



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioner Announces Georgia Health Information Exchange Pilot Program

\$900,000 in Matching Grant Funds Aims to Foster Health Information Exchange

ATLANTA - Dr. Rhonda Medows, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), announced the availability of \$900,000 in funds to help foster the development of health information exchange (HIE), electronic prescribing, and the adoption of electronic medical records across Georgia. DCH will award the matching grants to two or three qualified health care organizations that are prepared to make significant financial investments to establish HIE pilot programs.

“Georgia’s Health Information Technology and Transparency initiative is about using technology to empower consumers to make informed health care decisions,” said Dr. Medows. “Health Information Exchange will enable improved patient safety, quality of care, and patient and physician access to a patient’s health information.”

On October 17, 2006, Governor Sonny Perdue signed an Executive Order creating the Health Information Technology and Transparency (HITT) Board so it can advise DCH on the best practices for encouraging the use of electronic health records and establishing a statewide strategy to enable health information to be readily available and transparent. The announcement of the Georgia Health Information Exchange Pilot Program is based on recommendations from the HITT Advisory Board.

Applicants must submit a mandatory Letter of Intent to apply by August 31, 2007. Completed applications must be delivered to DCH by 4 p.m., EST on or before September 28, 2007.

For more information about the Georgia Health Information Exchange Pilot Program, visit www.dch.georgia.gov.

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About the Department of Community Health

The Georgia Department of Community Health champions:

ACCESS to affordable, quality health care in our communities

RESPONSIBLE health planning and use of health care resources

HEALTHY behaviors and improved health outcomes