



RURAL RV  
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Dec 09 2021  
STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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December 8, 2022

**SENT THIS DATE VIA EMAIL TO:** [shpda.online@shpda.alabama.gov](mailto:shpda.online@shpda.alabama.gov);  
[Emily.Marsal@shpda.alabama.gov](mailto:Emily.Marsal@shpda.alabama.gov); [Teresa.Lee@shpda.alabama.gov](mailto:Teresa.Lee@shpda.alabama.gov); and  
[Karen.McGuire@shpda.alabama.gov](mailto:Karen.McGuire@shpda.alabama.gov)

Emily Marsal, Executive Director  
Alabama State Health Planning and Development Agency  
RSA Union Building  
100 North Union Street, Suite 870  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

*Re:* The Tombigbee Health Care Authority, d/b/a Whitfield Regional Hospital  
Re-Opening Obstetrics Services/Program  
Our File No. 7700.1055

Dear Ms. Marsal:

This law firm represents The Tombigbee Health Care Authority, which owns and operates Whitfield Regional Hospital (the "Hospital"), located in Demopolis, Alabama. Hospital has been in operation for over 70 years in Demopolis, Alabama. Demopolis is located in Marengo County, Alabama, which is a county designated as rural by the U.S. Census Bureau/CMS (formerly the Health Care Financing Administration). Please see the attached report (generated on December 8, 2021, by the Rural Health Information Hub, which is funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy) that confirms the Hospital is classified as rural by the federal government.

The purpose of this letter is to request confirmation in writing that Hospital is not subject to CON review prior to reopening the obstetrics services/program at the Hospital, which closed in February of 2014.

The following information is provided to assist in evaluating this request:

- 1) Name of applicant: The Tombigbee Health Care Authority, d/b/a Whitfield Regional Hospital, 105 Highway 80 East, Demopolis, Alabama 36732.

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- 2) Address and contact information: Douglas Brewer, CEO; The Tombigbee Health Care Authority, d/b/a Whitfield Regional Hospital, 105 Highway 80 East, Demopolis, Alabama 36732; Phone number: (334) 287-2423. Email: DBrewer@bwwmh.com.
- 3) Service area: Marengo County, Alabama, along with the counties of Sumter, Greene, Hale, Perry and Choctaw, all situated in the Black Belt Region of Alabama.
- 4) Services to be provided: Obstetrics Services/Program.
- 5) Financial breakdown:
  - a. Equipment and Furniture: \$ 580,000
  - b. First year new annual operating costs: \$ 856,000
  - c. Capital Costs:
    1. Leases 0.00
    2. Land/building costs 0.00
    3. Construction costs \$ 150,000
- 6) No other health care facility has a financial interest in the proposed project.\*

As of September 24, 2021, the CON thresholds are \$3,165,569.00 for major medical equipment, \$1,266,226.00 for new annual operating costs, and \$6,331,138.00 for any other capital expenditures. All of the projected expenditure amounts for this project are well within the three thresholds. In addition, Section 22-21-263(a)(4), Code of Alabama 1975, exempts hospitals classified as rural from the requirement of obtaining a Certificate of Need for certain Institutional Health Services that would otherwise be subject to review. Pursuant to Ala. Admin. Code Rule 410-1-7-.02(7), no fee is included with this letter, as Hospital qualifies as "rural."

Upon receipt of your agency's approval, Hospital will apply to the Alabama Department of Public Health ("Public Health") for approval of the construction plans, and then enter into a construction contract and equipment purchase contracts in Marengo County, Alabama. Public Health requires written confirmation of the Hospital's exemption from CON review before it will proceed with the approval of the construction plans.

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\* Hospital has a management agreement with University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), which went into effect after the obstetrics services program was closed.

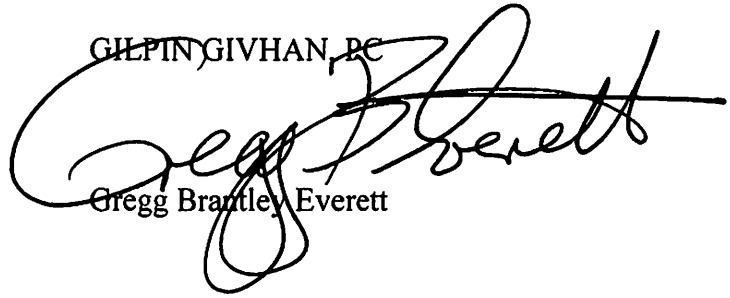
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Thank you for your timely response to this request. Please contact me at your convenience should you have any questions, or need additional information regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,

GILPIN GIVHAN, PC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregg Brantley Everett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gregg Brantley Everett

GBE/sd

Enclosure

cc: Douglas Brewer, CEO, The Tombigbee Health Care Authority

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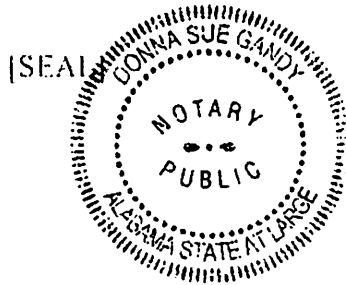
**AFFIRMATION OF REQUESTING PARTY**

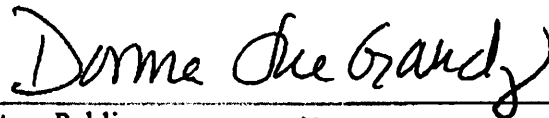
The undersigned, Douglas Brewer, being first duly sworn, hereby makes oath or affirms that he is **CEO of The Tombigbee Health Care Authority, d/b/a Whitfield Regional Hospital**; has knowledge of the facts in this request; and, to the best of his information, knowledge and belief, such facts are true and correct.

**AFFIANT**

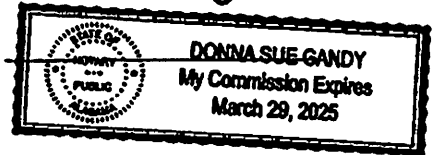
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**DOUGLAS BREWER**

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 8 day of Dec, 2021.



  
\_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public  
My Commission Expires:



## Am I Rural? – Report

Report produced by the Rural Health Information Hub on 12/08/21.

### Location

**Report Address:**

105 US Highway 80 E,  
Demopolis, AL 36732 \*

**Latitude:** 32.50447

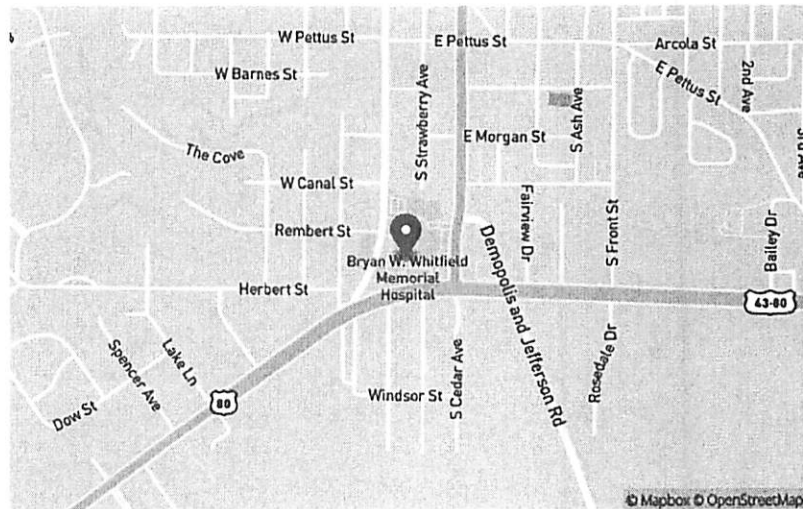
**Longitude:** -87.83701

**Census Tract:** 01091973400

(Based on 2019 boundaries)

**County:**

Marengo County, AL



\* Report is for a specific point in 105 US Highway 80 E, Demopolis, AL 36732. Results may not be the same for all points in 105 US Highway 80 E, Demopolis, AL 36732.

The information provided by this service addresses only the rural aspect of a program's requirements. Your *Am I Rural?* report is not a guarantee of your rural status. Please check with the program contacts directly to verify your eligibility for specific federal programs.

## Program Eligibility

<b>Program</b>	<b>Rural?</b>	
<b>CMS - Rural Health Clinics (RHC) Program</b>	<b>YES</b>	<p>The Rural Health Clinics Program requires that your location be outside an Urbanized Area as defined by the U.S. Census. (Please note there are additional <u>location requirements</u> (<a href="https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/rural-health-clinics#location-requirements">https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/rural-health-clinics#location-requirements</a>) for RHCs.)</p> <p>This location is not in an Urbanized Area.</p>
<b>FORHP - Grant Programs</b>	<b>YES</b>	<p>This location is eligible for Federal Office of Rural Health Policy grant programs.</p> <p>Marengo County, AL has been designated by FORHP as rural. (For FY22 grant cycle)</p>

# Common Rural Definitions

## How Your Location is Defined

### Census 2010, Percent Rural

Information for Marengo County

- Percent of County Population that is Rural: 69.32

### Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSAs)

Nonmetropolitan - not located in a metropolitan or micropolitan area.

### Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) defined rural areas

Marengo County, AL has been designated by FORHP as rural.

### Frontier and Remote Area (FAR) 2010

Not located in a Frontier and/or Remote area.

### Rural Urban Commuting Areas (RUCAs) by census tract

- RUCA Code: 7.0
- Primary Description: Small town core: primary flow within an Urban Cluster of 2,500 through 9,999 (small UC)

### Rural Urban Continuum Codes (RUCCs)

RUCCs are assigned at the county level.

Information for Marengo County

- RUCC Code: 7
- RUCC Description: Nonmetro - Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, not adjacent to a metro area

### Urban Influence Codes (UICs) 2013

Information for Marengo County

- Urban Influence Code: 11
- UIC Description: Noncore not adjacent to a metro/micro area and contains a town of 2,500 or more residents

### Urbanized Areas / Urban Clusters

Considered urban - located within an Urbanized Area or Urban Cluster.

- Urbanized Area/Cluster Name: Demopolis, AL Urban Cluster
- UA/UC Number: 23365

# Shortage Designations

## Health Professional Shortage Areas

Primary Care	<b>YES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Name: Marengo County</li><li>• Date of Designation: March 27, 1991</li><li>• Last Update: September 8, 2021</li></ul>
Dental Care	<b>YES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Name: Low Income - Choctaw/Sumter/Marengo Counties</li><li>• Date of Designation: July 20, 2001</li><li>• Last Update: September 10, 2021</li></ul>
Mental Health	<b>YES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Name: Catchment Area M-10</li><li>• Date of Designation: August 9, 1978</li><li>• Last Update: September 10, 2021</li></ul>

## Medically Underserved Areas/Populations

Medically Underserved Area (MUA)	<b>YES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Name: Marengo County</li><li>• Date of Designation: November 1, 1978</li><li>• Last Update: January 15, 2013</li></ul>
Medically Underserved Population (MUP)	<b>NO</b>	
Medically Underserved Area - Governor's Exception (MUA-GE)	<b>NO</b>	
Medically Underserved Population - Governor's Exception (MUP-GE)	<b>NO</b>	

For data sources and definitions, see the [Rural Classifications \(/am-i-rural/help#classification\)](#) help section.