



**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

NOTICE OF DIRECT AWARD

STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS, INC.

ENHANCING RURAL HEALTH ACCESS GRANT

**POSTING DATE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016
INQUIRY CLOSING DATE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2016**

**JOANNE MITCHELL, GRANTS MANAGER
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT AND GRANTS ADMINISTRATION
2 PEACHTREE STREET, NW, 35TH FLOOR
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-3159
TEL: (404) 651-6183 E-MAIL: jmitchell@dch.ga.gov**

DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION

ENHANCING RURAL HEALTH ACCESS GRANT COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS, INC.

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| AGENCY BACKGROUND | 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. |
| 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; and• Be the single point of contact for all regional issues related to health care. <p>The purpose of the Enhancing Rural Health Access Grant is to provide resources for the purchase of telehealth equipment/technical assistance for the ambulances in Twiggs and Wilkinson Counties and will also provide equipment/technical support to build a network across these two counties to increase access to providers during business and non-business hours.</p> |
| AWARD JUSTIFICATION | <p>Community Health Care Systems provides health care services to nearly 15,000 patients with over 58,000 encounters each year. CHCS is a provider of telehealth services.</p> <p>The goal of the Enhancing Rural Health Access grant is to provide access to emergency medical services as well as primary and specialty health care via telemedicine to improve the health, wellness and quality of life for the residents of Twiggs and Wilkinson Counties. Patients in the targeted Counties will be able to participate in live, real-time interactions with qualified medical personnel through video and audio over a telecommunications network.</p> <p>Benefits to the community are numerous and include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) EMS services in Twiggs County with reduced response times;2) access to primary and specialty telehealthcare;3) improved health outcomes;4) reduction in non-emergent emergency department visits;5) reduction in health care expense; and6) improved quality of life. |
| | DCH presents this funding as direct awards to Community Health Care Systems, Inc. to provide rural access to emergency medical services as well as primary and specialty health care via telemedicine to improve the health, wellness and quality of life for the residents of Twiggs and Wilkinson Counties. |
| AWARD(S) | TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$50,000.00 |

TO SUBMIT INQUIRIES TO THIS DIRECT AWARD NOTIFICATION

Joanne Mitchell, Grants Manager at jmitchell@dch.ga.gov no later than 2:00 PM on Wednesday, November 23, 2016.