



Share Health Southeast Georgia Receives Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust Funds!

Share Health Southeast Georgia joins the second cohort of awardees of the Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust (GOCAT) as a 2025 grant recipient. Awarded \$258K to be dispersed over two years, this grant is prevention-focused and covers six of Share Health's counties: Appling, Candler, Evans, Jeff Davis, Tattnall, and Wayne counties. Share Health's Prevention project was one of 12 projects funded in Region 5, Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities' (DBHDD) southeastern Georgia region that covers 34 counties for behavioral health, substance use disorders and developmental disabilities.

Beginning February 1st, Share Health has three primary goals: 1) Increase capacity of southeast Georgia counties to provide long-term drug prevention programming to children and youth, 2) Empower youth with the knowledge, skills, and support needed to make informed, healthy decisions about substance use through community programs and initiatives, and 3) Increase awareness and access to information and resources for overdose risk prevention through outreach, education, resource securement, and support networks. These goals will be accomplished by several prevention activities, including community prevention and awareness events, mini grants to community agencies for awareness and education events, and training on evidence-based prevention strategies to prevent drug use among youth.

Georgia faces an opioid crisis with Southeast Georgia at increased risk of disability and death due to lack of resources and services in the area. According to a gap analysis conducted by DBHDD, Region 5 experienced a 173% increase in opioid overdose deaths from 2018 to 2022, with the largest percent increase in total opioid overdose deaths among the 20-24-year age group. DBHDD identified gaps and service variability in the region: 1) five of the six target counties (Appling, Evans, Jeff Davis, Tattnall, and Wayne) do not have SUD/OD Continuum of Care Providers; and 2) Harm reduction services are not widely available across the region.

Founded in 2015, **Share Health Southeast Georgia** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the region's capacity to address unmet healthcare needs across its 16-county service area. The agency works to improve health outcomes for all generations by providing capacity-building support, philanthropic investment, and advocacy for community partners, while maintaining close collaboration with the Southeast Health District. If you believe that you or your organization can make a positive impact with this new initiative and would like to contribute as a partner, please e-mail our Project Director, Tanesha Slocumb, at t.slocumb@sharehealthsega.org. For more information about Share Health, visit <https://www.sharehealthsega.org/>. More information about the Georgia Opioid Abatement Trust can be found here: <https://www.gaopioidtrust.org/>.