



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH

NOTICE OF DIRECT AWARD

STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

**SMALL RURAL HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM
(SHIP)**

STROUDWATER ASSOCIATES, INC.

JUNE 12, 2018

**JOANNE D. 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

STROUDWATER ASSOCIATES, INC.

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	<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.
AWARD JUSTIFICATION	<p>The Georgia Department of Community Health intends to award Stroudwater Associates \$50,850.00 to establish best practice pricing strategies and to provide consulting support with interpreting Chargemaster benchmarks. The SHIP grant provides funding to Georgia's small rural hospitals to assist them in defraying costs related to implementation of the Prospective Payment System (PPS), Accountable Care Organizations (ACO), Payment Bundling, and Value Based Purchasing (VBP). The purpose of this grant is to build a group of hospitals and have other stakeholders that work together, pool resources to support hospital collaboration in transforming areas of quality, financial process, provider and finance collaboration relative to quality, and promote shared best practices among hospitals as they transform to new models of care. The consortium will offer hands on training and updates, monthly educational webinars and provide mini-series of educational programs on Quality & HCAHPS and Financial Processes.</p> <p>DCH presents this funding as a direct award to the members of the Stroudwater Associates "PB/PPS – Rural Hospital Strategic Pricing Initiative" Consortium – Donalsonville Hospital, Irwin County Hospital, LifeBrite Community Hospital of Early, Morgan Memorial Hospital, and Putnam General Hospital as components of the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program that meets the federal grant requirements and as such were named as recipients in the Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA) federal grant application.</p>
AWARD(S)	TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$50,850.00

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS DIRECT AWARD NOTIFICATION

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