



**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: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016
INQUIRY CLOSING DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2016**

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GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
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DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION

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

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 program, referred to as the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP), is to focus on work to improve the quality of health care provided by critical access hospitals (CAHs). MBQIP activities are focused on four different quality domains; Patient Safety, Patient Engagement, Care Transitions, and 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 provides 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. In consideration for the compensation identified herein, GRANTEE will participate as the sub-recipient and financial agent for the Flex QI Program.

AWARD JUSTIFICATION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Georgia Department of Community Health intends to award Georgia Hospital Association Research and Education Foundation in the amount of \$172,000.00 to: Provide and implement the quality improvement initiative within 30 critical access hospitals that focuses on the four quality domains outlined in the required Federal Office of Rural Health Policy’s Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant Program (MBQIP); Patient safety, Patient Engagement, Care Transitions, and Outpatient Care; 2. Identify CAHs which choose to participate in the optional quality improvement initiatives focused on the administration of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Patient Safety Culture Survey and abstraction and publicly reporting Emergency Department Inpatient Measures; 3. Provide education and training opportunities via webinars and web based access to tools and resources for evidence based practices for each of the MBQIP measures as delineated in the work plan; 4. Provide QualityWorks software to each requesting CAH, training, and technical support for abstraction and reporting required and optional measures to QualityNet to all CAHs; 5. Provide technical support, education and training opportunities for measure reporting via National Healthcare Safety network (NHSN), QualityNet web-based measure data entry and measures reported directly to State Office of Rural Health (SORH); 6. Provide online AHRQ Culture of Patient Safety Survey, analysis of results and reports to each requesting critical access hospital; 7. Supply the State Office of Rural Health (SORH) with a detailed plan describing how maximum hospital participation will be achieved; 8. Maintain appropriate staff, responsible for the management and daily operations of the grant; this includes but is not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The provision of a competent and experienced safety and quality specialist to supply data driven technical assistance to participating hospitals; and b. The provision of a person(s) who will be responsible for the development and execution of the program. 9. Ensure appropriate documentation is in place for all deliverables and expenditures related to the grant agreement; 10. Submit quarterly invoices with copies of receipts or any other supporting documentation to the SORH in accordance with this Agreement for payment of Program services and any other items approved by the SORH (additional instructions will be provided by the SORH as needed); 11. Submission of quarterly and final reports and data reports as required by the SORH; and 12. Adhere to other instructions or requests that may from time-to-time be required by the SORH.
	<p>DCH presents this funding as direct awards to Georgia Hospital Association Research and Education Foundation to improve the quality of health care provided by critical access hospitals (CAHs) and meet federal requirements.</p>
AWARD(S)	TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$172,000.00
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TO SUBMIT INQUIRIES TO THIS DIRECT AWARD NOTIFICATION</u></p> <p>Joanne Mitchell, Grants Manager at jmitchell@dch.ga.gov no later than 2:00 PM on Wednesday, October 5, 2016.</p>	