Rural Healthcare Facility Resilience Program

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
College of Public Health
Institute for Disaster Management

RHFRP
Rural Healthcare Facility Resilience Program

Project Overview

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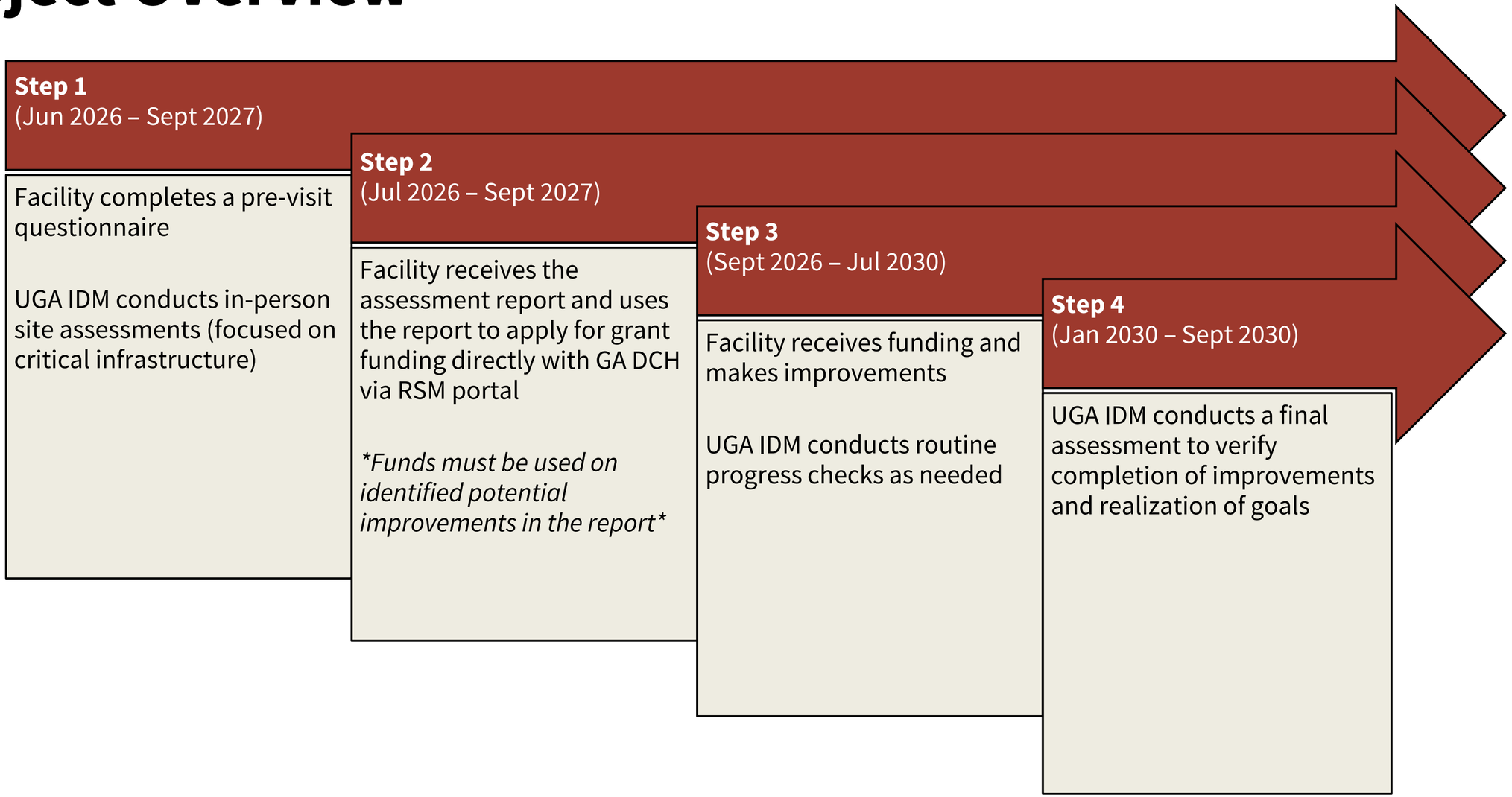
- **Overall Aim:** To improve patient and resident outcomes by establishing a statewide infrastructure assessment and hardening program that enables rural healthcare facilities to safely shelter-in-place (SIP) or serve as receiving facilities during disasters
- **Scope:**
  - 267 rural hospitals, skilled nursing facilities (SNF), and in-patient hospice facilities
  - All-hazards focus: **power**, HVAC, structural integrity, etc.
  - Direct alignment with Rural Health Transformation Project goals
- **End Goal:**
  - Enable facilities to SIP (thereby reducing unnecessary patient/resident transfers)
  - Expand evacuee-receiving facilities (thereby expanding surge capacity across county/state lines, fostering more efficient, regionally-based disaster response)
  - Program results and data incorporated into Georgia's response and recovery plans

Project Overview



What Are The “Assessments”

- The assessments are **NOT** surveys
  - They are not tied to the state or federal regulatory surveys

- The goal of these assessments (not surveys) is to be a benefit to facilities by enabling them to apply for funding to expand their SIP capacities
  - Ex: Expanding the time that facilities can function safely while on backup power
  - Ex: Expanding the distribution of backup power within facilities to serve more areas

Assessment ≠ Survey

Guidance from DCH

"No surveyors from the Healthcare Facility Regulation Division (HFRD) will be involved in the assessment process. However, in the event that *serious* concerns are identified during the assessment process that may indicate potential *significant* violations of state or federal emergency preparedness regulations, the assessment team may refer the matter to HFRD for review and HFRD or the State Fire Marshal may conduct a survey inspection. Should any deficiency or violation be substantiated by the survey, the facility should receive notice and an opportunity to cure any deficiency or violation. Any resulting enforcement action taken by HFRD or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will be handled in a manner consistent with state and federal regulations."

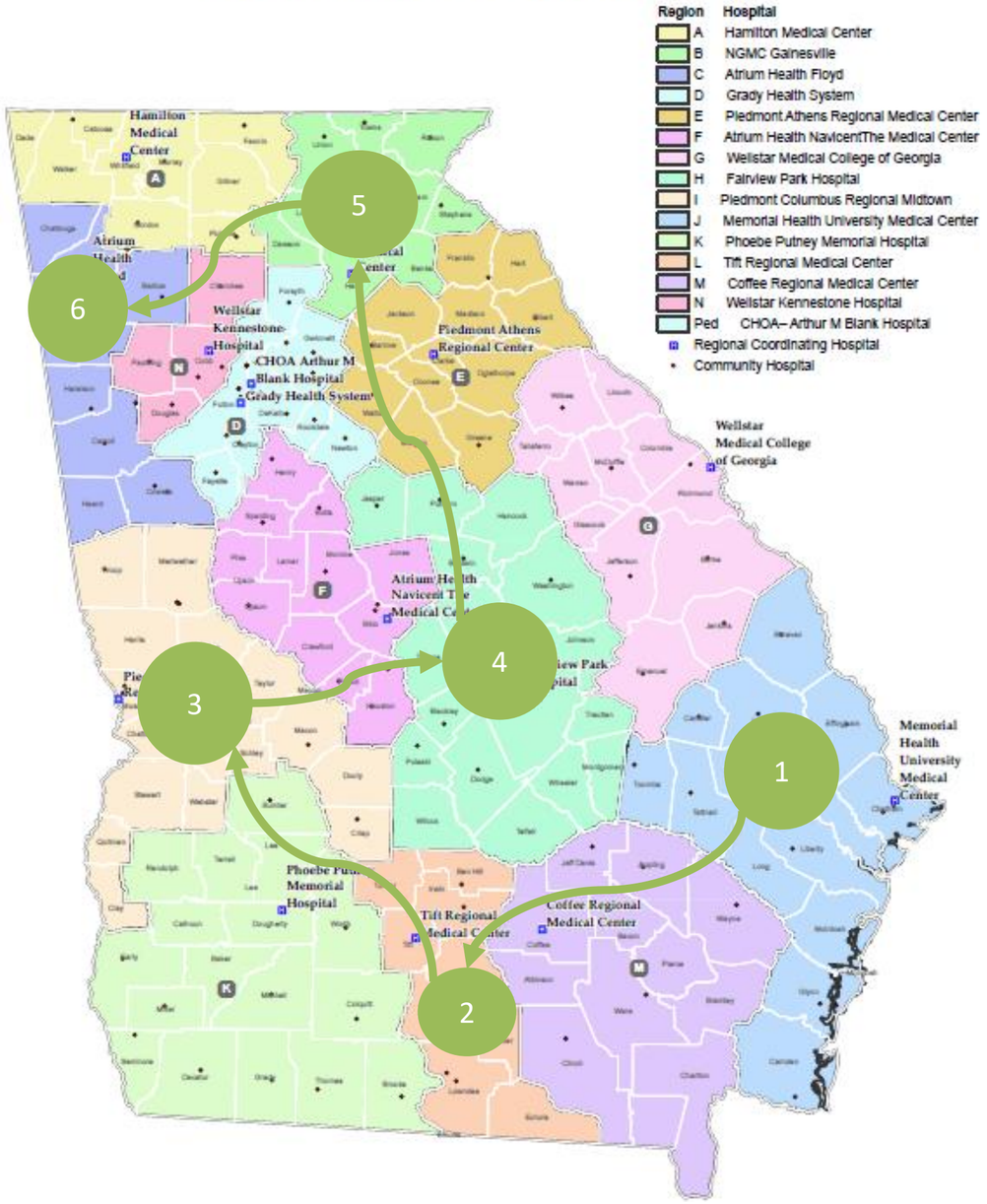
Proposed Assessment Schedule

Proposed Assessment Schedule

Team 1 = Green
Team 2 = Red

Region	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total # of Facilities
J	8/17/26 – 10/23/26												29
K	8/17/26 – 11/13/26												38
L			10/26/26 – 12/9/26										18
M				11/16/26 – 1/20/27									21
I					12/10/26 – 2/2/27								17
G						1/21/27 – 3/9/27							20
H							2/3/27 – 4/30/27						36
F								3/10/27 – 4/27/27					19
B										5/3/27 – 6/18/27			19
E									4/28/27 – 6/22/27				22
C											6/21/27 – 7/23/27		14
A											6/23/27 – 7/23/27		11

Healthcare Coalition Map



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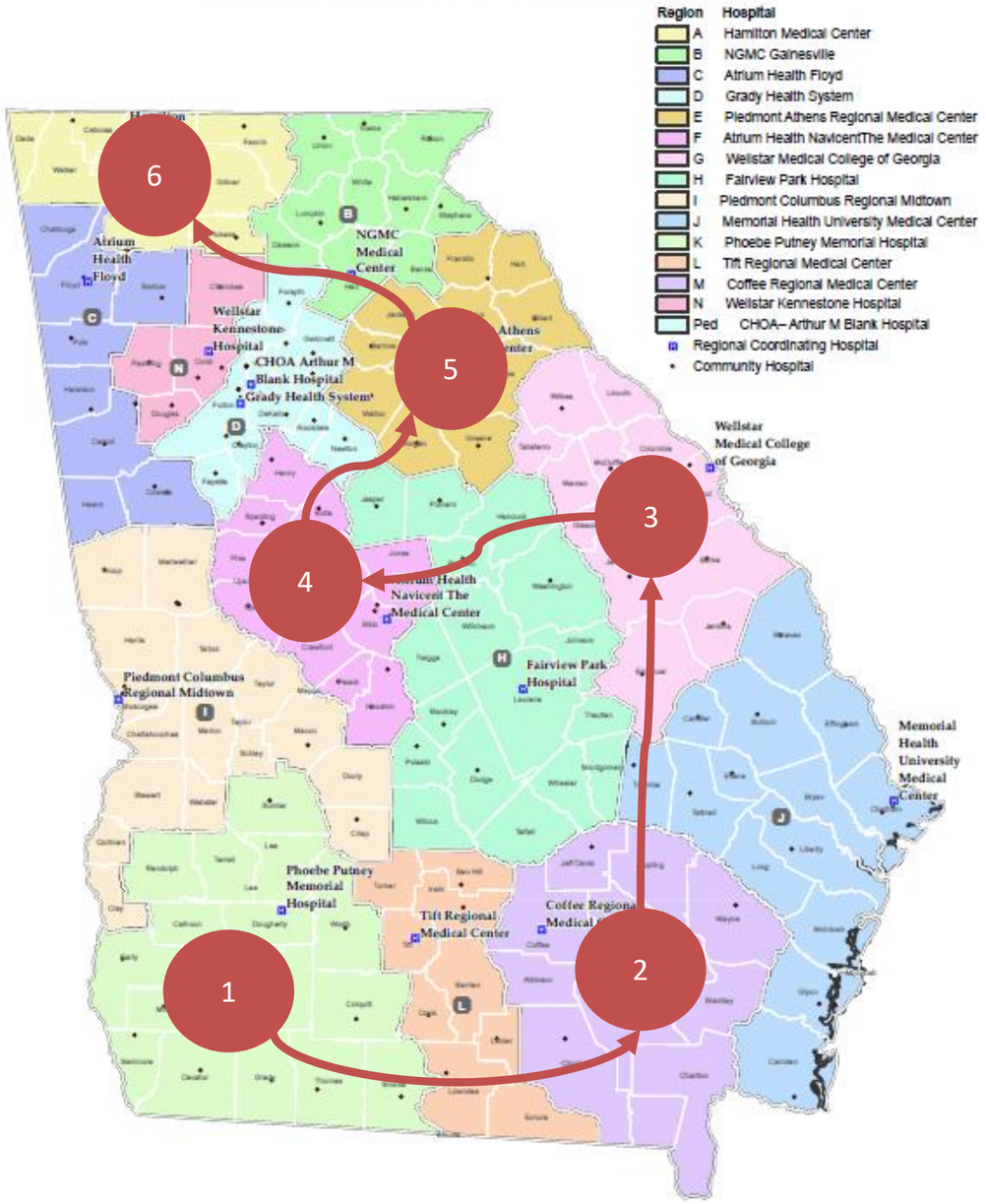

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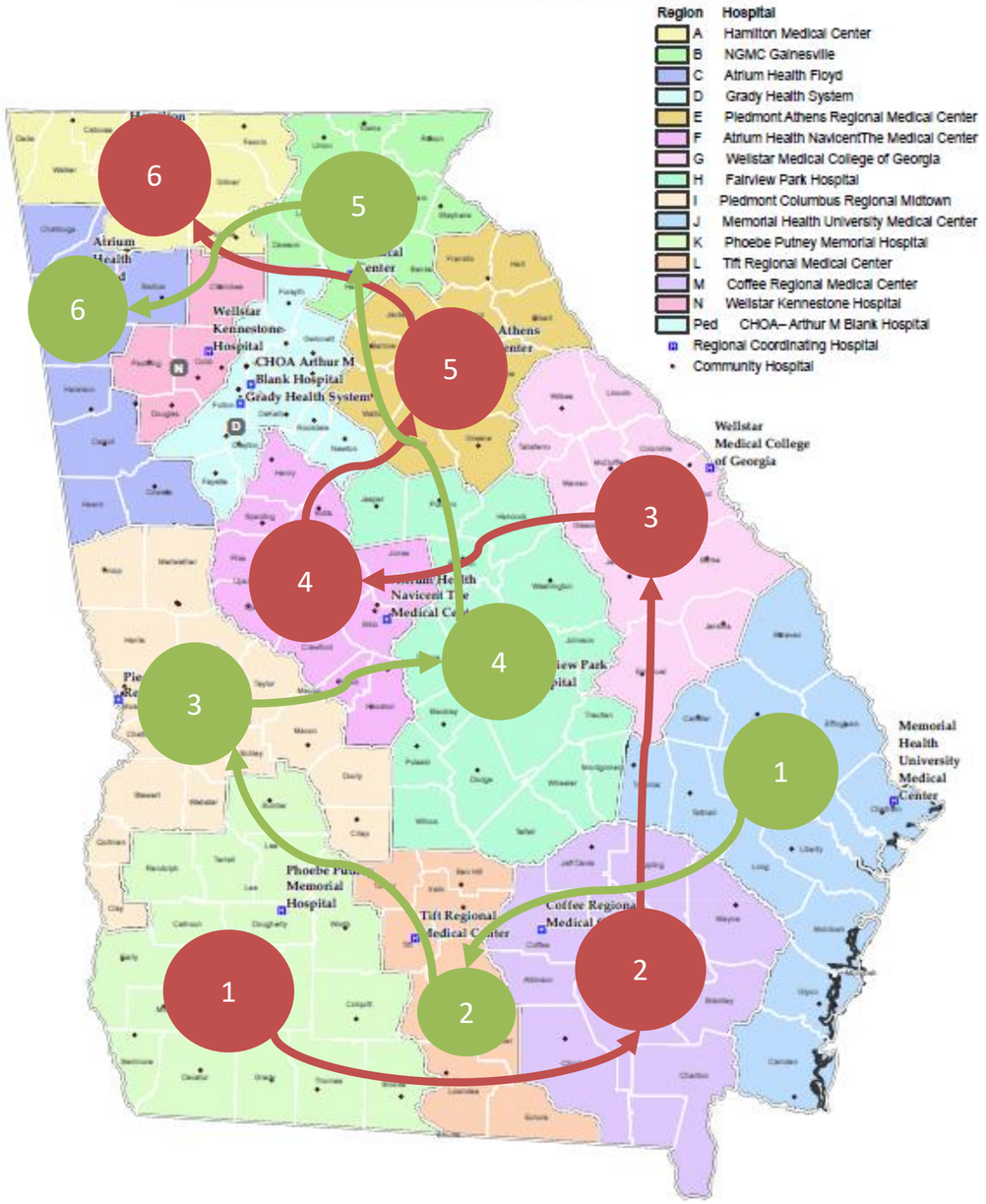

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Next Steps

What Do We Need From You?

1. Spam is everywhere, so make sure your people know this program is coming
    - When our team calls or emails, please work with them!

2. Help us schedule a day where all necessary people can be present at the assessment
    - Administration, maintenance, engineering, emergency preparedness, etc.

3. Complete an initial questionnaire before the site assessment
    - It will have several questions that may take time to find the answers to

Thank You

Questions?
ruralresilience@uga.edu

GEORGIA RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

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