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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.

March 14, 2018

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## DuPage County Ranked Healthiest in Illinois

**DUPAGE COUNTY**—The DuPage County Health Department is pleased to announce that DuPage County has once again been recognized as the healthiest county in Illinois. The county rankings, developed by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, are based on quality of life factors such as longevity and overall health status, including physical and mental health.

Health Outcomes (how healthy we are) and Health Factors (how healthy we can be) detail the rankings of the counties in all 50 states. DuPage County has been in the top five in both categories for several years, and is currently ranked at No. 1 in both categories among the 102 counties in Illinois.

The report, [County Health Rankings 2018](#) includes interactive maps that offer an overview of the county health rankings in Illinois.

Health Department Executive Director Karen Ayala said, “We take pride in consistently ranking among the healthiest counties in the state. The health department continues to place a high priority on identifying the health needs of the residents of DuPage County, and offering programs that ensure healthy living.”

DuPage County Board Chairman Dan Cronin said, “We welcome this designation from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and strive to make DuPage County healthier every year. Our county is home to eight award-winning hospitals with more than 73,000 people employed in the healthcare sector in DuPage. Together, our efforts create a healthy environment that links residents to the medical services they need, which leads to a positive impact.”

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“There is always room for improvement,” Ayala said. “We plan to continue to collaborate with our community partners to develop innovative and effective programs based on the health needs of our residents.”

Currently, [Impact DuPage](#) is seeking input from residents about the strengths and needs of the county in a Community Assessment Survey (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) through March 30, 2018).

The rankings are the result of strong county-wide partnerships that meet the priority health needs of the county, such as those under Impact DuPage. Those efforts include the DuPage Health Coalition’s work guiding Access to Care priorities; FORWARD’s work to increase healthy lifestyles among residents; the Affordable Housing efforts; as well as ongoing work with the Prevention Leadership Team and the Behavioral Health Collaborative to address mental health and substance abuse needs among residents.

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