



**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

NOTICE OF DIRECT AWARD

STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

GEORGIA MEDICAL CARE FOUNDATION (GMCF)

GEORGIA RURAL HOSPITAL PEER REVIEW GRANT

**POSTING DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2016
INQUIRY CLOSING DATE: THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2016**

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DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION

GEORGIA MEDICAL CARE FOUNDATION GEORGIA RURAL HOSPITAL PEER REVIEW GRANT

AGENCY BACKGROUND	<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>
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. <p>The purpose of the Rural Hospital Behavioral Health Environmental Scan Grant is to provide the credentialing and maintenance of qualified physicians to provide ongoing professional performance evaluations (OPPE) as well as Focused Professional Practice Evaluation (FPPE) to Georgia rural hospitals.</p> <p>The State Office of Rural Health and Georgia Medical Care Foundation have agreed to partner together to provide the development of a rural hospital external peer review framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To create an ongoing, systemic, data based process for the rural hospital medical staff to evaluate practitioner performance and maintain accountabilities for addressing opportunities for improvement.• To assist rural hospital medical staff to identify and resolve performance problems.• To create a positive peer case review culture by recognizing practitioner excellence as well as identifying improvement opportunities through a process that is clearly defined, fair, efficient and useful.

AWARD JUSTIFICATION	<p>The Georgia Department of Community Health intends to award Georgia Medical Care Foundation in the amount of \$150,000 to develop the framework for the development of the “Georgia Rural Hospital External Peer Review Network. In the development stage of this project the grantee will prepare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “External Peer Review Operating Plan,” which serves as the bylaws of the external peer-review body • “External Peer Review Services Agreement,” which defines the grantee’s relationship with the hospital’s medical review body that requests external peer-review services • “Agreement to Provide Peer Review Services,” which defines the contracted relationship between the physician reviewers • Program awareness materials and education/training webinars to recruit Georgia rural hospitals for Network participation <p>The overall goal of the program is for improved quality of healthcare for network member hospitals in the rural areas of Georgia by monitoring the performance of medical staff and identifying areas for improvement. The development of this network will provide access to appropriate and timely peer review.</p>
	<p>DCH presents this funding as a direct award in that Georgia Medical Care Foundation will address the lack of available peer review for rural Georgia hospitals.</p>
AWARD(S)	TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$150,000.00
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TO SUBMIT INQUIRIES TO THIS DIRECT AWARD NOTIFICATION</u></p> <p>Toni Owens, Grants Specialist at towens@dch.ga.gov no later than 2:00 PM on Monday, June 20, 2016.</p>	