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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Department Receives Pool Safety Grant

DuPage County—The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has awarded the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) a \$291,811 grant to provide assistance for enforcement, training, and education of pool safety requirements that are intended to save lives and prevent serious injuries. DCHD was one of five state and local governments selected to receive more than \$860,000 in Pool Safety Grant Program (PSGP) grant funds, which are aimed at preventing pool and spa drownings, as well as drain entrapments.

“As a previous recipient of Pool Safety grant funding, DCHD has strengthened partnerships and created great momentum in enforcement training and education throughout our region. This funding will enable us to further expand our educational impact to a much larger geographic and demographic radius with a special focus on children who are at the highest risk of drowning in pools or spas,” said Karen Ayala, Executive Director of DuPage County Health Department.

DCHD has partnered with various agencies and organizations, including the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium (NIPHC), numerous DuPage County municipalities, Illinois Department of Public Health, Safe Kids Illinois, DuPage Regional Office of Education, Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association.

Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death among children ages four and under and the second leading cause of death among children ages five to 14. Per media reports, eight Illinois children fatally drowned between June 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020. Two Illinois children under age five fatally drowned in 2021 in open water incidents. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), for every child that dies due to drowning, another five children are treated for non-fatal drowning submersion injuries at emergency departments.

The grant program, authorized through the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB Act), was passed by Congress and signed into law in 2007. The PSGP seeks to provide state and local governments with assistance for education, training, and enforcement of pool safety requirements.

Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.

**STAY ^{More} SAFE
DUPAGE**



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DCHD regulates about 700 public pools and spas. Our partnering building departments regulate initial construction and the more than 10,000 existing residential pools in DuPage County.

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