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## **Six Community Groups Receive \$1.5 Million in Health Care Grants** *Recipients Developing Rural Health Safety Net Programs*

**ATLANTA** – In an effort to further increase access to care in rural areas, Dr. Rhonda Medows, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), announced \$1.5 million in grants to six regional community groups. The grants will help strengthen Georgia’s Rural Health Safety Net Program (RHSN) and solidify the program’s goals of maintaining itself as a self-sustaining system, lead to improved health status and stimulate the local economy.

“The grant recipients have met the challenge of providing a regional approach to health care with a variety of innovative ideas,” said Dr. Medows. “Through the grant process, DCH is able to reward the regional health collaboratives with grant funds to facilitate an improved health care delivery system to better serve Georgia’s citizens.”

The following proposals were approved for the listed amount of funding:

1. Central Georgia Regional, Forsyth	\$321,500
2. Ty Cobb Healthcare, Royston	\$302,500
3. West GA Rural Health, Bremen	\$250,000
4. Spring Creek, Blakely	\$225,000
5. REACH, Greensboro	\$201,000
6. Three Ring Health Care, Hinesville	\$200,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1.5 million</b>

The DCH State Office of Rural Health administers the funding for the RHSN Program. The RHSN program will provide financial and technical support to the grantees to collaboratively design and implement a working plan that increases access to physical health, prevention services, behavioral health, etc.; moves towards consumer-driven health care; encourages a regional approach to services so that providers are more financially stable; and uses medical technology to improve health outcomes and improve efficiency.

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About Georgia Department of Community Health  
The Department of Community Health champions:

- 1) access to affordable, quality health care in our communities,
- 2) responsible health planning & use of healthcare resources and,
- 3) healthy behaviors & improved health outcomes.

Visit: [www.dch.georgia.gov](http://www.dch.georgia.gov) for more information on the Georgia Department of Community Health.

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