

# GEORGIA HEART<sup>SM</sup>

## HOSPITAL PROGRAM

*Helping Enhance Access to Rural Treatment*

### **What is the Georgia HEART rural hospital organization ("RHO") expense tax credit?**

- The Georgia General Assembly passed legislation that enables Georgia taxpayers receive a state income tax CREDIT for 100% of the amount they contribute to qualified rural hospital organizations (up to the limits set forth below).
  - Taxpayers who itemize deductions on their federal income tax returns will be able to take a charitable income tax deduction for the entire amount of their contributions
  - By replacing their federal itemized deduction for state and local income taxes paid, which is limited to \$10,000, with a 100% deductible contribution to a rural hospital, taxpayers can realize significant tax savings

### **How much can I contribute for a tax credit?**

- If you pay Georgia income taxes, you are eligible to receive a tax credit for contributing to your designated rural hospital organization from January 1 through June 30 of each taxable year, as follows:
  - Individual Filer – 100% of the amount contributed, up to a limit of \$5,000
  - Married Filing Jointly – 100% of the amount contributed, up to a limit of \$10,000
  - Pass-Through Entity – 100% of the amount contributed, up to a limit of \$10,000, so long as they would have paid Georgia income tax in that amount on their share of taxable income from the pass-through entity

### **How do I sign up to contribute before June 30?**

- 1) Complete and submit your 2018 HEART Tax Credit Form at [www.georgiaheart.org](http://www.georgiaheart.org)
- 2) Georgia HEART will submit your tax credit pre-approval form on your behalf to the GA DOR
- 3) Within 60 days of receiving DOR tax credit pre-approval, send a check *made payable to your designated rural hospital* to Georgia HEART for deposit to the hospital's account
- 4) Georgia HEART will send you instructions on how to file your contribution confirmation with DOR
- 5) You will claim the credit when you file your 2018 tax return

### **How much can I contribute for a tax credit after June 30 each year?**

- After June 30 of each year, for so long as a portion of the \$60 million annual cap on RHO tax credits is available, to offset their Georgia income tax liability, individual taxpayers may make unlimited contributions to RHOs for a corresponding 100% Georgia income tax credit.
  - On or before May 15 of each year through June 30, individual taxpayers will be able to 'make a HEART Appointment' on the Georgia HEART website to authorize Georgia HEART to submit their post-June 30 tax credit pre-approval forms to the DOR.

### **Are Corporations able to participate?**

- A "C" Corporation or trust shall be allowed a 100% Georgia income tax credit for contributions to RHOs equal to the amount of the contribution, or 75 percent of the corporation or trust's income tax liability, whichever is less.

### **What are the limits on the tax credits available under the Georgia HEART program?**

- From 2018 through 2021, Georgia taxpayers can access \$60 million of RHO tax credits each year, with each qualified rural hospital having access to \$4 million of tax credits (until the total annual \$60 million cap is met). During the first six months of each year, a qualified RHO may only accept \$2 million of corporate contributions and \$2 million of individual contributions.

For more information about the rural hospital organization expense tax credit, visit the Georgia HEART website at [www.georgiaheart.org](http://www.georgiaheart.org) or contact Georgia HEART at [heart@georgiaheart.org](mailto:heart@georgiaheart.org).