chronic disease, improve access to high quality primary care, and improve access to behavioral health services.

To share your coalition's work in support of Alliance Goals contact agallego@scha.org
SCALEDOWN:  
PREVENTING CHRONIC DISEASE THROUGH HEALTHY EATING AND ACTIVE LIVING

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE
Today, two out of three South Carolina adults and one out of three children are overweight or obese. Obesity has become a major contributor to the diseases that kill the most people in our state, make the most people sick and cost our state the most money to treat. In response to these devastating statistics, the South Carolina Obesity Action Plan was released in the fall of 2014. This plan provides evidence-based strategies and activities to reduce the burden of obesity in our state over the next five years. The SCAle Down Initiative was launched in January 2015 to facilitate the implementation of the action plan.

WHAT DOES THE INITIATIVE DO?
SCaLe Down is a collaborative, statewide initiative that engages key partners in achieving the 74 objectives outlined in the Obesity Action Plan. The Initiative also seeks to eliminate duplication of efforts and better promote achieved successes by connecting and mobilizing stakeholders who are working to reduce and prevent obesity in the Palmetto State. The SC Institute of Medicine and Public Health (IMPH) facilitates the SCaLe Down initiative in partnership with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC).

RESULTS
Over 90 partners representing academia, health care, nonprofits, government, philanthropy and the business community are actively engaged in SCAle Down teams and workgroups. The Action Team (leadership) provides guidance and strategic input to shape the direction of the Initiative. The five SCAle Down workgroups (Child Care, Community, Health Care, Schools and Worksites) actively address the strategies and objectives in the action plan and expand the reach of the Initiative through their partnership networks. The Evaluation Team provides high-level oversight for evaluating and monitoring progress toward obesity reduction and prevention efforts, while SCDHEC monitors and maintains the data surveillance for the individual objectives included in the plan. Because of the work of these dedicated partners, progress is being made in achieving the action plan objectives, and the SCAle Down Initiative is the unifying link for obesity efforts across the state. Visit www.scaledown.org to learn more about obesity prevention and reduction efforts taking place in South Carolina.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE
The 2014-2019 South Carolina Obesity Action Plan is meant to be a living document – growing, changing and evolving as our state hits key benchmarks or new needs arise. The SCaLe Down Initiative will continue to engage stakeholders in focused efforts to achieve the action plan objectives and will also explore new opportunities to address obesity and obesity prevention in our state.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE?
Since the launch of SCAle Down, stakeholder involvement has been key to the success of this statewide collaborative effort. SCAle Down offers many opportunities to be involved and continues to welcome new stakeholders interested in supporting and advancing the objectives of the Obesity Action Plan.

PARTNERS
Alliance for a Healthier South Carolina members involved in SCAle Down include:
- BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina
- BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation
- Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence
- Health Sciences South Carolina
- Medical University of South Carolina
- Palmetto Health
- PASOs
- S.C. Area Health Education Consortium
- S.C. Business Coalition on Health
- S.C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Services
- S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control
- S.C. Department of Health and Human Services
- S.C. Hospital Association
- S.C. Medical Association
- S.C. Office of Rural Health
- S.C. Primary Health Care Association
- The Duke Endowment
- Total Comfort Solutions
- United Way Association of South Carolina
- USC, Arnold School of Public Health
- USC, Consortium for Latino Immigration Studies
- USC, Healthy Carolina
- USC, Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities
- USC, Prevention Research Center
- USC, School of Medicine

CONNECT
If you are interested in learning more about SCAle Down or in getting involved in the initiative, please visit scaledown.org or connect via e-mail at info@scaledown.org