



Jeb Bush
Governor

Robert G. Brooks, M.D.
Secretary

April 10, 2000

EMS Provider
Rural County
Florida

Dear EMS Director:

The Division of Emergency Medical Services and Community Health Resources, Office of Rural Health is in the process of developing a grant application to continue the Florida Medicaid Rural Hospital Flexibility Program. This program is better known as the Critical Access Hospital Program and is designed to convert small rural hospital from a Prospective Payment System to a Cost Reimbursement System. Currently our office is working with the following hospitals to determine if Critical Access Hospital status will increase their economic viability. We anticipate that other hospitals will join this group within a few months.

Calhoun- Liberty Hospital, Blountstown
Doctor's Memorial, Bonifay
Gadsden Community Hospital, Quincy
Hendry Regional, Clewiston
Madison County Hospital, Madison
Shands at Starke, Starke

Campbellton-Graceville Hospital, Graceville
Florida Hospital, Wauchula
George E. Weems Hospital, Apalachicola
Lake Butler Hospital, Lake Butler
Shands at Live Oak, Live Oak

This program also gives us the opportunity to work more closely with emergency medical service providers who operate in the catchment areas of these rural hospitals. The grant, for which we are applying, allows us to budget funds for the purpose of establishment or expansion of programs to improve and integrate rural emergency medical services into rural communities, especially where Critical Access Hospitals are established. The grant guidelines allow funding in the following areas related to EMS:

- Development / Modification of Referral and Transfer Protocols
- Training and Upgrading of Emergency Medical Personnel
- Recruitment and Retention of EMS Personnel
- Public Education
- EMS/ Hospital Communications
- EMS Medical Direction
- EMS Data Collection and Evaluation

We will be working closely with each of these hospitals, as well as the Certified Rural Health Networks that serve these areas. You recently received a letter explaining the purpose of



these Rural Health Networks and encouraging you to become an active member. We anticipate that any funds that do flow to EMS providers will come through these networks.

We would like to have your input on this application. This is only the second year of funding and we anticipate that we will continue receiving funds through 2003. We wish to include your service in our planning through out the life of the grant.

It would be most helpful if you would take just a few minutes to provide some answers about your service and your service area. Your input on which of the areas listed on the previous page would be most beneficial to your area and assist you the most in expanding and improving your services will also be very appreciated. Once you have completed the enclosed survey you can either mail it to me at the following address or send it by fax to the number listed.

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Please note that these funds can be used as match for EMS Matching or EMS Rural County Grants available through the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. It may be possible to leverage these funds to maximize the impact on your community

Sincerely,

Roger B. Twitchell
Critical Access Hospital Coordinator

RBT/rbt
Enclosure
cc: Dino Villani, Chief, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services