**2018 Upstate Institute Summer Field School Fellowship**

**Title:** Assessing the knowledge of Madison County residents about existing transportation services in Madison County.

**Community Partner:** Madison County Rural Health Council, Inc.

A research project that will look at transportation in Madison County and what barriers exist to access to health care, for a student with some experience in survey design and analysis.

**Project Description:**
Madison County is beginning to implement a Mobility Management Plan. As the host of a new Madison County Mobility Management project, the Rural Health Council needs to assess existing transportation services in the county to learn what kinds of transportation is provided and for whom. The council wants to better understand the perceptions of local organizations and residents about the availability of transportation, especially as it relates to access to healthcare. A Fellow will create a survey to gauge what residents of Madison County know about existing transportation services and what kinds of improvements they would like to see in the future. The Fellow will also research ideas and models for the provision of transportation in similar rural areas to make recommendations that will meet identified needs. This evaluation of resident perceptions of transportation will assist in the development of future communication about the Mobility Management project.

**About the Community Partner:**
The Madison County Rural Health Council, Inc. is a 501c-3 non-profit organization with the mission to advocate, inform and coordinate efforts to improve health in our Community.

**Required Skills:**
The Fellow will develop need to have strong research skills that will allow them to develop and administer a short survey, summarize the findings, and make recommendations. The student will need to work independently, enjoy meeting people and be flexible. The student will gain knowledge of Madison County transportation providers, service organizations, resident groups and how they are connected. The student will attend Board of Director meetings, Mobility Management Advisory Committee meetings and other meetings as deemed appropriate to understand Madison County transportation services. The work atmosphere is warm, welcoming, comfortable and supportive of the learning process.

**Logistics:**
This is a full-time paid research position (35 hours per week) to last approximately 10 weeks, conducted under the joint supervision of the Upstate Institute and the Rural Health Council, with supervision from director Bonnie Slocum. The Fellow will work out of the RCH office in Morrisville, and may travel to other locations.

Field School Fellows receive a research stipend of $4500 plus reimbursement for any costs associated with transportation for this project. A car is not required for this project, but may be helpful. A Fellow will need a U.S. drivers’ license to complete this work.