



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH

NOTICE OF DIRECT AWARD

STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

**SMALL HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
(SHIP)**

**POSTING DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2015
INQUIRY CLOSING DATE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2015**

**ROMERO M. STOKES, GRANT MANAGER
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OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT AND GRANTS ADMINISTRATION
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DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION

CRISP REGIONAL HOSPITAL, INC. – RURAL HOSPITAL STABILIZATION PILOT

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| 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 frameworks that link small rural communities with State and 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. |
| AWARD JUSTIFICATION | <p>Many communities and rural health providers including Critical Access Hospitals (CAH), small rural hospitals and rural health clinics have long faced challenges related to health care access, as well as reimbursement challenges. Accurate coding has a significant impact on a hospital’s finances. The Georgia Rural Health Association ICD-10 Grant through the Association of Rural Health Professional Coders will provide a blended learning solution for ICD-10 coding classes for rural health care professionals. ARHPC is a membership organization dedicated to providing ICD-10 education for all medical providers. This blended learning solution provides tools and information for healthcare facility staffs to handle coding challenges they encounter with the transition to ICD-10. Members of the Georgia Rural Health Association “After ICD-10: What Now?” Consortium include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dorminy Medical Center2. Emanuel Medical Center3. Monroe County Hospital <p>The program will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Two (2) on-site education sessions (4 – 6 hours each) customized by analyzing the hospitals’ top diagnoses, procedures, and coding/billing issues. Classes are modified to the hospital’s specific services, no one size fits all.2. Unlimited attendance for 24/7 eLearning for clinicians, revenue-cycle staff, quality management and Electronic Health Record (EHR) professionals.3. Up to five (5) staff members will be certified as Rural Health Coding Specialist (RHCS) or a Community Health Coding Specialist (CHCS) by the Association for Rural Health Professional Coding (ARHPC) Educational Initiative, the nation’s only coding credentials for certifications for critical access hospitals, federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics.4. Evaluation and Management documentation compliance audits designed to tailor educational support to the staff that document in the medical record |

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| | <p>and provide the data for revenue and quality tracking.</p> <p>5. The “ICD-10 Post-Implementation Success” program will assist with key performance indicators and goals such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and provider retention/reduces staff turnover/cross training • Reduced turn-around-time between providing care and gaining reimbursement • Decrease denials due to incorrect billing • Decrease audit exposure via education and chart reviews • Decrease reporting errors through increased process collaboration between all involved staff • Comprehensive clinical picture of the rural health patient |
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| AWARD(S) | TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$28,788.00 |
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TO SUBMIT INQUIRIES TO THIS DIRECT AWARD NOTIFICATION

Romero M. Stokes, Grant Manager at rstokes@dch.ga.gov no later than 2:00 PM on Wednesday September 16, 2015