

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 447.205, the Georgia Department of Community Health is required to give public notice of any significant proposed change in its methods and standards for setting payment rates for services.

CHANGES TO DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE HOSPITAL (DSH) ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY

Pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, the Department of Community Health (DCH) proposes a revision to the allocation methodology for the Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program, effective July 1, 2024.

Eligible hospitals in Pool 2 that are classified as a Rural Referral Center (RRC) by CMS and that are not eligible to participate in the Advancing Innovation to Deliver Equity (AIDE) or Strengthening The Reinvestment Of a Necessary-workforce in Georgia (STRONG) state directed payment programs will receive an allocation no less than 25% of their DSH Limit. Rural Referral Centers are high-volume acute care rural hospitals that treat a large number of complicated cases.

There is no change to the current methodology for eligible Pool 2 hospitals that are not classified as RRCs. Due to the DSH payments for RRCs being calculated differently from the remainder of Pool 2 hospitals, there will be two different allocation methodologies. Methodology A will apply to eligible RRCs, and Methodology B will apply to all other eligible DSH Pool 2 hospitals.

There is no change to the amount of funds available for DSH Payments; this proposal only changes the distribution of DSH funds.

	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
SFY2025	\$0	\$0	\$0

Additionally, the Pool 1 definition will be updated to include eligible critical access hospitals and rural hospitals with less than 100 beds. This removes eligibility for state-owned and operated acute care hospitals because presently there are no hospitals in the state that meet this definition.

This public notice is available for review at each county Division of Family and Children Services office. An opportunity for public comment will be held on **June 26, 2024 at 1:00 p.m., via Zoom audio**. There will be **no in-person** attendance at the Department of Community Health (DCH).

Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479 at least three (3) business days prior to the scheduled public hearing to ensure any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87394749594?pwd=aC1C6SbsyCSQfCIYkiGBeaQ0SRcopp.1>

Meeting ID: 873 9474 9594

Passcode: 605885

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,87394749594#,,,,*605885# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968,,87394749594#,,,,*605885# US

Dial by your location

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- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 360 209 5623 US
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 564 217 2000 US
- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 689 278 1000 US
- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 873 9474 9594

Passcode: 605885

Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before **July 3, 2024**, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1966. You may also email comments to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov or fax to 404-651-6880.

Comments submitted will be available for review by submitting a request via email to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov.

If the proposed changes are presented to the Board for final action, relevant comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board. The Board expects to vote on the proposed changes at the Board meeting to be held on **August 8, 2024** at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Community Health unless withdrawn or withheld by the Department for further review.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 24th DAY OF JUNE 2024
Russel Carlson, Commissioner