

Rural Healthcare Facility Resilience Program



**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**
College of Public Health
Institute for Disaster Management



RHFRP
Rural Healthcare Facility
Resilience Program

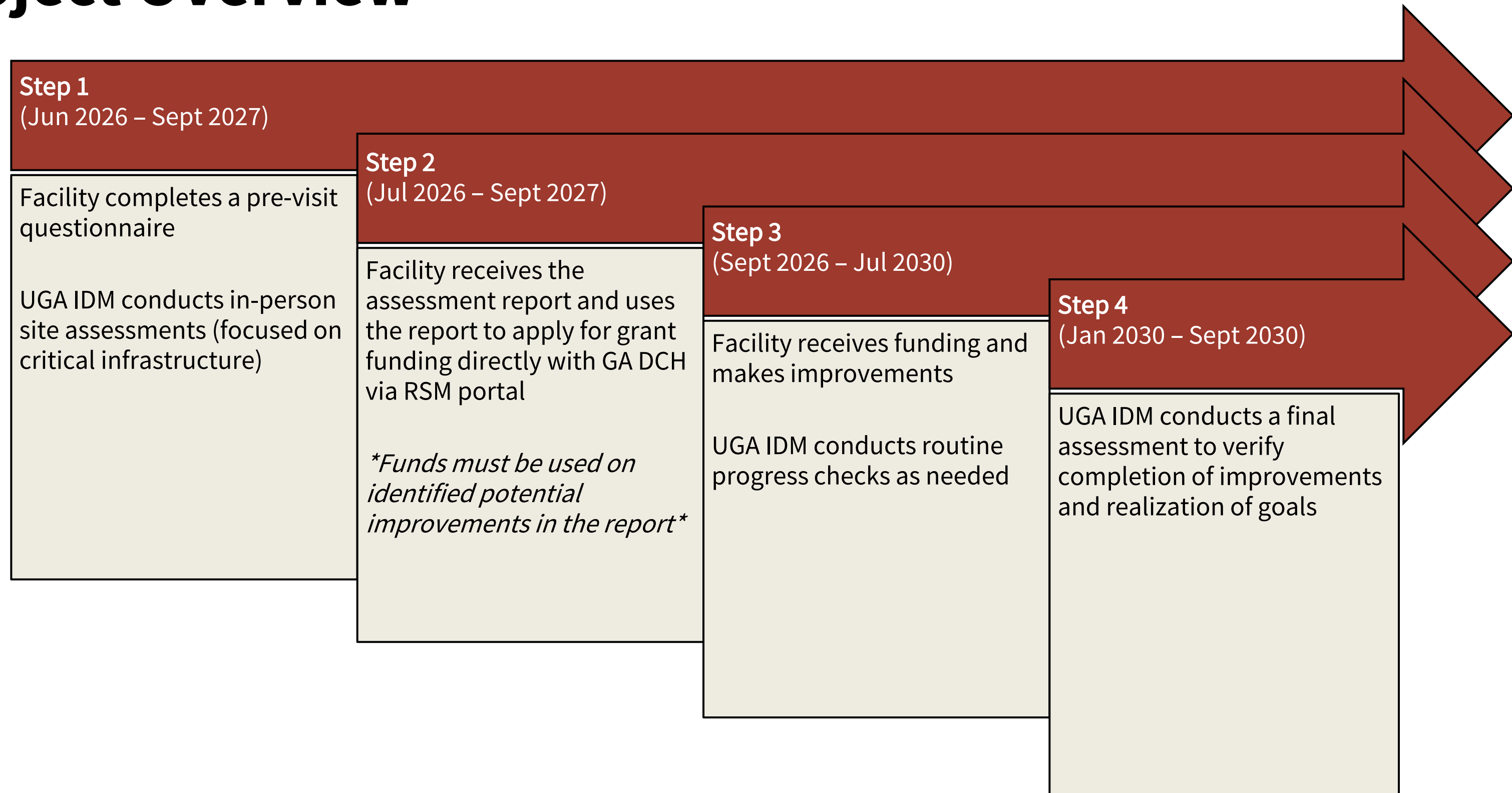


Project Overview

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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

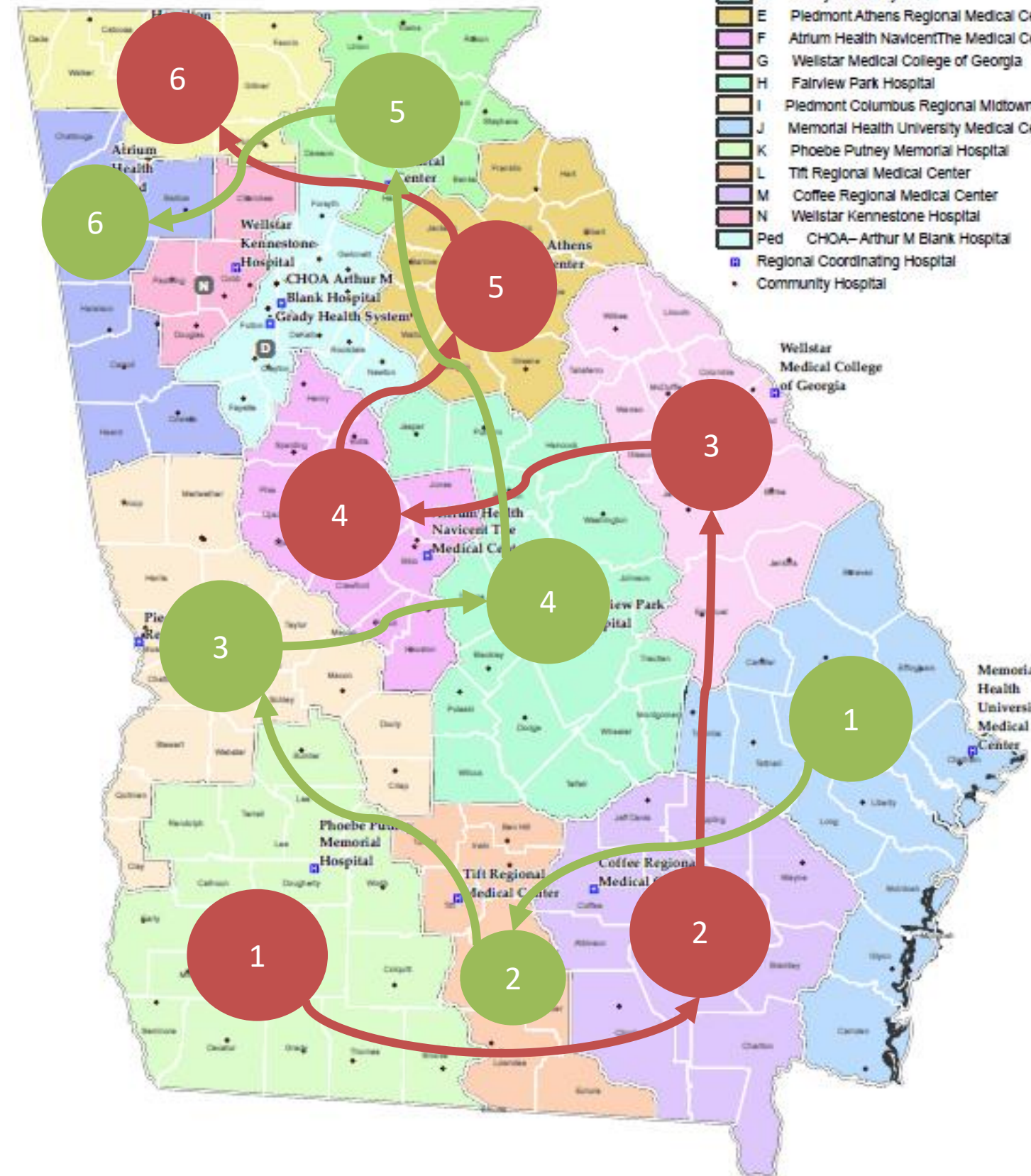
Healthcare Coalitions

Region	Hospital
A	Hamilton Medical Center
B	NGMC Gainesville
C	Atrium Health Floyd
D	Grady Health System
E	Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Center
F	Atrium Health NavicentThe Medical Center
G	Wellstar Medical College of Georgia
H	Fairview Park Hospital
I	Piedmont Columbus Regional Midtown
J	Memorial Health University Medical Center
K	Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital
L	Tift Regional Medical Center
M	Coffee Regional Medical Center
N	Wellstar Kennestone Hospital
Ped	CHOA--Arthur M Blank Hospital
	Regional Coordinating Hospital
	Community Hospital

Team 1 = Green

Team 2 = Red

Healthcare Coalition Map



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Next Steps

What Do We Need From You?

1. Spam is everywhere, and some facilities have been deleting our emails for this reason
 - Make sure your people know this program is coming. We will email and call.
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

Pre-Assessment Questionnaire

The screenshot displays the 'SECTION 1: FACILITY IDENTIFICATION & SITE CHARACTERISTICS' of a questionnaire. It includes a question about the assessment type, a facility name dropdown, and an address field. A 'Table of Contents' overlay is visible on the right, listing sections from 1 to 11, with 'Facility Identification' highlighted as the current section.

SECTION 1: FACILITY IDENTIFICATION & SITE CHARACTERISTICS

Is this a facility self-assessment or an IDM Team Assessment?

☒ Facility Self-Assessment

☐ IDM Team Assessment

Facility Name

Select one

*Address

Street

Table of Contents

- Facility Identification
- Section 1: Site Characteristics & Risk
- Section 2: External Dependencies
- Section 3: Power Systems
- Section 4: Water
- Section 5: Clinical Utility Systems
- Section 6: Communication Infrastructure
- Section 7: Physical Plant Systems
- Section 8: Clinical Support Systems
- Section 9: Access Infrastructure
- Loop Trigger
- Loop: Structure & HVAC
- Section 11: Additional Infrastructure

- ✓ Ensure the right people answer the right questions
- ✓ Complete the assessment with as much detail as you can
- ✓ Utilize the Table of Contents to move between sections

We begin scheduling in a coalition approximately one month before the first evaluations occur in the region

COMING SOON

Proposed Scheduling Start Date	
Region J – Ongoing	Region H – January 3, 2027
Region K – Ongoing	Region F – February 10, 2027
Region L – September 26, 2026	Region B – April 3, 2027
Region M – October 16, 2026	Region E – March 28, 2027
Region I – November 10, 2026	Region C – May 21, 2027
Region G – December 21, 2026	Region A – May 23, 2027



Thank You

Questions?
ruralresilience@uga.edu



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