



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH

NOTICE OF DIRECT AWARD

GEORGIA HEMOGLOBINOPATHIES SURVEILLANCE PILOT PROJECT

POSTING DATE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2010

INQUIRY CLOSING DATE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2010

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DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION

GEORGIA HEMOGLOBINOPATHIES SURVEILLANCE PROJECT

AGENCY BACKGROUND	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Within DCH, the Division of Public Health (DPH), the Newborn Screening Unit within the Office of Maternal and Child Health is committed to protecting and improving the health of all infants by assuring all newborns receive appropriate screening, follow-up, and medical services. The Newborn Screening Program screens for some genetic disorders, endocrine conditions, and hearing loss.</p>
PROGRAM BACKGROUND	<p>It is estimated that Georgia has one of the largest state sickle cell disease (SCD) populations in the nation. The total number of Georgians with hemoglobinopathies is unknown this is compounded by a scarcity of health care providers able and/or willing to provide appropriate care thereby making the quality of care and health care outcomes for this group poorly defined. The Georgia Hemoglobinopathy Surveillance Program (GA HSP) seeks to improve health services and outcomes for an estimated 7,000 – 11,000 Georgians with SCD and other clinically symptomatic hemoglobin disorders by the creation of a new Georgia Hemoglobinopathy Surveillance Program database that includes information from various public and private patient data sources, including newborn screening, hemoglobinopathy treatment centers, and healthcare providers.</p>
PROGRAM OVERVIEW	<p>The Georgia Hemoglobinopathy Surveillance Program (GA HSP) is a pilot program for a comprehensive population-based data system for sickle cell disease and thalassemia. Data from the system will fill the need for statistically sound estimates of prevalence and for much needed information on medical care utilization and complication rates in sickle cell disease and thalassemia patient populations. This pilot program will be implemented in phases. This current focus is on surveillance phase of this program, but there will be plans to link clinical information that will be collected by the state awardees.</p> <p>This Pilot has four objectives: 1) Determine the prevalence hemoglobin disorders (SCD and thalassemia) across the lifespan in Georgia; 2) Determine the annual incidence of hemoglobin disorders in Georgia; 3) Describe the demographics of populations with the various hemoglobin disorders in Georgia; and 4) Collaborate with the CDC and other state surveillance projects to develop a plan and infrastructure that supports the development of a hemoglobinopathy registry.</p>
AWARD JUSTIFICATION	<p>The Georgia Department of Community Health intends to award The Georgia Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center at Grady (Atlanta), The Sickle Cell Disease Program at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and the Sickle Cell Center at the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) (Augusta) and The Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia (SCFG) a grant in the amount of \$70,000 to pilot the Georgia Hemoglobinopathy Surveillance Program. DCH presents this funding as a direct award in that these three organizations encompass the states largest and comprehensive SCD programs.</p>
AWARD(S)	TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$210,000.00

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 Thursday, November 18, 2010