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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.

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Kresge Foundation Names Two at DuPage County Health Department as ‘Emerging Leaders’ in Public Health initiative**

(DUPAGE COUNTY)— Karen Ayala, Executive Director, and Lori Carnahan, Assistant Director of Community Center Services will work to transform the role of public health in DuPage County as part of the Kresge Foundation’s Emerging Leaders in Public Health initiative.

The Emerging Leaders program is designed to provide public health leaders additional knowledge and skills to tackle the challenges facing public health professionals in their communities.

“We take pride in being recognized by the Kresge Foundation and look forward to working with their leadership,” Ayala said.

During the 18-month program, Ayala and Carnahan will participate in an action-oriented program focused on the design and startup of a program that changes or grows the ability of their health department.

“Our local initiative is to develop a more robust and dynamic linkage between the criminal justice system and mental health providers in DuPage County,” Ayala said.

While the Kresge Foundation selected leaders from 20 health departments as part of the nationwide Emerging Leaders program, the DuPage County Health Department is the only health department in Illinois to be chosen.

The University of North Carolina, Gillings School of Public Health serves as the National Program Office and provides support for the initiative.

The Kresge Foundation is a private, national foundation that works to expand opportunities in America’s cities through grant-making and social investing in arts and culture, education, environment, health, human services and community development.

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