

# **BACON COUNTY HOSPITAL CASE STATEMENT**

**GEORGIA HEART HOSPITAL PROGRAM**

## OVERVIEW

Bacon County Hospital is a 25-bed, rural, critical access hospital in Alma, Ga. It provides adult and pediatric medical care, surgery, and obstetrics.

## MISSION

Bacon County Hospital's mission is to provide compassionate, quality healthcare that meets the needs of its community.

## MANTRA

As the largest employer in the community, many of the residents Bacon County Health System serves come from close to home for many of Bacon County Hospital's employees. And their mantra, you're in my care, brings about a culture of ownership that takes many forms throughout the process of caring for its employees' neighbors and family members.

## COMMUNITY

The community Bacon County Hospital serves is changing, aging, and becoming more diverse. As detailed in the Community Profile on page 3, the residents of Bacon County Hospital's primary service area face barriers to access to care within a culture of poverty, low education, and uninsured.

## SERVICES

To maintain and improve the access that its employees and their family members have to quality, cost-effective care, Bacon County Hospital expects to invest in excess \$1.7 million in upgrades over the next few years. Another \$2.2 million is necessary as the hospital upgrades its health information technology to provide an electronic health record to patients and clinicians, digital diagnostic imaging equipment, and cardiac monitoring systems to provide additional health screening to its community.

# INVEST IN BCH



## **ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD**

An electronic health record (EHR) is a digital version of a patient's paper chart. EHRs are the next step in the continued progress of healthcare that can strengthen the relationship between patients and clinicians.



## **DIGITAL DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING**

To comply with CMS regulations, the hospital must upgrade current diagnostic imaging equipment from a CR unit (cassette reader) to a DR unit (digital reader).



## **GE CARDIAC MONITORS**

The Emergency Department and Obstetrics department require updated technology and equipment that will enable staff to care for patients and continuously monitor their condition.

## **DONATE**

Bacon County Hospital is one of 41 rural hospitals in Georgia participating in the Georgia HEART Hospital Program that enables Georgia taxpayers to receive a state income tax credit for 90% of the amount they contribute to a participating rural hospital, like BCH. These charitable contributions are also federally tax deductible.

Donations will be used to fund new technology and equipment to comply with new regulations and to maintain and improve the community's access to quality, cost effective care. The hospital will prioritize purchases based off of the needs of the community.

The implementation of state-of-the-art improvements to care come at a high cost, and funds from the Georgia HEART Hospital Program will help offset these expenses. This tax credit program is one of many ways that Bacon County Hospital aims to impact the community it serves.

# INVEST IN THE COMMUNITY

## COMMUNITY

The community Bacon County Hospital serves is changing, aging, and becoming more diverse. As detailed below, the residents of Bacon County Hospital's primary service area face barriers to access to care within a culture of poverty, low education, and uninsured. *The following data reflects the 2015-16 Community Health Needs Assessment.*



18 % of the population are at or below the Federal Poverty Level. Bacon County has high prevalence of poverty, Medicaid enrollment, and uninsured. County residents often lack a high school diploma and have low literacy levels. 2/3 of children are eligible for free or reduced school lunch.



The community has a high risk of heart disease. In Bacon County, 36% of Medicare enrollees have heart disease, and the heart disease death rate in the county is elevated in comparison to the state. There is a need for screening for heart disease detection.



Bacon County has limited access to primary care physicians, dentists, and mental health care providers. 33% of adults report poor or fair health and lack of social/emotional support. The CHNA prioritized barriers to access to care alongside support for additional health screening.