

For immediate release: February 28, 2023

Eye-opening new podcast "InDebted" dives into the ecosystem of debt in South Carolina- premieres March 1 New episodes to be released weekly

COLUMBIA, S.C. – *InDebted*, a new podcast series from South Carolina Public Radio, premieres Wednesday, March 1. The eight-part series explores the issue of debt in the Palmetto State, including medical debt, student loan debt, short-term loan services, financial literacy and more.

According to research by the Urban Institute on the amount of debt burden by county across the U.S., seven of the top 50 counties were in South Carolina, with more than half of the residents living with excessive liabilities. *InDebted* takes a deep dive into the factors that make South Carolina one of the worst places for debt in the country and tells the stories of real South Carolinians living in this ecosystem of debt.

InDebted's host Scott Morgan is the Upstate multimedia reporter for South Carolina Public Radio, based in Rock Hill. He began his career as a newspaper reporter and editor in New Jersey before finding a home in public radio in Texas. Morgan joined South Carolina Public Radio in March of 2019 and his work has appeared in numerous national and regional publications, as well as on NPR and MSNBC. Morgan has also won numerous state, regional and national awards for his work, including a national Edward R. Murrow award from the Radio Television Digital News Association.

Below is a glimpse into each episode of *InDebted*:

- **Episode 1:** Host Scott Morgan discusses credit card debt.
- Episode 2: Host Scott Morgan discusses student loan debt.
- **Episode 3:** Host Scott Morgan investigates how the lack of opportunity drives persistent debt in Barnwell County.
- Episode 4: Host Scott Morgan discusses short term loan debt.
- **Episode 5:** Host Scott Morgan discusses debt as a public health risk.
- **Episode 6:** Host Scott Morgan discusses medical debt.
- Episode 7: Host Scott Morgan discusses ways people with assets can lose them.
- **Episode 8:** Host Scott Morgan discusses debt solutions.

Produced by <u>South Carolina Public Radio</u>, production funding for *InDebted* is provided by the ETV Endowment of South Carolina.

InDebted premieres on March 1 and will be distributed weekly after midnight on Wednesdays through April 19. Companion news stories will air on South Carolina Public Radio on Thursdays at 5:45 a.m., 7:45 a.m. and 5:44 p.m.

This podcast is part of the agency's multi-platform plan to make resources available around financial literacy, economic development and generational wealth. Updates on these efforts will be shared in the coming months. More information on *InDebted*, including how to listen, can be found on the <u>South Carolina</u> <u>Public Radio website</u>.

QUOTES

"The *InDebted* podcast is a series that fills a gap in our state by providing insightful, timely and useful information for South Carolinians. My hope is that the information in this show shines a light on how debt can build quickly, why it can be difficult to overcome and its crippling impact." –South Carolina Public Radio Director Sean Birch

"We've all consumed the cultural messaging that debt is bad, so asking questions about it can be difficult. But we need to talk about it. Too many of us feel like we're alone. This series exists to get the topic of debt out of the dark." –*InDebted* Host Scott Morgan

FAST FACTS

- The new podcast series, *InDebted*, premieres on March 1 and will air weekly after midnight on Wednesdays through April 19.
- Companion news stories will air on South Carolina Public Radio on Thursdays at 5:45 a.m., 7:45 a.m. and 5:44 p.m.
- According to research by the Urban Institute on the amount of debt burden by county across the U.S., seven of the top 50 counties were in South Carolina, with more than half of the residents living with excessive debt.
- This podcast is part of the agency's multi-platform plan to make resources available around financial literacy, economic development and generational wealth.
- More information on *InDebted*, including how to listen, can be found on the <u>South Carolina Public</u> <u>Radio website</u>.

About South Carolina ETV and Public Radio

South Carolina ETV and Public Radio (SCETV) is the state's public educational broadcasting network. SCETV amplifies South Carolina voices, provides educational experiences and strengthens communities, while working toward creating a stronger, more connected and informed South Carolina. In addition to airing local programs, such as *Carolina Classrooms, Making It Grow,* and *This Week in South Carolina*, SCETV also presents multiple programs to regional and national audiences, including *By The River, After Action, Reconnecting Roots, Reel South, Somewhere South, Yoga in Practice* and *How She Rolls.* In addition, SC Public Radio produces the national radio production, *Chamber Music from Spoleto Festival USA*.

Media Contact:

Landon Masters <u>media@scetv.org</u> (803) 737-3337