



**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT  
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

# **NOTICE OF DIRECT AWARD**

**STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH**

**GEORGIA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION RESEARCH  
AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION (GHAREF)**

**RURAL GEORGIA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN GRANT**

**POSTING DATE: FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2016  
INQUIRY CLOSING DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2016**

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# **DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION**

## **GEORGIA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION RURAL GEORGIA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN GRANT**

<b>AGENCY BACKGROUND</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>PROGRAM OVERVIEW</b>	<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 &amp; 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"><li>• Empower communities to strengthen and maintain the best possible health care using existing resources.</li><li>• Provide up-to-date health systems information and technical assistance.</li><li>• Build strong partnerships to meet local and regional needs.</li><li>• Provide incentives to local areas to implement integrated service delivery systems.</li><li>• Be the single point of contact for all regional issues related to health care.</li></ul> <p>The purpose of the Rural Hospital Behavioral Health Environmental Scan Grant is to provide an overview of behavioral health population characteristics and the status of behavioral health care access in rural Georgia, identify the key programs and organizations involved in these issues, highlight gaps in information or resources, present measures that can help to assess the status of each of the issues, and inform the development of education and training that can advance solutions to behavioral health access to care.</p> <p>The State Office of Rural Health and Georgia Hospital Association Research and Education Foundation have agreed to partner together to provide a summary of findings from the environmental scan; that is, not a summary of data but conclusions that could be drawn from the scan. The executive summary should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recognized local-level coordination issues, including opportunity to facilitate enhanced coordination and communication</li><li>• Provide awareness to any regional work force development issues</li><li>• Identify opportunities for developing partnerships with various stakeholders</li><li>• Specify mechanisms available to share lessons learned with others in the state.</li></ul>

<b>AWARD JUSTIFICATION</b>	<p>The Georgia Department of Community Health intends to award Georgia Hospital Association Research and Education Foundation in the amount of \$150,000 to conduct an environmental scan to map out the systems and programs (including those funded through federal and private grants) that serve behavioral health needs of rural Georgia (specifically targeting the sixty-three rural and critical access hospitals in counties designated rural under the Rural Assistance Act O.C.G.A.31-7-94.1 for project recruitment) The process must consider input from people representing the broad interests of the community, including subject matter experts with special knowledge or expertise in behavioral health. The assessment process must include a transparent reporting process and Grantee should include the following elements in their scan reports:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stakeholder participation: A description of who participated in the scanning process and how stakeholders were engaged and the diverse perspectives ensured.</li> <li>2. Methodology: A description of the methods used for gathering scan data (e.g., extant data, focus groups, surveys, etc.).</li> <li>3. Scan data: The information grantee have collected across programs, providers, and services that allowed them to identify existing gaps and redundancies in relevant systems. Grantee should submit a template, that captures an “inventory” of programs and the information collected about them. If grantee have developed other instruments for collecting data (e.g., an interview protocol) or have other raw data (e.g., notes from an interview or focus group), they do not need to submit these items with the scan document.</li> </ol> <p>Additionally, a Behavioral Health Summit disseminating the findings will be provided at the conclusion of the grant period.</p>
	<p>DCH presents this funding as a direct award in that Georgia Hospital Association Research and Education Foundation in that the information presented in the environmental scan can be used by a variety of stakeholders to support efforts to improve health and access to high quality rural behavioral health care services, as well as enhance practical knowledge and collaboration.</p>
<b>AWARD(S)</b>	<b>TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$150,000.00</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>TO SUBMIT INQUIRIES TO THIS DIRECT AWARD NOTIFICATION</u></b></p> <p>Toni Owens, Grants Specialist at <a href="mailto:towens@dch.ga.gov">towens@dch.ga.gov</a> no later than 2:00 PM on Wednesday, June 15, 2016.</p>	