



## Curious About How Georgia's Community Hospitals Continue to Serve Georgia Residents Across the State? See Our FAQ Below.

### **How is a community hospital different from a for-profit hospital?**

Unlike for-profit hospitals, community hospitals do not need to worry about shareholders. This means that they are able to put patient care as their top priority and reinvest every dollar back into the hospital and community.

### **Why are community hospitals so beneficial to their communities?**

Community hospitals are able to function in areas where access to care would otherwise be limited or even non-existent. Community hospitals concern themselves exclusively with providing quality medical care and other crucial benefits to their communities, such as local employment, teaching new doctors, and community service. In fact, community hospitals across Georgia have contributed almost \$1 billion in community benefits.

### **Why do I keep hearing about Certificate of Need (CON)? What is it?**

For a "new institutional health service" to be built or expanded, it must undergo what's called a certificate of need process. This law supports Georgians across the state by putting and keeping care where it's needed most. This is especially important for community hospitals, as it ensures the availability of essential services to patients and allows them to focus first and foremost on their medical care.

### **Would eliminating Georgia's Certificate of Need (CON) program decrease healthcare prices by encouraging competition?**

Not in the long-term. CON discourages the monopolization of Georgia's healthcare sector. By providing resources for non-profit, community hospitals, quality of care and access to care dictate a hospital's success, not its endowment.

### **But wouldn't competition among hospitals lead to more facilities and more options for Georgians?**

Unfortunately, no. For-profit hospitals generally succeed in highly populated, metropolitan areas. But the elimination of CON would essentially create "dead zones" in the healthcare system with no access to care. If a healthcare facility is not geographically accessible, it can't provide options to anyone. CON ensures that community hospitals remain close by and open for business.

### **What about the cash-on-hand that so many community hospitals already have?**

Emergency funds are a crucial element to all businesses, especially to hospitals. Because the trends of illness and emergencies are more unpredictable than other market trends, hospitals must remain prepared for anything. Cash-on-hand funds allow them the flexibility to do so and to meet local bond covenants.