

Potential Opportunities for Georgia Hospitals in the Federal Stimulus Package

April 2009



Dollars Available to Georgia Hospitals Through Federal Stimulus Package

In February 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) otherwise known as the federal stimulus package. While most are aware of the broad implications the \$787 billion recovery program has on major public initiatives such as Medicaid, education and transportation, there remains hundreds of millions of dollars in funding opportunities for community organizations such as public hospitals that have not been heavily publicized.

In effort to educate Georgia hospitals about potential funding opportunities through the federal stimulus package, the GHA staff compiled a comprehensive list of those stimulus programs that may provide valuable grant or loan opportunities to help hospitals through these challenging economic times. For questions about this list, please contact the GHA staff person listed under each entry by calling the association's main number at (770) 249-4500.



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To make it easier to find certain stimulus programs, the following report was divided into 10 sections. Some stimulus programs may be listed more than once in different sections. The nine sections are:

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Financial and Capital

1. Title V - State Fiscal Relief

Description: DSH Allotment Increase-States receive a 2.5% increase in federal DSH amounts FY 2009 - FY 2010

Eligibility: Medicaid DSH Hospitals

Funding Source: Department of Community Health

Available Funding Amount: About \$6.4 M/Year

Miscellaneous Notes: H.R. 1 - 388 SEC. 502

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

2. Tax-Exempt Bonds

Description: Increases the Tax-Exempt Bond Limit for Banks from \$10M to \$30M. Banks can deduct 80% of the cost of buying and carrying bonds.

Eligibility: Limit applies to individual borrowers, not issuers. Applies to 2009 and 2010 issuances.

Miscellaneous Notes: With the limit applying to the borrower, a single issuer can provide financing to multiple facilities. Lower transaction costs should make tax-exempt bonds more attractive to issuers. Capital costs should be reduced for facilities with strong balance sheets.

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

3. Title III - Premium Assistance for COBRA

Description: 65% subsidy for premiums up to 9 months.

Eligibility: Employees terminated between 9/1/08 and 12/31/09 with income caps of \$125K for individuals and \$250K for families

Funding Source: Federal Government

Process for Application: Information provided to employers, for distribution to affected employees

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

Financial and Capital

4. Transitional Medical Assistance

Description: Healthcare available to low-income families who may no longer qualify for Medicaid due to changes in income.

Eligibility: Expires 12/31/10

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

5. Title VIII--Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

Description: Funds for shared instrumentation and other capital research equipment

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations, public or private institutions such as universities, colleges and hospitals.

Funding Source: DHHS, National Institutes of Health

Available Funding Amount: \$300 Million

Process for Application: Grant application available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-118.html>. Due by May 6, 2009.

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://grants.nih.gov/recovery/>

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

6. Title I--Tax Incentives for Business

Description: Work opportunity tax credit equal to 40% of the first \$6,000 of wages paid to unemployed veterans and disconnected youth.

Eligibility: For-profit hospitals only.

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

Financial and Capital

7. Title I--Tax Incentives for Business

Description: For 2008, extends the maximum net operating losses carryback period from two years to five years for small businesses with gross receipts of \$15 million or less.

Eligibility: For-profit hospitals only.

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

8. Title I--Tax Incentives for Business

Description: Special Allowance for Certain Property Acquired During 2009 (Bonus Depreciation)--Allows businesses to recover costs of capital expenditures made in 2009 by permitting businesses to immediately write-off fifty percent of eligible depreciable property acquired in 2009 for use in the United States.

Eligibility: For-profit hospitals only.

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

9. Title I--Tax Incentives for Business

Description: Deferral and Ratable Inclusion of Income Arising From Business Indebtedness Discharged by the Reacquisition of a Debt Instrument--Allows certain businesses to recognize cancellation of debt income over ten years by deferring tax on the cancellation of debt income for the first four or five years and recognizing the income ratably over the following five taxable years for specified types of business debt repurchased by the business after December 31, 2008 and before January 1, 2011.

Eligibility: For-profit hospitals only.

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

Financial and Capital

10. Title I--Economic Recovery Tools

Description: Community Development Entities (CDEs) may use funds raised utilizing the new markets tax credit to provide low-interest loans to hospitals.

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

Reimbursement and Capital

1. Sense of Congress for 3 Medicaid Regulations

Description: Three rules of the original 6 have included in the bill the Sense of Congress that HHS should not promulgate as final, rules: 1) concerning cost-limits for public hospitals, 2) elimination of graduate medical education payments, and 3) coverage of rehabilitation services.

Eligibility: Teaching hospitals and rehab services

Miscellaneous Notes: H.R. 1 - 389 (d) (2) and (3)

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

2. Extends Moratoria for 3 Medicaid regulations

Description: Three of six Medicaid regulations have the moratoria extended from March 31, 2009 through June 30, 2009: 2) Provider taxes, 2) targeted case management, 3) school-based transportation services.

Available Funding Amount: \$105 million

Miscellaneous Notes: H.R. 1 - 389 (a) and (b)

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

3. Delay in Medicare Rule

Description: Prevents 50% reduction to Medicare adjustment to IME Capital payments, but full elimination is still scheduled for 2010

Eligibility: Teaching Hospitals

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

Reimbursement and Capital

4. Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCHC) Technical Corrections

Description: LTCH's not covered by the Extension Act of 2007 receive temporary relief from the 25% rule, along with LTCHs that provide no inpatient services and for bed bed expansions.

Available Funding Amount: \$13 million

Miscellaneous Notes: H.R. 1 - 381 Sec. 4301

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

5. Hospice - Medicare Payments

Description: Blocks FY 2009 Medicare payment cut related to wage index payment add-on.

Available Funding Amount: \$105 million

Funding Source: Medicare

Available Funding Amount: \$134 million

Miscellaneous Notes: H.R. 1 - 381 Sec. 4302

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

6. HIT - Physicians

Description: Physicians using certified EHR technology with e-prescribing, information exchange and reporting of quality measures will receive 75% of estimated allowed charges over a 5 year period, with a cap: Year: 1) \$15K, 2) \$12K, 3) \$8K; 4) 4K; and 5) \$2K.

Eligibility: Certified Physicians. Those not meeting criteria for certification by 2015 have fee schedule amounts reduced by 1%; 2016 - 2%; 2017 - 3%.

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

Reimbursement and Capital

7. HIT - Physicians

Eligibility: Teaching Hospitals

Funding Source: National Institute of Health

Available Funding Amount: \$1.5B Total \$1 billion is for construction grants for research facilities; \$300 million in shared instrumentation grants and \$200 million in Challenge Grants to support research as 2 -year jumpstart grants.

Process for Application: Grant application

Web Site for Additional Information: www.nih.gov/news/health/mar2009/od.htm, <http://grants.nih.gov/recovery> for more information and grant applications

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

8. Title V--State Fiscal Relief

Description: Temporary increase in federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP)

Eligibility: All Medicaid enrolled hospital providers

Funding Source: Department of Community Health

Available Funding Amount: \$86.6 billion

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

9. Vocational Rehabilitation and Disability Research

Description: Grants to states to carry out the Vocational Rehabilitation Services program under part B of title I and parts B and C of chapter 1 and chapter 2 of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Available Funding Amount: \$140,000 available for parts B and C of chapter 1 and 2 of title VII and \$18,200,000 for State Grats, \$87,500,000 for independent living centers and \$34,300,000 for services for older blind individuals

Miscellaneous Notes: H.R. 1 - 69 Rehabilitation Services and Disability Research

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

Reimbursement and Capital

10. Tax Incentive to Hire/New Jobs - Unemployed veteran and disconnected youth hired in 2009 or 2010

Description: Subsection (d) of section 51 is amended to provide a credit for hiring.

Miscellaneous Notes: H.R. 1-223

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

11. Moratoria on Outpatient Hospital Rule

Description: Delays any Final regulation to outpatient hospital facilities until June 30, 2010, published November 7, 2008

Miscellaneous Notes: H.R. 1-389 Sec. 5003 ©

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Cal Calhoun/Robert Bolden

Economic Development

1. Div. A Title II, Commerce - Economic Development Assistance Program

Description: Grants to economically distressed areas to generate private sector jobs by construction or rehabilitation of essential public infrastructure and facilities necessary to generate or retain priv. sector jobs...

Eligibility: public or priv non-profit organizations "acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State."

Funding Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Economic Development Administration

Available Funding Amount: \$150 million

Process for Application: existing program

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/FFON.xml>

Miscellaneous Notes: Grant recipients will determine whether to make grant funds available to for-profit hospitals.

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Robert Bolden/Rhett Partin

2. Div. A Title XII, Transportation and Housing & Urban Development

Description: Funds for the Community Dev. Block Grant program for revitalizing neighborhoods, economic dev., and providing improved community facilities & services

Eligibility: states & units of govt.; eligible grantees will determine whether to make funds avail to hospitals

Funding Source: US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

Available Funding Amount: \$1 billion

Process for Application: existing program

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.hud.gov/recovery/cdblock.cfm>

Miscellaneous Notes: Grants are awarded through a competitive bidding process based on 3 national objectives 1) benefit low, moderate income persons 2) prevention or elimination of slums or blight 3) address a particular community need of which no other funding source is avail

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Robert Bolden/Rhett Partin

Health Information Technology

1. Rural Utilities Services, Distance Learning, Telemedicine and Broadband Program

Description: loans and grants for deployment of broadband systems to areas with out service; to facilitate economic development

Eligibility: not yet established; areas receiving funding from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program excluded

Funding Source: US Department

Available Funding Amount: \$2.5 billion nationally

Process for Application: not yet established; USDA to submit report by May 18, 2009

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.usda.gov/recovery>

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Glenn Pearson/Bill Wylie/Rhett Partin

2. Economic Development Assistance Program

Description: grants to distressed areas to generate private sector jobs through infrastructure including technology-led development.

Eligibility: institutes of higher education; public or private non-profits working in "cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of the state;" for-profit hospitals may join other not for profit grant recipients

Funding Source: US Department of Commerce, Economic Development

Available Funding Amount: \$150 million

Process for Application: existing application procedures

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/FFON.xml>

Miscellaneous Notes: rolling application for grant awards

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Glenn Pearson/Bill Wylie

Health Information Technology

3. Broadband Technology Opportunities Act

Description: grants for broadband education awareness and training; support to medical and healthcare providers to facilitate greater use of broadband services to enhance healthcare delivery

Eligibility: non-profit foundations, corporations, institutions or associations

Funding Source: US Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Available Funding Amount: \$4.35 billion

Process for Application: not yet established

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.commerce.gov/Recovery/index.htm>

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Glenn Pearson/Bill Wylie

4. Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Description: funds to implement Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH)

Eligibility: funds to federal agencies only

Funding Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, ONCHIT

Available Funding Amount: \$2 billion

Process for Application: not yet established; HHS must submit plan by May 18, 2009

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/>

Miscellaneous Notes: federal agencies will use funds for grants, loans and demonstration projects

<http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/>

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Glenn Pearson/Bill Wylie

Health Information Technology

5. Research and Development Programs

Description: grants to establish multidisciplinary Centers for Healthcare Information enterprise integration; to research healthcare information enterprise integration; use health IT in complementary fields

Eligibility: institutions of higher education or consortia of institutes of higher education which may include nonprofit entities

Funding Source: Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, National Institute of Standards and Technology

Available Funding Amount: not yet established; to come out of the \$2 billion for HITECH Act

Process for Application: not established yet; National Institutes of Standards and Technology responsible.

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.nist.gov/recovery>

Miscellaneous Notes: <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery>

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Glenn Pearson/Bill Wylie

6. Immediate Funding to Strengthen the Health Information Technology Infrastructure

Description: funds for infrastructure needed for electronic health information exchange

Eligibility: not yet established; funding to come from a number of agencies, including ONCHIT, Health Resources and Services Administration, AHRQ, CMS, CDC and Indian Health Services

Funding Source: US Department of Health and Human Services

Available Funding Amount: not yet established; to come out of the \$2 billion for HITECH Act

Process for Application: not yet established

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/>

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Glenn Pearson/Bill Wylie

Health Information Technology

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Funding Source: US Department of Health and Human Services

Available Funding Amount: not yet established; to come out of the \$2 billion for HITECH Act

Process for Application: not yet established

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/>

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Glenn Pearson/Bill Wylie

7. HIT Implementation Assistance

Description: funds to assist healthcare providers adopt, implement and use certified EHR; to establish HIT Research Center to provide technical assistance; for Regional Centers affiliated with non-profit organizations

Eligibility: not yet established

Funding Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, ONCHIT

Available Funding Amount: not established; to come out of the \$2 billion for HITECH Act

Process for Application: not yet established; The Secretary has until May 18th 2009 to publish a description to establish Regional Centers

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/>

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Glenn Pearson/Bill Wylie

Health Information Technology

8. State Grants to Promote HIT

Description: grants for planning and implementation to facilitate and expand electronic movement

Eligibility: not yet established

Funding Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, ONCHIT

Available Funding Amount: not established; to come out of the \$2 billion for HITECH Act

Process for Application: not yet established; The Secretary has until May 18th 2009 to publish a description to establish Regional Centers

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/>

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Glenn Pearson/Bill Wylie

9. Competitive Grants to States and Indian Tribes for the Development of Loan Programs to Facilitate the Widespread Adoption of Electronic Health Record Technology

Description: grants to establish "Loan Fund" to facilitate the purchase of certified EHR; enhance utilization of existing EHR, train personnel and improve secure exchange of HIT.

Eligibility: States and Indian Tribes. States and Indian Tribes will determine whether to make loans to hospitals

Funding Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, ONCHIT

Available Funding Amount: not yet established; to come out of the \$2 billion for HITECH Act.

Process for Application: not yet established; States will be required to apply for grant for "Loan Fund" including strategic plan for use of funds

Miscellaneous Notes: required state matching funds may be supplemented by private contributions

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Glenn Pearson/Bill Wylie

Health Information Technology

10. Demonstration Project to Integrate IT into Clinical Education

Description: grants to integrate certified EHR into community based clinical education; grants can not be used to purchase hardware, software or services

Eligibility: Schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry or pharmacy, a graduate program in behavioral or mental health or any other graduate health professions school, a graduate school of nursing or physicians assistant studies

Funding Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary

Available Funding Amount: not yet established; to come out of the \$2 billion for HITECH Act; cost-sharing required unless waived by the Secretary

Process for Application: not yet established

Miscellaneous Notes: grant application will be required to submit a strategic plan for integrating electronic health records into the clinical education setting to reduce medial errors, increase access to prevention, reduce chronic diseases and enhance healthcare quality.

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Glenn Pearson/Bill Wylie

11. Information Technology Professional in Health Care

Description: funds to establish or expand medical health informatics education programs for both healthcare and information technology students

Eligibility: institutes of higher education; priority will be given to existing education and training programs and those designed to be completed in six months or less

Funding Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary

Available Funding Amount: not yet established; to come out of the \$2 billion for HITECH Act

Process for Application: not yet established

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/>

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Glenn Pearson/Bill Wylie

Health Information Technology

12. Rural Utilities Services, Distance Learning, Telemedicine and Broadband Program

Description: loans and grants for deployment of broadband systems to areas with out service; to facilitate economic development

Eligibility: not yet established; areas receiving funding from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program excluded

Funding Source: US Department

Available Funding Amount: \$2.5 billion nationally

Process for Application: not yet established; USDA to submit report by May 18, 2009

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.usda.gov/recovery>

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Glenn Pearson/Bill Wylie/Rhett Partin

Health Services Effectiveness

1. Healthcare Research and Quality

Description: Funds for comparative effectiveness research to the National Institutes of Health, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Eligibility: Funds to federal agencies only. Agencies will determine whether to make grant funds available to hospitals for comparative effectiveness research.

Funding Source: US Department of Health and Human Services

Available Funding Amount: \$1.1 billion (\$400 million to the National Institutes of Health; \$300 million to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; \$400 million to the Department of Health and Human Services)

Process for Application: Not yet established. Will consider input from stakeholders and recommend national priorities for comparative effectiveness research to be supported.

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/>, <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/>, <http://www.nih.gov/recovery/index.htm>

Miscellaneous Notes: A report for fiscal year 2009 is due by July 30, 2009, and a report for fiscal year 2010 is due by November 1, 2009

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Vi Naylor

Community Health & Wellness

1. Prevention and Wellness Fund

Description: Prevention and Wellness fund to support evidence-based clinical and community-based prevention and wellness strategies that deliver specific, measurable health outcomes that address chronic disease rates.

Eligibility: Not yet established

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary

Available Funding Amount: \$650 million

Process for Application: Prior to any distributions, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services must develop an operating plan for the Prevention and Wellness Fund and submit to Congress by May 18, 2009

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/>

Miscellaneous Notes: Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius confirmation delayed. Secretary needs to report to Congress by May 18, 2009

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Joyce Reid

2. Prevention and Wellness Fund

Description: Grants for planning, implementing, and maintaining a public health infrastructure that assures the existence of an effective national immunization system through outreach, disease surveillance, outbreak control, education, service delivery and immunization systems.

Eligibility: Grants made to states, large urban areas, and territories. Grant recipients to determine grant funds availability to hospitals.

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Available Funding Amount: \$300 million

Process for Application: Existing program. Direct Funds are available only to states, large urban areas, and territories.

Miscellaneous Notes: Contacted GRITS and Syndromic Surveillance reps. Response from Michelle Conner at DHR - From CDC is distributing immunization funds with very prescriptive requirements via their 317 grant funding stream. We have to await to see what their requirements are and how much Georgia's allocation will be. Recommendation to fund hospital interfacing

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Joyce Reid

Community Health & Wellness

3. Prevention and Wellness Fund

Description: Funds to implement healthcare-associated infections reduction strategies.

Eligibility: Funds provided to States. State will determine whether to make funds available to hospitals.

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary

Available Funding Amount: \$50 million

Process for Application: Direct Funds are available only to states.

Miscellaneous Notes: Preliminary discussions with DHR/DPH and APIC include the use of funds for developing on-line education for Infection Prevention Practitioners and training for the CDC National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) . Recommend to explore funding for implementation and infrastructure/interfaces of NHSN

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Joyce Reid

Workforce

1. Title VIII

Description: Funds to address health professions workforce shortages including funds for the National Health Service Corps and Health Professions and Nurse Training Programs

Eligibility: Hospitals may benefit indirectly through increased recruitment and retention opportunities through the National Health Services Corps and increased availability of loan repayment

Funding Source: HRSA

Available Funding Amount: \$500 million in federal dollars

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/hpsadesignation.htm>

Miscellaneous Notes: Current website used to apply a health professionals shortage area.

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Karen Waters

2. Title VIII

Description: Provides some funding for summer youth employment programs.

Eligibility: Children from low-income and food stamp recipient households, children in foster care, and disabled children, ages 14-24

Funding Source: DOL

Available Funding Amount: Up to \$3.1 million in state dollars

Process for Application: Work with local Workforce Investment Boards.

Web Site for Additional Information: http://www.dol.state.ga.us/pdf/wia/wia_administrators.pdf - Website will provide information on Workforce Investment areas in Georgia

http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?docn=2717 - Website will provide guidelines on federal program

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Karen Waters

Workforce

3. Div B, Title I, Subtitle C

Description: Creates two new targeted groups of prospective employees to list of employees that businesses may claim work opportunity tax credit: 1) unemployed veterans; and (2) disconnected youth. An individual would qualify as an unemployed veteran if they were discharged or released from active duty from the Armed Forces during the five-year period prior to hiring and received unemployment compensation for more than four weeks during the year before being hired. An individual qualifies as a disconnected youth if they are between the ages of 16 and 25 and have not been regularly employed or attended school in the past six months.

Eligibility: Non-profit hospitals

Funding Source: Tax credit

Available Funding Amount: Credit equal to 40% of first \$6,000 of wages paid to employee

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Karen Waters

Education

1. Title VIII

Description: Grants for worker training and placement in high growth and emerging industry sections, including health care.

Eligibility: To be established

Funding Source: DOL

Available Funding Amount: \$250 million in federal dollars

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.dol.gov/recovery/implement.htm>

Miscellaneous Notes: Look for information on website under "Program of Competitive Grants for Worker Training and Placement in High Growth and Emerging Industry Sectors"

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Karen Waters

2. Title X111 Section 3016

Description: Funds to establish or expand medical health informatics education programs for both health care and information technology students.

Eligibility: Institutions of higher education with priority given to existing education programs and those designed to be completed in six months or less

Funding Source: HHS

Available Funding Amount: \$2 Billion in federal dollars

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.dol.gov/recovery/implement.htm>

Miscellaneous Notes: Operating plan submission due by May 18, 2009 to Congress for HITECH Act funding

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Karen Waters

Education

3. Title XIV

Description: Funds to public institutions of higher education, including medical schools, to address state education budget shortfalls and for public safety.

Eligibility: Primary and Secondary Schools and Institutions of higher learning

Funding Source: US Department of Education

Available Funding Amount: \$8.85 billion in Federal dollars

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html>

Miscellaneous Notes: Additional information on State Fiscal Stabilization Fund available on website along with guidance and application information

A Staff Contact for More Information: Karen Waters

Rural Health Issues

1. Title I, Rural Housing Service, Rural Community Facilities Program Account

Description: Programs can make and guarantee loans to develop essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Loan funds may be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and public services. This can include costs to acquire land needed for a facility, pay necessary professional fees, and purchase equipment required for its operation

Eligibility: Loans and guarantees are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as to non-profit corporations and tribal governments.

Funding Source: US Dept. of Agriculture

Available Funding Amount: \$130 million

Process for Application: Applications are handled by USDA Rural Development field offices. Rural Development staff will be glad to discuss a community's needs and the services available from HCFP and other agencies within USDA. Field staff can provide application materials and current program information, and assist in the preparation of an application.

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/cp.htm>

Miscellaneous Notes: For the direct loan program there are three levels of interest rates available (poverty, intermediate, and market) each on a fixed basis. The poverty rate is set at 4.5%. The market rate is indexed to the eleventh bond buyers rate as determined by the U. S. Treasury Department. The intermediate rate is set halfway between the market and the poverty rates. Eligibility for these different interest rates is determined by the median household income (MHI) of the area being served and the type of project. The intermediate and market interest rates are adjusted quarterly. Contact your Rural Development State Office to determine the eligible interest rate for your area.

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Rhett Partin

Rural Health Issues

2. Title I, Rural Business Program Account

Description: loans to improve the economic climate in rural communities through business acquisitions to prevent loss of, or provide expanded opportunities for, employment; business conversion enlargement, repair...; purchase of equipment, machinery, ...

Eligibility: public & priv for-profit & non-profit orgs. In cities or towns < 50k pop.

Funding Source: US Dept. of Agriculture

Available Funding Amount: \$150 million

Web Site for Additional Information: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/buspb&i_gar.htm

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Rhett Partin

3. Title I, Rural Utilities Service, Rural Water & Waste Disposal Program

Description: loans & grants for rural water & waste disposal projects; hospitals could use these funds to improve/replace their sewage lift stations (wet walls) if current systems are aged or failing.

Eligibility: rural public & private entities

Funding Source: US Dept. of Agriculture

Available Funding Amount: \$1.3 billion

Process for Application: contact your USDA GA regional field office

Miscellaneous Notes: \$100,000 max per project application

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Rhett Partin

Rural Health Issues

4. Title I, Rural Utilities Service, Distance Learning, Broadband, & Telemedicine Program

Description: loans & grants for a relatively broad array of distance learning & telemedicine services

Eligibility: not yet established

Funding Source: US Dept. of Agriculture

Available Funding Amount: \$2.5 billion

Process for Application: not yet established

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt.htm>

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Rhett Partin

5. Div. A Title V Financial Services & General Govt., Business Loans Program

Description: loan guarantees to small business

Eligibility: for-profit hospitals w/ less than \$34.5 million in annual receipts

Funding Source: Small Business Administration / SBA field office in Atlanta

Available Funding Amount: \$636 million

Process for Application: not yet established

Miscellaneous Notes: will need to clarify if a hospital can be considered independently of its owner in determining if it is a 'small business'

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Rhett Partin

Rural Health Issues

6. Div. A Title VIII Health Resources and Services

Description: Grants to community health centers to support new sites and service areas, to increase services at existing sites and to provide supplemental payments for spikes in uninsured populations

Eligibility: varies depending on grant

Funding Source: US Dept. of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration

Available Funding Amount: \$500 million

Process for Application: existing application procedures

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.hrsa.gov/grants>

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Rhett Partin

7. Div. A Title VIII Health Resources and Services

Description: Grants for construction, renovation, and equipment (including HIT) for health centers receiving operating grants under section 330 of the Public Health Services Act

Eligibility: new or existing facilities operating under section 330

Funding Source: US Dept. of Health and Human Services

Available Funding Amount: \$1.5 billion

Process for Application: existing application procedures

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/>

Miscellaneous Notes: these funds are largely for Federally Qualified Health Centers

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Rhett Partin

Rural Health Issues

8. Div. B Title IV, Medicare & Medicaid HIT

Description: CMS will increase their Medicare reimbursement rates to hospitals; For Critical Access Hospitals, the HIT reimbursement enhancement will come through the cost report reconciliation process as other Medicare allowable costs. Thus, this incentive will not be realized until the upfront investment is made.

Eligibility: all Medicare certified hospitals

Funding Source: CMS

Miscellaneous Notes: To be eligible for such an add-on payment, hospitals must be considered by CMS as “meaningful users” of HIT. Consideration will be given either by hospital attestation, submission of claims w/ appropriate coding, a survey response, data reporting or by other means. “Meaningful user” is likely to be defined using HIMSS (Health Information Management Systems Society) electronic medical record adoption model

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Rhett Partin

9. Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs

Description: Grants to enhance services and advocacy to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Eligibility: Grants limited to States. States will determine whether to make grant funds available to hospitals.

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women

Available Funding Amount: Georgia to receive \$3,973,732

Process for Application: Grants limited to States. States will determine whether to make grant funds available to hospitals.

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/recovery-grants-awards.htm>

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Joyce Reid

Rural Health Issues

10. Commodity Assistance Program

Description: Emergency food assistance

Eligibility: Available to assist eligible private nonprofit entities to establish and carry out community food projects

Funding Source: U. S. Department of Agriculture

Available Funding Amount: \$150,000,000

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Joyce Reid

11. Community Development Fund

Description: community development block grant revitalizing neighborhoods, economic development and improved community facilities and services

Eligibility: Funds provided to states, local government and other jurisdictions. Grantee to determine available funding for hospital.

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community and Planning Development

Available Funding Amount: \$1 billion

Process for Application: Existing program. Direct Funds are available only to states, large urban areas, and territories.

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.hud.gov/recovery/cdblock.cfm>

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Joyce Reid

Rural Health Issues

12. HIT Implementation Assistance

Description: funds to assist healthcare providers adopt, implement and use certified EHR; to establish HIT Research Center to provide technical assistance; for Regional Centers affiliated with non-profit organizations not yet established

Eligibility: not yet established

Funding Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, ONCHIT

Available Funding Amount: not established; to come out of the \$2 billion for HITECH Act

Process for Application: not yet established; The Secretary has until May 18th 2009 to publish a description to establish Regional Centers

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/>

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Glenn Pearson/Bill Wylie

13. State Grants to Promote HIT

Description: grants for planning and implementation to facilitate and expand electronic movement

Eligibility: States and qualified "state designated entities;" state designated entity must be a nonprofit designated by the state whose principal goal include the use of IT to improve healthcare quality and efficient through the use of HIT

Funding Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, ONCHIT

Available Funding Amount: not yet established; to come out of the \$2 billion for HITECH Act; state matching funds required after 2011.

Process for Application: not yet established

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/>

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Glenn Pearson/Bill Wylie

Rural Health Issues

14. Competitive Grants to States and Indian Tribes for the Development of Loan Programs to Facilitate the Widespread Adoption of Electronic Health Record Technology

Description: grants to establish "Loan Fund" to facilitate the purchase of certified EHR; enhance utilization of existing EHR, train personnel and improve secure exchange of HIT.

Eligibility: States and Indian Tribes. States and Indian Tribes will determine whether to make loans to hospitals

Funding Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, ONCHIT

Available Funding Amount: not yet established; to come out of the \$2 billion for HITECH Act.

Process for Application: not yet established; States will be required to apply for grant for "Loan Fund" including strategic plan for use of funds

Miscellaneous Notes: required state matching funds may be supplemented by private contributions

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Glenn Pearson/Bill Wylie

15. Demonstration Project to Integrate IT into Clinical Education

Description: grants to integrate certified EHR into community based clinical education; grants can not be used to purchase hardware, software or services

Eligibility: Schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry or pharmacy, a graduate program in behavioral or mental health or any other graduate health professions school, a graduate school of nursing or physicians assistant studies

Funding Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary

Available Funding Amount: not yet established; to come out of the \$2 billion for HITECH Act; cost-sharing required unless waived by the Secretary

Process for Application: not yet established

Miscellaneous Notes: grant application will be required to submit a strategic plan for integrating electronic health records into the clinical education setting to reduce medical errors, increase access to prevention, reduce chronic diseases and enhance healthcare quality.

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Glenn Pearson/Bill Wylie

Rural Health Issues

16. Information Technology Professional in Health Care

Description: funds to establish or expand medical health informatics education programs for both healthcare and information technology students

Eligibility: institutes of higher education; priority will be given to existing education and training programs and those designed to be completed in six months or less

Funding Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary

Available Funding Amount: not yet established; to come out of the \$2 billion for HITECH Act

Process for Application: not yet established

Web Site for Additional Information: <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/>

GHA Staff Contact for More Information: Glenn Pearson/Bill Wylie