



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMUNITY HEALTH

# **NOTICE OF DIRECT AWARD**

**STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH**

**SMALL RURAL HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
(SHIP)**

**POSTING DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2013  
INQUIRY CLOSING DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2013**

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# **DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION**

## **SMALL RURAL HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (SHIP)**

<b>AGENCY BACKGROUND</b>	<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>
<b>PROGRAM OVERVIEW</b>	<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 &amp; 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"><li>• Empower communities to strengthen and maintain the best possible health care using existing resources.</li><li>• Provide up-to-date health systems information and technical assistance.</li><li>• Build strong partnerships to meet local and regional needs.</li><li>• Provide incentives to local areas to implement integrated service delivery systems.</li><li>• Be the single point of contact for all regional issues related to health care.</li></ul>
<b>AWARD JUSTIFICATION</b>	<p>The Georgia Department of Community Health intends to award the Georgia Hospital Association Research and Education Foundation \$144,752 to administer the Value Based Purchasing Quality Improvement and Transition to ICD-10 Small Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP) Consortium. The SHIP grant provides funding to Georgia's small rural hospitals to assist in defraying costs related to implementation of the Prospective Payment System (PPS), Accountable Care Organizations (ACO), Payment Bundling, and Value Based Purchasing (VBP). The purpose of this consortium is to provide 16 small rural and critical access hospitals with quality improvement education and training, quality improvement data services, technical assistance and ICD-10 readiness assessments, dependent upon the needs of the hospitals.</p> <p>DCH presents this funding as a direct award in that Georgia Hospital Association Research and Education Foundation is a component of the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program that meets the federal grant requirements and as such was named as recipient in the Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA) federal grant application.</p>
<b>AWARD(S)</b>	<b>TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$144,752.00</b>

### **TO SUBMIT INQUIRIES TO THIS DIRECT AWARD NOTIFICATION**

Arnita E. Watson, Grant Manager at [awatson@dch.ga.gov](mailto:awatson@dch.ga.gov) no later than 2:00 PM on Monday, October 7, 2013