



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH

NOTICE OF DIRECT AWARD

STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

**MEDICARE RURAL HOSPITAL FLEXIBILITY
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

**POSTING DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2011
INQUIRY CLOSING DATE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2011**

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DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION

MEDICARE RURAL HOSPITAL FLEXIBILITY (FLEX) QI PROGRAM

AGENCY BACKGROUND

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) was created in 1999 by Senate Bill 241 to serve as the lead agency for health care planning and purchasing issues in Georgia. DCH is the single state agency for Medicaid and insures 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.

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) is funded through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (FLEX) Grant.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (FLEX) Program was authorized by section 4201 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA), Public Law 105-33. The FLEX Program provides funding for the designation of critical access hospitals (CAHs) in rural communities. Critical Access Hospital designation allows the hospital to be reimbursed on a reasonable cost basis for inpatient and outpatient services (including lab and qualifying ambulance services) provided to Medicare patients.

The core areas of the Programs include support for:

- Quality Improvement
- Operational and Financial Improvement
- Health System Development and Community Engagement
- Education and Training

Additional activities within the FLEX Program include facilitating the conversion of hospitals CAH status supporting network development; and supporting for workforce issues.

AWARD JUSTIFICATION

The Georgia Department of Community Health intends to award Georgia Hospital Association Research and Education Foundation a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to provide and implement a quality improvement initiative within the 34 critical access hospitals and 16 small rural hospitals that focus on patient care outcomes, patient safety, infection prevention, and readmissions based on standardized quality improvement techniques at both the hospital and physician levels.

DCH presents this funding as a direct award in that Georgia Hospital Association Research and Education Foundation meets the federal requirements.

AWARD(S)

TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$5,000

TO SUBMIT INQUIRIES TO THIS DIRECT AWARD NOTIFICATION

Lloyd Richardson, Grant Specialist at LRichardson@dch.ga.gov no later than 2:00 PM on Monday, November 21, 2011