



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT  
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Georgia Awarded Federal Grant to Test Quality Measures in Medicaid Population**

*TEFT measures information exchange and coordination of services across multiple delivery systems*

ATLANTA (April 16, 2014) – The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) has been awarded a four-year grant by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to test quality measurement tools and demonstrate e-health in Medicaid long-term services and supports. The grant program, known as TEFT (Demonstration Grant for Testing Experience and Functional Assessment Tools {TEFT} in Medicaid Community-Based Long-Term Services and Supports), offers \$45 million to 10 qualified state applicants over four years.

During the grant period, Georgia will demonstrate the personal health record (PHR) component by working collaboratively with CMS and the Georgia Institute of Technology to survey populations in Georgia's Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver programs.

"We are excited that Georgia was selected to participate in the TEFT program," said Kelly Gonzalez, chief, DCH Division of Health IT. "This award maximizes our efforts to further health information technology by demonstrating how long-term services recipients can benefit from personal health records."

The TEFT initiative includes contracts for technical assistance and evaluation, and two interagency agreements with the U.S. Department of Defense and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). The four components of TEFT are:

- Field test an experience survey to assess services rendered to Medicaid Community-Based Long-Term Services and Supports (CB-LTSS) beneficiaries.
- Field test a set of Continuity Assessment Record & Evaluation (CARE) functional assessment measures to ensure that it addresses the needs of Medicaid CB-LTSS population.
- Demonstrate the utility of a Personal Health Record (PHR) for the Medicaid CB-LTSS population.

- Identify, evaluate and harmonize electronic Long-Term Services and Supports (e-LTSS) standards for e-LTSS Records in conjunction with the ONC Standards and Interoperability (S&I) Framework.

This solicitation is primarily intended to test the collection of adult quality measures for use in Medicaid LTSS. Additionally, it also provides Georgia the opportunity to use web-based PHR systems, subject to beneficiaries' permission, as a vehicle for capturing, testing and reporting on state quality measures and other related quality-related information.

“By leveraging its user-centered research and systems-thinking expertise, Georgia Tech is uniquely positioned to support DCH in the planning and implementation of the TEFT grant,” said Margarita Gonzalez, program manager, Georgia Tech Research Institute.

TEFT will support the evaluation and testing of standards for the e-LTSS record that will be used by providers to capture both health and service-delivery information electronically. These standards will also enable e-LTSS information to be shared with individuals through a PHR system.

### **About The Georgia Department of Community Health**

Through effective planning, purchasing and oversight, the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) provides access to affordable, quality health care to millions of Georgians, including some of the state's uninsured and most vulnerable populations.

DCH is responsible for Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids,<sup>®</sup> the State Health Benefit Plan, Healthcare Facility Regulation and Health Information Technology in Georgia.

Clyde L. Reese III, Esq., serves as Commissioner for the Georgia Department of Community Health.

To learn more about DCH and its dedication to **A Healthy Georgia**, visit [www.dch.georgia.gov](http://www.dch.georgia.gov).