



**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

NOTICE OF DIRECT AWARD

STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

THE CORPORATION OF MERCER UNIVERSITY

RURAL HEALTH SYSTEM INNOVATION CENTER GRANT

January 31, 2019

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DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION

THE CORPORATION OF MERCER UNIVERSITY RURAL HEALTH SYSTEM INNOVATION CENTER GRANT

AGENCY BACKGROUND	The Georgia Department of Community Health (“DCH”) 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 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	<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.
AWARD JUSTIFICATION	The Rural Health System Innovation Center Grant (“the Center”) will develop a research center to identify, analyze, and propose solutions for significant rural health system problems. The Center will also serve as a rural health data repository for collection and dissemination of health data and serve as a clearinghouse for data integration and analysis. In addition, it will develop standards for education curriculum for hospital executive leadership, hospital authority members, and hospital board members of rural hospitals and other health care facilities in the State of Georgia.
AWARD(S)	TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$927,349.00

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS DIRECT AWARD NOTIFICATION

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