



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH

NOTICE OF DIRECT AWARD

STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

**GEORGIA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

**MEDICARE RURAL HOSPITAL FLEXIBILITY (FLEX)
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (QI) GRANT**

**POSTING DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2015
INQUIRY CLOSING DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015**

**ROMERO M. STOKES, GRANT MANAGER
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT AND GRANTS ADMINISTRATION
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DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION

GEORGIA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION MEDICARE RURAL HOSPITAL FLEXIBILITY QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT

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 of SORH 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) Grant Quality Improvement (QI) Grant program area, referred to as the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP), focuses 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

In 2008, Georgia Hospital Association Research and Education Foundation (GHAREF) was identified as the Sole Source capable of performing the duties of this award. DCH intends to award GHAREF the amount of \$171,372.00. DCH presents this funding as a direct award in that the GHAREF meets the federal requirements.

AWARD(S)	TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$171,372.00
<p data-bbox="347 212 1274 243" style="text-align: center;"><u>TO SUBMIT INQUIRIES TO THIS DIRECT AWARD NOTIFICATION</u></p> <p data-bbox="391 260 1230 323" style="text-align: center;">Romero M. Stokes, Grant Manager at rstokes@dch.ga.gov no later than 2:00 PM on Wednesday, October 21, 2015</p>	