



**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT  
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

# **NOTICE OF DIRECT AWARD**

**STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH**

**RURAL HEALTH INNOVATIONS (RHI)  
NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER**

**MEDICARE RURAL HOSPITAL FLEXIBILITY (FLEX)  
POPULATION HEALTH GRANT**

**POSTING DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2016  
INQUIRY CLOSING DATE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 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](mailto:jmitchell@dch.ga.gov)**

# **DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION**

## **MEDICARE RURAL HOSPITAL FLEXIBILITY (FLEX) POPULATION HEALTH GRANT RURAL HEALTH INNOVATIONS - NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER**

### **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**

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.

The primary objectives include the following:

- 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.

The purpose of the Georgia Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (FLEX) Population Health Grant is to focus on work with Georgia's critical access hospitals (CAHs) to improve the "Triple Aim" of healthcare delivery by providing better care, improving health and lowering costs in rural communities. This program will use the Baldrige Performance Excellence Systems Framework to guide the CAHs to achieve clinical, operational and financial excellence. This one year program will focus on engaging up to fourteen targeted 501(c) 3 CAHs identified as: Bacon County Hospital, Miller County Hospital, Chatuge Regional Hospital, Monroe County Hospital, Clinch Memorial Hospital, Medical Center of Peach County, Higgins General Hospital, Phoebe Worth Medical Center, Jasper Memorial Hospital, Polk Medical Center, Jeff Davis Hospital, SGMC-Lanier Campus, Mitchell County Hospital, and Wills Memorial Hospital.

<b>AWARD JUSTIFICATION</b>	<p>The project will focus on conducting a Regional Population Health Management Needs Assessment Analysis for each community/county in which each of the fourteen identified CAHs will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Host an Introductory Webinar with all participating hospitals to introduce the RHI Team, review the project timeline, deliverables and expectations;</li> <li>2. Conduct Key Stakeholder interviews with each CAH and Community Leaders as applicable and determined by SORH, CAH and RHI staff;</li> <li>3. Survey each CAH's readiness utilizing the National Rural Health Resource Center Technical Assistance Services Center (TASC) "<i>Population Health Readiness Assessment</i>" tool;</li> <li>4. Conduct a Critical Success Factors Assessment for each CAH utilizing the "<i>Critical Access Hospital Blueprint for Performance Excellence</i>" based on the Baldrige Excellence Framework;</li> <li>5. Develop Community Health Profiles to report on some of the factors that influence the health of individuals and populations in the CAH service area. In each profile include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population-level data on several variables such as income, housing, education and child development;</li> <li>• Health indicators such as life expectancy, birth rates, standardized mortality ratios and on how health services are used;</li> <li>• Burden of chronic disease;</li> <li>• Access to care; and</li> <li>• Patterns of healthcare utilization.</li> </ul> </li> <li>6. Analyze data for trends;</li> <li>7. Present findings via webinar to all participating CAHs;</li> <li>8. Convene with the FLEX stakeholder panel to review findings, identify common priorities by/across communities, and make recommendations for engaging with community partners and targeting specific health needs;</li> <li>9. Report findings at CAH Population Health Summit at Georgia SORH Conference Center in Cordele Georgia;</li> <li>10. Two regional educational workshops. Topics and dates to be determined based upon the data analysis, trends and needs identified. Topics could be based on care coordination, collaboration and partnering and/or resiliency training;</li> <li>11. Ensure appropriate documentation is in place for all deliverables and expenditures related to the grant agreement; and</li> <li>12. Submit quarterly invoices with supporting documentation of the specific deliverables completed to the SORH in accordance with this Agreement for payment of Program services and any other items approved by the SORH (additional instructions will be provided by the SORH as needed).</li> </ol>
	<p>DCH presents this funding as direct awards to Rural Health Innovations (RHI) to administer validated tools and provide analytical support to directly benefit Georgia's CAH hospitals.</p>
<b>AWARD(S)</b>	<b>TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$72,000.00</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>TO SUBMIT INQUIRIES TO THIS DIRECT AWARD NOTIFICATION</u></b></p> <p>Joanne Mitchell, Grants Manager at <a href="mailto:jmitchell@dch.ga.gov">jmitchell@dch.ga.gov</a> no later than 2:00 PM on Wednesday, October 19, 2016.</p>	