PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 447.205, the Georgia Department of Community Health is required to give public notice of any significant proposed change in its methods and standards for setting payment rates for services.

Modification to Rural Hospital Newborn Delivery Program
STATE PLAN AMENDMENT (SPA)

Pursuant to House Bill 947 line item 1216, passed during the 2026 legislative session, and pending approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Department of Community Health (DCH) proposes to modify the Medicaid State Plan by discontinuing the designation for the Rural Hospital Newborn Delivery Program for hospitals in rural counties with a population between 35,001 and 50,000.

Under the current Medicaid State Plan, hospitals located in rural counties with populations between 35,001 and 50,000 receive an enhanced payment of $1,500 per newborn delivery through this program.

Effective July 1, 2026, DCH is seeking approval from CMS to remove the separate program designation for the Rural Hospital Newborn Delivery Program within the Medicaid State Plan. This proposed change would discontinue the additional $1,500 add-on payment currently provided for newborn deliveries in rural counties with populations between 35,001 and 50,000, while maintaining the add-on payment for newborn deliveries in rural counties with a population of 35,000 or less.

SFY 2027	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total
	($2,165,425)	($4,312,550)	($6,477,975)

This public notice is available for review at each county Division of Family and Children Services office. An opportunity for public comments will be held on **June 16, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., via Zoom audio**. There will be **no in-person** attendance at the Department of Community Health (DCH).

Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479 at least three (3) business days before the scheduled public hearing to ensure any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88107160939?pwd=r7QfZbpF65C3w2nOZWOzVLHmtz3HdP.1

Meeting ID: 881 0716 0939

Passcode: 816505

One tap mobile

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Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before June 23, 2026 to D'Lawren Hicks c/o the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1966. You may also email comments to D'Lawren Hicks dlawren.hicks@dch.ga.gov or fax to 404-651-6880.

Comments submitted will be available for review by submitting a request via email to openrecordsrequest@dch.ga.gov. ***Please note that any comments submitted are subject to open records.***

If the proposed changes are presented to the Board for final action, relevant comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board. The Board expects to vote on the proposed changes at the Board meeting to be held on **July 9, 2026,** at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Community Health unless withdrawn or withheld by the Department for further review.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 11th DAY OF JUNE 2026
Dean Burke, MD, Commissioner