

Biography

**DR. JENNIFER CLYBURN REED**  
**FEDERAL CO-CHAIR**  
**SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION (SCRC)**

Having been confirmed by the United States Senate and taking the oath of office in January 2022, Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed became the first Federal Co-Chair of the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) and the first black woman to occupy this position in the United States. SCRC statutory footprint spans seven states – parts of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and all of Florida. The Southeast Crescent region is home to 51 million people, 428 counties and covers over 210,000 square miles. As a Federal-State partnership, SCRC invests in distressed communities by financing programs and projects through cooperative agreements and State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) grants that contribute to growing struggling local economies. To date, 139 SEID projects are in progress across participating states.

Before the Federal Co-Chair role, Dr. Reed had a fruitful career as an educator, which spanned 28 years in the South Carolina public school system as an elementary and middle school teacher. She pivoted to higher education as Director of a research center at the University of South Carolina, where she also co-founded the Apple Core Initiative (ACI), a teacher recruitment, enrollment and retention scholarship program within the College of Education before retiring in 2020. ACI is still in operation today.

Dr. Reed also serves as Chairperson of the selection committee for the Dr. Emily E. Clyburn Endowed Scholarship housed at the Dr. Emily E. Clyburn Honors College on the campus of South Carolina State University, SC's only public Historically Black College and University (HBCU).

Dr. Reed earned a doctoral degree in Instructional Leadership from Nova Southeastern University and is a three-time graduate of the University of South Carolina, earning an Education Specialist in Teaching (Ed.S.), Masters in Arts and Teaching (M.A.T.), and Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degrees.

Dr. Reed has a lifelong commitment to the betterment of all communities. Prior to the Presidential appointment, Dr. Reed was co-owner of a property investment, restoration and management company and principal owner of its nonprofit arm. She also operated an education consulting company and is a self-taught home gardener. Dr. Reed holds memberships in national, civic and social organizations to include the Richland County Alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Columbia SC Chapter of The MOLES, Inc., and former Board chair of the City of Columbia Community Relations Council. She is also a Paul Harris Fellow Rotarian, Lifetime Member of the NAACP, and Notary Public.

Dr. Reed is married to Mississippi native Walter A. Reed, a retired Civil Engineer from the Department of Transportation. They have two children, Walter A. Clyburn Reed, an American University graduate student and political operative and Sydney Reed Jackson, a resident pediatrician at Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC. The Reed family welcomed a son-in-law, Mississippi native and Electrical Engineer Justin Jackson, and their first granddaughter in 2024.