



**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

NOTICE OF DIRECT AWARD

STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

**GEORGIA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
FOUNDATION (GHAREF) – CENTER FOR RURAL HEALTH**

RURAL HOSPITAL DATA PROGRAM GRANT

July 5, 2018

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DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION

GEORGIA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION (GHAREF) – CENTER FOR RURAL HEALTH RURAL HOSPITAL DATA PROGRAM 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	<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; and• Be the single point of contact for all regional issues related to health care.
AWARD JUSTIFICATION	<p>The Rural Hospital Data Program Grant was created to encourage health systems or primary care providers to purchase data analytic or electronic/digital population health tools to improve health outcomes in rural Georgia. This program will serve the fifty-eight Georgia rural hospitals defined by the Rural Hospital Organization Assistance Act of 2017 codified within Senate Bill 180 (2017 session).</p> <p>This grant program is intended to provide for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to web-based data analytic software programs to assist eligible rural hospitals in population health, care coordination and market share analysis; and• Initial training and ongoing technical support for hospital staff including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “How-To” guide for the data analytic software tools; and○ Developing skills to make data actionable or to support decision-making.
AWARD(S)	TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$1,000,000.00

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS DIRECT AWARD NOTIFICATION

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