Grant Program: STRIVE (Support Towards Readiness, Improvement, and Verification Excellence)

Grant Eligibility Guidelines:

1. Purpose:
The Trauma Center ACS Verification Support Grant is designed to assist trauma centers in achieving verification by the American College of Surgeons (ACS). This grant program is designed to support Georgia Trauma Centers receiving a "no verification" site survey outcome letter from the American College of Surgeons Verification Review Committee (ACS VRC). This funding supports activities necessary to come into compliance with ACS standards, including operational improvements, strengthening performance improvement/patient safety (PIPS) activities and processes, staff training, and infrastructure enhancements.

2. Eligible Applicants:
Georgia Trauma centers receiving a "no verification" letter from the ACS VRC after an ACS verification site review may be eligible for grant funding if they meet the following criteria:

- The trauma center must be officially designated by the Georgia Department of Public Health, Office of EMS and Trauma as a Level I, II, or III trauma center at the time of the ACS Verification site review.
- Demonstrate a commitment to trauma care improvements.
- Have a written commitment from hospital leadership to pursue ACS verification.
- Be compliant with all local, state, and federal healthcare regulations.

3. Use of Funds:
Grant funds may be used for the following purposes:

- External consultant fees and expenses.
- Staff training and continuing education related to trauma care.
- Data collection and registry improvements required for ACS verification.
- Equipment upgrades and infrastructure enhancements directly supporting trauma center requirements.
- Other expenses directly related to achieving ACS verification, as approved by the Georgia Trauma Commission.

4. Exclusions:
Grant funds may **not** be used for:

- General hospital operations or unrelated administrative expenses.
- Salaries and benefits not directly tied to trauma program development.
- Construction or major capital projects beyond minor facility upgrades necessary for compliance.
- Marketing, public relations, or promotional activities.

5. Application Requirements:
Applicants must submit a complete application including:

- A detailed project proposal outlining how funds will be used to achieve ACS verification.
- A budget breakdown for the requested funds.
- A letter of support from hospital leadership.
- Submission of a gap analysis depicting the Center's compliance status with each standard including deficiencies and weaknesses identified in the ACS VRC report.
- A timeline for verification achievement and expected outcomes.

6. Evaluation Criteria:
Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Demonstrated need for financial assistance.
- Feasibility and impact of the proposed plan.
- Alignment with ACS verification standards and best practices.
- Institutional commitment to maintaining a high-quality trauma program.

7. Grant Requirements, Disbursement & Reporting:

- Recipients will participate in all State Trauma Activities to include but not limited to Georgia Quality Improvement Program (GQIP) data submissions, Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) data submission, twice annual GQIP meetings, and other activities as described in the Performance Based Payment Section of the Trauma Center's contract with the Georgia Trauma Commission.
- Funds may be disbursed in phases based on project milestones.
- Recipients must submit progress reports demonstrating fund usage and impact.
- A final report detailing compliance with ACS verification standards and overall program improvements is required within one year of grant award.
- Recipients must immediately notify the Georgia Trauma Commission if the Center determines ACS verification is not feasible or if a Center ceases its efforts to pursue verification.

For further information or to apply, please contact gtcbusinessops@gtc.ga.gov or visit trauma.ga.gov.

Trauma Center STRIVE Grant Application

Grant Program: STRIVE (Support Towards Readiness, Improvement, and Verification Excellence)

Applicant Organization: Piedmont Columbus Regional
Address: 710 Center Street Columbus, Ga 31901
Contact Person: Mary Jameson, TPM
Email: mary.jameson@piedmont.org
Phone: 706-571-1599
Funding Amount Requested:

I. Executive Summary

Piedmont Columbus Regional seeks funding to enhance its preparedness for the American College of Surgeons (ACS) verification site visit. This initiative will ensure that our trauma center meets and exceeds the ACS standards, leading to a successful verification or re-verification. The project focuses on compliance with essential criteria, staff training, process improvement, and data quality enhancement.

II. Statement of Need

The ACS verification process is essential for maintaining excellence in trauma care and ensuring our center provides the highest quality patient outcomes. However, many trauma centers face challenges in meeting the rigorous ACS standards due to gaps in documentation, protocol adherence, trauma registry accuracy, and staff preparedness. A successful verification site visit requires robust processes, continuous education, and data-driven improvements.

Our trauma center serves [describe patient volume, demographics, and region]. A failure to achieve ACS verification could impact funding, patient trust, and our ability to provide optimal care. Thus, securing financial support for preparation efforts is critical to our mission.

III. Project Description & Objectives

Objective 1: Conduct a Pre-Site Visit Gap Analysis

- Engage an external trauma consultant to evaluate site visit findings.
- Identify deficiencies in ACS compliance criteria.
- Develop a corrective action plan based on findings.

Objective 2: Enhance Trauma Registry and Data Quality

- Implement additional training for trauma registry professionals to ensure accuracy.
- Conduct an audit of trauma cases to validate data completeness.
- Develop a corrective action plan to address registry-specific opportunities.

Objective 3: Strengthen Staff Education and Compliance

- Provide ACS-specific training for trauma team members, including emergency physicians, surgeons, nurses, and registrars.
- Conduct simulation drills for trauma team performance improvement.
- Develop and distribute an ACS verification handbook for staff.

Objective 4: Improve Performance Improvement and Patient Safety (PIPS) Processes

- Enhance trauma committee meetings with structured case reviews.
- Implement new tracking measures for compliance with ACS requirements.
- Establish a standardized method for root cause analysis of sentinel events.
- Demonstrate loop closure by means other than tracking/trending, education or letters to individuals for themed issues identified in case reviews.

Objective 5: Facility and Resource Optimization

- Ensure that trauma bays and operating rooms meet ACS resource standards.
- Upgrade equipment or technology necessary for compliance.
- Improve trauma patient flow processes in alignment with best practices.

IV. Expected Outcomes & Impact

- A fully prepared trauma center that meets ACS verification criteria.
- Improved accuracy of trauma registry data and performance metrics.
- Enhanced staff competency in trauma care standards and documentation.
- Successful ACS verification, securing the trauma center's accreditation.
- Increased patient confidence and improved health outcomes.

V. Budget Justification

Item	Cost	Justification
Trauma Consultant	[$32,000]	Specialized trauma consulting agency will provide expert assessment, gap analysis, and targeted recommendations to ensure program meets all the ACS-COT standards. On-site consultation will prepare Trauma Program for verification reviews, refine performance improvement processes, and enhance PI loop closure.
Staff Training	[$21,000]	Improve knowledge and facilitate understanding of ACS requirements through Trauma Outcomes and Performance Improvement Course (TOPIC) for the Trauma PIPS program team and trauma liaisons. This investment will directly enhance our trauma system's capacity, compliance, and quality of care. Goal of 25 participants @ $700 ea.
Staff Training	[$20,000]	The Optimal Course will equip Trauma PI team with advanced skills to refine case review processes, ensure accurate and timely registry data, and implement evidence-based performance improvement initiatives. This course will prepare the trauma program for successful ACS verification. Goal of 25 participants @ $700 ea.
Total	[$Total Amount] 73,000	

VI. Sustainability Plan

Goal Timeline:
- Fall 2025- Trauma PI & leadership staff will complete foundational training courses, including Trauma Outcomes & Performance Improvement Course (TOPIC) and Optimal Trauma Center Organization Course (OPTIMAL). Schedule and complete consultative visit to assess current program status and identify areas for improvement prior to the verification reporting year.
- January/February 2026- Submit official request to schedule ACS Verification for the following calendar year.
- Throughout 2026- Continue internal audits, in-depth reviews, and progress monitoring to ensure sustained compliance and readiness for ACS Verification visit.

Once ACS verification is achieved, our trauma center will sustain compliance through continuous quality improvement, annual staff training, and regular internal audits. We will integrate ACS standards into daily operations to ensure long-term success.

VII. Conclusion

This grant will allow our trauma center to fully prepare for a successful ACS verification site visit, ensuring the highest quality trauma care for our community. By investing in training, process improvement, and data integrity, we will not only pass the ACS evaluation but also improve overall patient outcomes. We appreciate your consideration and support.

Submitted by:
Mary Jameson, RN
Trauma Program Manager
8/11/2025

Submit completed grant applications to gtcbusinessops@gtc.ga.gov. Incomplete applications will not be considered for review. Submission of a completed application does not guarantee funding. Georgia Trauma Commission funding is subject to fund availability and grants are considered on a case-by-case basis.