



**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

NOTICE OF DIRECT AWARD

STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

**GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND SERVICE
FOUNDATION**

**MEDICARE RURAL HOSPITAL FLEXIBILITY (FLEX) PROGRAM
FINANCIAL and OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENT GRANT**

November 15, 2018

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DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION

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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 status and reduce health disparities.
PROGRAM OVERVIEW	<p>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.</p> <p>The primary objectives include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. <p>“The Flex Program” refers to the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility 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.</p>
AWARD JUSTIFICATION	<p>The Georgia Medicare Rural Hospital FLEX Program, Financial and Operational Grant will help to improve financial and operational outcomes for critical access hospitals (CAHs) by focusing on strategic planning and technical assistance for Lean Six Sigma Certification.</p> <p>A cohort of three (3) Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) has been identified to participate in the FLEX Financial and Operational Improvement Strategic Planning Program. The three (3) hospitals are: 1. Clinch Memorial Hospital, 2. Putnam General Hospital, and 3. Wills Memorial Hospital. Technical assistance for certification in Lean Six Sigma will be provided to CAHs that have completed Lean Six Sigma training.</p>
AWARD(S)	TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$30,000.00

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS DIRECT AWARD NOTIFICATION

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