

FACT SHEET

State Office of Rural Health

Financial and Operational Improvements for Critical Access Hospitals

The Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program (Flex) was established by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. This federally funded program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) promotes quality and performance improvement activities; stabilizes rural hospital finance; and integrates emergency medical services (EMS) into rural health care systems.

Financial and Operational Improvements

A total of \$3,205,866.00 was appropriated to financial and operational improvement during the past six years. Financial analyses was offered for each of the state's 30 Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs). Revenue Cycle efficiency and accuracy is critical to achieving financial and operational improvement. This grant provided Georgia CAH financial executives and revenue cycle staff with the tools and resources needed to improve registration, documentation, coding, billing, and collection functions.

The project methods included on-site revenue cycle analyses at each participating CAH. This in-depth analysis included review of Charge Description Masters and the evaluation of the latest filed Medicare cost report. These activities guided the development of performance indicators, implementation of cost report monitoring tools and ongoing quarterly assessments of each participating progress toward hospital-specific goals.

The Financial and Operational Improvement grant additionally provided technical assistance by evaluating participating CAHs' readiness to convert to the Prospective Payment System payment methodology.

Previous Projects included:

- Offered operational and financial technical assistance
- CAH fiscal analyses
- Performed CAH Program Evaluation
- Developed and implemented the Georgia State Rural Health Plan



Georgia FLEX Quick Facts

- Since 2000, Georgia has received more than \$5.7 million in FLEX grant funding
- FLEX grants support Georgia's 30 Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)

FACT SHEET



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

Financial and Operational Improvements for Critical Access Hospitals

About FLEX:

The Georgia Flex Program, which began in 1999 through the State Office of Rural Health (SORH) in the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), supports four component of the national program.

- Support for Quality Improvement in CAHs
- Support for Operational and Financial Improvement in CAHs
- Support for Health System Development and Community Engagement, including integrating EMS in regional and local systems of care
- Designation of CAHs in the State - *This activity has been completed in Georgia*

For More Information

Visit <https://dch.georgia.gov/state-office-rural-health> or call 229-401-3090.