

# RURAL HEALTH GRANTS

## Grant Programs:

### 1. Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Program

- a. **Purpose:** Grant provides a mechanism for improving and sustaining access to appropriate health care services of high quality in rural Georgia supporting conversion of small rural hospitals to critical access status. This aids in developing rural health care networks by strengthening and integrating rural Emergency Medical Services (EMS) facilitating the development of model community-based rural collaborative systems of care.
- b. **Fund Source:** 70% Federal / 30% State
- c. **Impact of Loss:** Almost 4,000 patients would not have been screened for cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer; patients also received wellness and prevention education. These preventive services assist patients in identifying issues before they become costly health concerns.

### 2. Small Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP)

- a. **Purpose:** Grants are issued for the purpose of purchasing technical assistance, services, and information technology in an effort to reduce medical errors and support quality improvement.
- b. **Fund Source:** 100% Federal
- c. **Impact of Loss:** \$462,068 federal funds to 53 rural hospitals would be lost. The funding assists the hospitals in addressing unfunded mandates such as HIPAA, quality improvement and Medicaid billing compliance.

### 3. Homeless Grants

- a. **Purpose:** Provide primary healthcare services to the homeless population in the Atlanta area.
- b. **Fund Source:** 100% State
- c. **Impact of Loss:** Loss of medical providers for the homeless population which may result in an increase of costly Emergency Room utilization by this population.

### 4. Federally Qualified Health Centers(FQHC)- *New Start or Expansion Grants*

- a. **Purpose:** Grants are designed to provide funding for the development and implementation of FQHCs by locating services in the following counties; Bacon, Augusta/Richmond, Murray, Lanier, Gwinnett, and Macon/Bibb.
- b. **Fund Source:** 100% State
- c. **Impact of Loss:** Loss of 5 medical homes for underserved patients; 4045 patient visits since July 1. The one time \$1.5M investment has

currently yielded \$1.8M annually in federal funding that will continue into perpetuity.

5. The **Federally Qualified Health Centers(FQHC)- *Behavioral Health***
  - a. **Purpose:** Grants provide funding for Integrated Behavioral Health Services as part of the following FQHC operations: Albany Area Primary Health Care, Inc., E. GA Healthcare, Inc., Community Health Care Services, Inc, Valley Healthcare Inc., & Bacon County.
  - b. **Fund Source:** 100% State
  - c. **Impact of Loss:** Loss of 5 mental health provider locations; 132 patients now have a medical home for mental health services. The number will continue to grow with infrastructure now in place.
  
6. The **Federally Qualified Health Centers(FQHC)- *Electronic Medical Records***
  - a. **Purpose-** Grants provide for the development, coordination, planning and implementation of a centralized Health Information Technology (HIT) for Federally Qualified Health Centers in rural and underserved areas of Georgia in partnership with the Georgia Association of Primary Health Care (GAPHC)
  - b. **Fund Source:** 100% State
  - c. **Impact of Loss:** 121 FQHC clinics are serviced by a common HIT system; state funds yield a \$1.2M Federal Grant due to state investment.
  
7. The **Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)**
  - a. **Purpose:** The initiative supports Georgia's AHECs in the efforts to encourage and facilitate the development of Georgia's Health Care Workforce.
  - b. **Fund Source:** 3% Federal/ 97% State
  - c. **Impact of Loss:** There would be no statewide focus on the development of health care workforce for underserved communities. HRSA has designated MCG - AHEC as Georgia's statewide AHEC program.
  
8. The **Georgia Farm Workers Program**
  - a. **Purpose:** Grants provide health care for seasonal farm workers and their families.
  - b. **Fund Source:** 100% Federal
  - c. **Impact of Loss:** Over 12K patients would not have a medical home other than hospital emergency rooms as most clinics and physician office do not have bilingual staff to provide care. \$2.4M in federal funds would be lost increasing burden on GA hospitals.
  - d. **Care to be provided:** Primary health care services to seasonal and migrant Georgia farm workers.

**State Office of Rural Health Advisory Board Council**

**Kevin Taylor, COO**  
Archbold Health System

**Carlos Stapleton, Executive Director**  
Georgia Highlands Medical Services, Inc

**Cindy Turner, CEO**  
Bacon County Hospital

**Charles F. Owens**  
**SORH Executive Director**

**Grace Newsome, EdD, APRN, BC, FNP**  
North Georgia College and State University

**Gregory J. Dent, President/CEO**  
Community Health Works

**Jennie Wren Denmark, CEO**  
East Georgia Healthcare Center, Inc.

**Maryanne Shepherd, FNP**  
Ellaville Primary Medicine Clinic

**O. J. Booker III, CHE, CEO**  
Monroe County Hospital

**Steve Barber, MBA CPA, CFO**  
Ty Cobb Health System

**Stuart Tedders, PhD**  
Giann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health

**William Bina, MD, MPH**  
Mercer University

## **Grantees**

### **Rural Hospital Flexibility (FLEX)**

- 1 Georgia Hospital Association
- 2 Southwest Georgia Health Care, Inc.
- 3 Meadows Regional Hospital

### **Counties Served**

Bacon, Bleckley, Brooks, Calhoun, Candler, Towns, Charlton, Clinch, Early, Effingham, Jasper, Jeff Davis, Jenkins, Liberty, Lanier, Wheeler, Miller, Greene, Mitchell, Monroe, Morgan, Peach, Putnam, Screven, Randolph, Stewart, Butts, Tattnall, Meriwether, Wilkes  
Stewart, Webster, Quitman  
Toombs, Jeff Davis, Tattnall, Telfair

### **Small Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP)**

- 1 Brooks County Hospital
- 2 Candler County Hospital
- 3 Chestatee Regional Hospital
- 4 Clinch Memorial Hospital
- 5 Flint River Community Hospital
- 6 Higgins General Hospital
- 7 Jasper Memorial Hospital
- 8 Liberty Regional Medical Center
- 9 Lower Oconee Community Hospital
- 10 McDuffie Regional Medical Center
- 11 Miller County Hospital
- 12 Morgan County Hospital
- 13 Perry Hospital
- 14 Polk Medical Center

### **Counties Served**

Brooks and surrounding counties  
Candler and surrounding counties  
Lumpkin and surrounding counties  
Clinch and surrounding counties  
Macon and surrounding counties  
Haralson and surrounding counties  
Jasper and surrounding counties  
Liberty and surrounding counties  
Wheeler and surrounding counties  
McDuffie and surrounding counties  
Miller and surrounding counties  
Morgan and surrounding counties  
Houston and surrounding counties  
Polk and surrounding counties