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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Department Awarded Over Two Million Dollars in Federal Grant Funding to Focus on Prevention Efforts

DuPage County – This month, the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) secured two significant federal grants totaling over \$2,000,000 to expand efforts to improve mental health, prevent substance use disorders, and prevent drownings.

The two grants have been awarded to DCHD through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Both awards are the result of a highly competitive process and support DCHD’s work to protect the health and promote the well-being of DuPage County’s nearly one million residents.

“We are honored to be a recipient of these two federal grants,” said Adam Forker, Executive Director, DuPage County Health Department. “Federal funds enhance our work with local partners to help us keep DuPage County the healthiest county in Illinois.”

SAMHSA awarded DCHD \$375,000 a year in funding over a five-year period, totaling \$1,875,000. This funding will help the DuPage County Prevention Leadership Team (PLT) working to prevent substance use and increase mental wellness among DuPage County Youth.

For the past ten years, PLT was funded to focus on substance use prevention for youth, 18 years and younger in DuPage. This new funding will expand PLT’s work to now focus on both substance use and mental health for youth and adults throughout DuPage. For additional information on PLT visit: <https://www.dupageplt.org/> and follow them on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/DuPagePLT>

Additionally, CPSC awarded DCHD \$378,854 in Pool Safely grant funding over a two-year period. This funding will support DCHD’s Protect Swimmers 10M (PS10M) goal to prevent child drowning and suction drain entrapment through community awareness activities and professional trainings.

DCHD has been a recipient of the Pool Safely grant since 2018. The new grant award allows PS10M to expand training and education outreach statewide. Three public swimming facilities in the expanded PS10M service region will be selected to deliver free swimming lessons to children. Swim lessons will be age and developmentally appropriate and focused on building essential swimming competencies. For additional information on PS10M visit: <https://www.dupagehealth.org/231/Pool-Safely>.

DCHD would also like to thank all our dedicated partners. Without their support, this would not have been possible.

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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.