



**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

NOTICE OF DIRECT AWARD

STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

**COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS
COMPANION GRANT**

**POSTING DATE: THURSDAY, JUNE 09, 2016
INQUIRY CLOSING DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2016**

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DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION

COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS COMPANION GRANT

AGENCY BACKGROUND	<p>The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) was created in 1999 by Senate Bill 241 and has the responsibility for insuring over two million people in the State of Georgia, maximizing the State's health care purchasing power, coordinating health planning for State agencies and proposing cost-effective solutions for reducing the number of uninsured. Within DCH, the State Office of Rural Health (SORH) serves Georgians by improving access to health care in rural and underserved areas to improve health status and reduce health disparities.</p>
PROGRAM OVERVIEW	<p>The Department of Community Health, State Office of Rural Health works to improve access to health care in rural and underserved areas and to reduce health status disparities. SORH provides funding for institutional framework that links small rural communities with State & Federal resources to help develop long-term solutions to rural health problems.</p> <p>The primary objectives include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empower communities to strengthen and maintain the best possible health care using existing resources.• Provide up-to-date health systems information and technical assistance.• Build strong partnerships to meet local and regional needs.• Provide incentives to local areas to implement integrated service delivery systems.• Be the single point of contact for all regional issues related to health care. <p>The purpose of the Community Health Care Systems Companion Grant is to provide technical assistance and public education to support the expansion of a current telemedicine project to include the coordination of care for chronically ill residents who have been identified as high utilizers of emergency services.</p> <p>The State Office of Rural Health, Community Health Care Systems, Inc., and Mercer University School of Medicine have agreed to partner together to support this additional component of the current telemedicine project. At the end of this project, the results will be evaluated to determine the effectiveness of the care coordination efforts and determine if a sustainable and replicable model could be utilized in other rural communities throughout the state.</p>
AWARD JUSTIFICATION	<p>The Georgia Department of Community Health intends to award Community Health Care Systems, Inc. (CHCS) in the amount of \$40,000 to support current grant project in Hancock County which provides medical care within the community utilizing a telemedicine program facilitated by CHCS staff. Community Health Care Services, Inc. is well established with offices in eleven Georgia counties. They are the only full-time provider of health care services in Hancock County, and have the intent of expanding these services through an "on-call" status for the duration of the grant project.</p> <p>The only hospital in Hancock County closed over ten years ago and all patients residing in Hancock County must be transported out of the county when evaluation and treatment in an emergency department is necessary. This aggressive coordination of care will improve health outcomes for individual patients by providing assessment and treatment for chronic conditions proactively, limiting the opportunity for conditions to reach urgent or emergent status, and reducing the number of unnecessary out of county EMS transports and emergency department visits. The need to introduce access through a non-emergency 1-800 number was identified, and public education will be required to enhance this service. The initial grant project also highlighted the need for care coordination between the hospitals surrounding Hancock County and the Federally Qualified Health Center within the county to ensure patients with chronic illnesses are pro-actively managed through a team approach for the provision of medical care.</p>

	DCH presents this funding as a direct award in that Community Health Care Systems, Inc. utilize funding to provide public education for the use of the 1-800 phone number within CHCS, and support the collection of necessary patient data as well as the coordination of care for chronically ill patients.
AWARD(S)	TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$40,000.00
<u>TO SUBMIT INQUIRIES TO THIS DIRECT AWARD NOTIFICATION</u>	
Joanne Mitchell, Grants Manager at jmitchell@dch.ga.gov no later than 2:00 PM on Wednesday, June 15, 2016.	