



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH

NOTICE OF DIRECT AWARD

STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

**GRADY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)-
COMPANION GRANT**

**POSTING DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016
INQUIRY CLOSING DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016**

**JOANNE D. MITCHELL, GRANTS MANAGER
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DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION

GRADY EMS COMPANION GRANT

AGENCY BACKGROUND	<p>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.</p>
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. <p>The purpose of the Grady EMS Companion Grant is to provide technical assistance and public education to support the expansion of a current telemedicine project to include the coordination of care for chronically ill residents who have been identified as high utilizers of emergency services.</p> <p>The State Office of Rural Health, Community Health Systems, Inc., and the Grady Health System have agreed to partner together to support this additional component of the current telemedicine project. At the end of this project, the results will be evaluated to determine the effectiveness of the care coordination efforts and determine if a sustainable and replicable model could be utilized in other rural communities throughout the state.</p>
AWARD JUSTIFICATION	<p>The Georgia Department of Community Health intends to award Grady Health System Emergency Medical Services in the amount of \$40,000 to support the expansion of a current telemedicine project, to include the coordination of care for chronically ill residents who have been identified as high utilizers of emergency services. Grady Health System EMS is the legally designated 911 provider of Emergency Services in Hancock County and is the only ambulance service that is participating in the current Mercer Hancock Telemedicine Grant with DCH. Grady EMS currently operates their own 911 Communications Center, and have staff available on a 24/7 basis to answer emergency and non-emergency calls. The EMS staff in Hancock County have been trained in the use of the telemedicine equipment and are currently performing examinations on patients who meet the screening criteria. The EMS staff also have direct access to the Grady Communications Center, and can be dispatched on both emergency and non-emergency calls, and can also provide emergency care if the condition of a non-emergency patient deteriorates. A team of experienced Emergency Medicine physicians actively oversees all patient care provided by EMS personnel employed by Grady EMS, and are actively engaged in the Hancock County project.</p>

	DCH presents this funding as a direct award in that Grady Health System Emergency Medical Services utilize funding to offset the cost of data collection in identifying the target patient group, enrollment of patients into the care coordination program, and to support a non-emergency 1-800 phone number for access to the telemedicine services project currently on-going in Hancock County.
AWARD(S)	TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$40,000.00
<u>TO SUBMIT INQUIRIES TO THIS DIRECT AWARD NOTIFICATION</u>	
Joanne Mitchell, Grants Manager at jmitchell@dch.ga.gov no later than 2:00 PM on Wednesday, March 9, 2016	