



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH

NOTICE OF DIRECT AWARD

T.E.S.T. GEORGIA EXPANDED ACCESS TO HIV TESTING

POSTING DATE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2010

INQUIRY CLOSING DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2010

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DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION

T.E.S.T EXPANDED ACCESS TO HIV TESTING

AGENCY BACKGROUND

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) was created in 1999 by Senate Bill 241 to serve as the lead agency for health care planning and purchasing issues in Georgia. DCH is the single state agency for Medicaid and insures 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.

In 2009, Healthcare Facility Regulation was created at DCH from sections transferred from the former Department of Human Resources Office of Regulatory Services. At that same time, the Divisions of Public Health and Emergency Preparedness and Response transitioned to the DCH.

Within DCH, the Division of Public Health (DPH), State Office of Infectious Disease and Immunization are responsible for disease control and prevention. This is accomplished through prevention and mitigation of certain communicable and/or notifiable infectious diseases. It is this office which houses the HIV Prevention Unit. The HIV Prevention Unit is charged with the mission of reducing HIV transmission and providing excellence in Georgia's HIV/AIDS services through innovation and community partnership. The HIV Unit is dedicated to the provision of education, information, and health care services that promote and protect the health of all Georgians.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The HIV Prevention Program coordinates the Statewide HIV Prevention Community Planning Group, develops and implements the Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan, coordinates the HIV testing program and data reporting for the state, and provides capacity building and training for community partners and public health staff. The HIV Prevention Program also provides funding to community based organizations and health districts covering all 18 health districts in Georgia. The activities covered under the HIV Prevention Program include:

- HIV Counseling and Testing
- HIV Prevention Interventions
- HIV Prevention Community Planning
- Pregnant Women and HIV Testing

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The T.E.S.T. Expanded Access to HIV Testing grant provides funding to increase HIV testing opportunities for Georgia populations disproportionately affected by HIV – primarily (1) African American and Hispanic men and women, and (2) men who have sex with men (MSM) and (3) injection drug users (IDUs), regardless of race or ethnicity – and increase the proportion of HIV-infected persons in these populations who are aware of their infection and are linked to appropriate services. The program is also intended to identify strategies to maximize the yield and sustainability of routine HIV screening programs in healthcare settings. This is a one year pilot project to implement a client tracking and retention program for HIV infected patients enrolled in the Grady Infectious Disease Program's (IDP) Ryan White clinic. In collaboration with the DCH Linkage Coordinator, Grady IDP will implement the Antiretroviral Treatment Access Study (ARTAS) linkage to HIV care intervention returned to care after a period of missed appointments. The program will provide a comprehensive approach to linking HIV positive individuals to care, providing partner services (PS), and provide training to increase attendance for medical care appointments and reduce risk of transmission and/or re-infection for patients who have recently tested positive or have

AWARD JUSTIFICATION

The Georgia Department of Community Health intends to award **Fulton - DeKalb Hospital Authority** herein referred to as *Grady Health System, Infectious Diseases Program (IDP)* a grant in the amount of \$130,000 to increase HIV testing opportunities for Georgia populations disproportionately affected by HIV. DCH presents this funding as a direct award in that Grady's IDP is one of the largest, most comprehensive facilities dedicated to the treatment of advanced HIV/AIDS in the United States that provides routine outpatient medical care to the biggest population of HIV positive patients in Georgia. Many individuals in this patient population meet at least one of the socio-demographic factors that are associated with higher risk of non-adherence with HIV treatment (*i.e.* younger age, nonwhite race/ethnicity, lower income, lower literacy, and unstable housing etc). The above factors as well as the ancillary and support services available make **Grady Health System, IDP** the most appropriate grantee.

AWARD(S)

TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$130,000.00

TO SUBMIT INQUIRIES TO THIS DIRECT AWARD NOTIFICATION

Kristal Y. Thompson – Black, Grant Administrator at kblack@dch.ga.gov no later than 2:00 PM on Wednesday, November 10, 2010