



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH

NOTICE OF DIRECT AWARD

FLEX RURAL VETERANS HEALTH ACCESS PROGRAM

POSTING DATE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2010

INQUIRY CLOSING DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2010

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DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION

FLEX RURAL VETERANS HEALTH ACCESS PROGRAM

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>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 BACKGROUND	<p>The percentage of veterans in Georgia is 10.9 percent a ranking of 26th in the nation. Of the 773,602 veterans in the state, 227,501 (almost one third) are dispersed across the rural Georgia. For these veterans access to care is limited due to distance; lack of organized network collaboratives to provide mental health services and the lack of mental health professionals. This program was developed to provide veterans with access to care in a timely and cost effective manner through virtual linkages. These virtual linkages will enhance mental health services, including the provision of crisis intervention and diagnostic assessments to detect post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and other injuries associated with veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom including the referral of these veterans to medical facilities operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs and for the delivery of these services to other residents of such rural areas.</p>
PROGRAM OVERVIEW	<p>Development of a program devoted to veterans via the telemedicine network will assist in ensuring enhanced access to services for those residents of rural Georgia who, in many cases, have difficulty accessing services due to distance or other barriers. The emphasis of the grant is to identify innovative approaches to improve the capacity of hospitals in rural areas to deliver mental and other health services using collaborative networks and virtual linkages to reach out to rural veterans where in states veterans make up a high percentage of total population and mental health professionals and other health service providers are separated by distance or time.</p>
AWARD JUSTIFICATION	<p>In consideration of the federal grant requirements for electronic exchange of information, information storage and adherence to HIPAA privacy and security compliance regulations between the multiple mental health providers/sites, hospitals, and primary care providers and Veterans Administration, the Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth with its existing infrastructure is the only means of providing readily available, quality services for the veterans of the state in the most expedient and cost efficient manner.</p> <p>DCH intends to award Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth a grant in the amount of \$300,000 and presents this funding as a direct award in that Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth is the sole Statewide Telemedicine Program thereby meeting all the above requirements..</p>
AWARD(S)	TOTAL DIRECT AWARD FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$ 300,000.00

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 Tuesday, August 17, 2010