



**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT  
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

# **NOTICE OF DIRECT AWARD**

**STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH**

**GEORGIA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION (GHAREF)**

**MEDICARE RURAL HOSPITAL FLEXIBILITY (FLEX)  
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (QI) GRANT**

**POSTING DATE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2017  
INQUIRY CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2017**

**JOANNE MITCHELL GRANTS MANAGER  
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT AND GRANTS ADMINISTRATION  
2 PEACHTREE STREET, NW, 35TH FLOOR  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-3159  
TEL: (404) 651-6183 E-MAIL: [jmitchell@dch.ga.gov](mailto:jmitchell@dch.ga.gov)**

# **DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION**

## **GEORGIA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION (GHAREF) MEDICARE RURAL HOSPITAL FLEXIBILITY (FLEX) QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (QI) GRANT**

### **AGENCY BACKGROUND**

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) serves Georgians by improving access to health care in rural and underserved areas to improve health status and reduce health disparities.

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Department of Community Health, State Office of Rural Health works to improve access to health care in rural and underserved areas and to reduce health status disparities. SORH provides funding for institutional framework that links small rural communities with State & Federal resources to help develop long-term solutions to rural health problems.

The primary objectives include the following:

- Empower communities to strengthen and maintain the best possible health care using existing resources;
- Provide up-to-date health systems information and technical assistance;
- Build strong partnerships to meet local and regional needs;
- Provide incentives to local areas to implement integrated service delivery systems; and
- Be the single point of contact for all regional issues related to health care.

The purpose of the Georgia Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (FLEX) Quality Improvement (QI) Grant, referred to as the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP), is to focus on work through MBQIP activities to improve the quality of health care provided by critical access hospitals (CAHs).

### **AWARD JUSTIFICATION**

The Georgia Department of Community Health intends to award Georgia Hospital Association Research and Education Foundation in the amount of \$168,000 for MBQIP activities to focus on four different quality domains:

- 1) Patient Safety;
- 2) Patient Engagement;
- 3) Care Transitions; and
- 4) Outpatient Care.

Building and maintaining the participation of all CAHs in MBQIP through these sets of quality measurement and reporting activities are required. The Program additionally will provide education and training, access to the Patient Safety Culture Survey tool, comparison data for benchmarking, and technical assistance for data collection and reporting to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital Compare website.

DCH presents this funding as a direct award to Georgia Hospital Association Research and Education Foundation to improve the quality of health care provided by critical access hospitals (CAHs) and meet all federal requirements.

### **AWARD(S)**

**TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$168,000.00**

### **TO SUBMIT INQUIRIES TO THIS DIRECT AWARD NOTIFICATION**

Joanne Mitchell, Grants Manager at [jmitchell@dch.ga.gov](mailto:jmitchell@dch.ga.gov) no later than 2:00 PM on Friday, September 4, 2017.