COMMUNITY INITIATIVE | GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

RELEASE DATE:
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SHARE HEALTH SOUTHEAST GEORGIA
P.O. BOX 1718, WAYCROSS, GA 31502

Share Health Southeast Georgia, on Behalf of the Coalition for a Healthy Appling County, Awarded CDC Foundation Grant

Share Health Southeast Georgia, on behalf of the **Coalition for a Healthy Appling County (CHAC),** has been awarded a 14-month grant from the **CDC Foundation** to support overdose prevention efforts in **Appling County**. Through this initiative, Share Health Southeast Georgia and CHAC will engage public health, public safety, healthcare, and community partners to **reduce and prevent** drug overdoses in the county.

Georgia continues to face a significant opioid crisis, with Southeast Georgia at **increased risk** due to limited access to resources and services. According to a gap analysis conducted by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), the region in which Appling County is located experienced a **173% increase** in opioid **overdose death**s between 2018 and 2022, with the largest percentage increase occurring among individuals **ages 20–24.** The analysis also identified critical service gaps, including limited harm reduction services and shortages in healthcare professionals–particularly in behavioral health.

The Georgia Student Health Survey reveals a concerning rise in prescription drug misuse among **Appling County students**, from **8.24% in 2019** to **23.06% in 2024**. With a strong prevention focus, this initiative will complement existing treatment and recovery efforts while addressing identified gaps through education, training, and enhanced community coordination.

Share Health Southeast Georgia was selected along with 17 community coalitions throughout Georgia to receive funding through a grant from the CDC Foundation. The program, titled **Building Partnerships to Address Overdose in Rural Georgia**, is centered on **prevention, community education, and resource enhancement.**

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, which includes Appling County. 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 public health agencies.

The Coalition for a Healthy Appling County (CHAC) was formed in 2016 through Healthcare Georgia Foundation's Two Georgias Initiative. Today, CHAC is a cross-sector coalition of more than **30 partners**, representing public health, healthcare, behavioral health, public safety, education, and youth-serving organizations. Over the years, CHAC has expanded its reach and impact by leading place-based initiatives focused on improving health outcomes, promoting healthy lifestyles, and reducing health inequities–ensuring all Appling County residents have access to the resources needed to support their health and wellbeing. Share Health has been a CHAC partner since its inception, providing administrative, fiscal, and technical support to CHAC as well as retaining the Project Coordinator.

For more information about CHAC and its work, please contact **Olivia Davis, CHAC Program Coordinator, at olivia.hiersdavis@sharehealthsega.org**. To learn more about Share Health Southeast Georgia and CHAC, visit **www.sharehealthsega.org.** This effort is made possible through a grant from the CDC Foundation with support from the Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust.

OUR CONTACT

info@sharehealthsega.org

www.sharehealthsega.org