



**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

NOTICE OF DIRECT AWARD

STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

HOMETOWN HEALTH (HTH), LLC

**MEDICARE RURAL HOSPITAL FLEXIBILITY (FLEX) PROGRAM
CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL (CAH) SWING BED
MANAGEMENT GRANT**

November 15, 2018

**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**

DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION

**HOMETOWN HEALTH (HTH), LLC
MEDICARE RURAL HOSPITAL FLEXIBILITY (FLEX) PROGRAM CRITICAL ACCESS
HOSPITAL (CAH) SWING BED MANAGEMENT GRANT**

**AGENCY
BACKGROUND**

The Georgia Department of Community Health (“DCH”) has the responsibility for insuring over ten 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 individuals. Within DCH, the State Office of Rural Health (“SORH”) serves Georgians by improving access to health care in rural and underserved areas designed to improve health and reduce health disparities.

**PROGRAM
OVERVIEW**

DCH, 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:

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

“The Flex Program” refers to the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (FLEX) Program, which was created by Congress in 1997. It allows small hospitals to be certified as Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) and offers grants to States to help implement initiatives to strengthen the rural health care infrastructure.

**AWARD
JUSTIFICATION**

The Georgia Medicare Rural Hospital FLEX Program, Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Swing Bed Management Grant will provide rural hospitals with expert training and technical assistance for their staff to understand and adhere to the requirements of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ Conditions of Participation (CoP) and corresponding Interpretive Guidelines, (also known as the State Operations Manual), Appendix W, Survey Protocol, Regulations and Interpretive Guidelines for Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) and Swing-Beds. In addition, Grantee will also assist with monitoring patient outcomes, ongoing quality improvement efforts, and increasing utilization and revenue for post-acute care services.

AWARD(S)

TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$200,000.00

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS DIRECT AWARD NOTIFICATION

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