



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH

NOTICE OF DIRECT AWARD

STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

**SMALL RURAL HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM
(SHIP)**

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

JUNE 12, 2018

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DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION

GEORGIA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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	<p>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.</p> <p>The primary objectives include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• Be the single point of contact for all regional issues related to health care.
AWARD JUSTIFICATION	<p>The Georgia Department of Community Health intends to award Georgia Hospital Association Research and Education Foundation (GHAREF) \$111,870.00 to fund SHIP pre-approved activities. The SHIP grant provides funding to Georgia's small rural hospitals to assist them in defraying costs related to implementation of the Prospective Payment System (PPS), Accountable Care Organizations (ACO), Payment Bundling, and Value Based Purchasing (VBP). The purpose of this grant is to improve patient and family centered continuum of care, addressing care coordinating efforts and issues while improving the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) score.</p> <p>DCH presents this funding as a direct award to the members of the GHAREF "Advancing Care Transitions Collaborative" Consortium - Bacon County Hospital, Chatuge Regional Hospital, Effingham Hospital, Habersham Medical Center, Jasper Memorial Hospital, Jeff Davis Hospital, Mitchell County Hospital, Optim Medical Center-Screven, Phoebe Sumter Medical Center, St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital, and University Hospital McDuffie as components of the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program that meets the federal grant requirements and as such were named as recipients in the Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA) federal grant application.</p>
AWARD(S)	TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$111,870.00

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS DIRECT AWARD NOTIFICATION

Contact: Joanne Mitchell, Grants Manager at jmitchell@dch.ga.gov