



CLAY COUNTY

# PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Opioid Crisis Response Funding Granted to Clay County Public Health Center

**LIBERTY, Mo. – April 29, 2019** – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have awarded Clay County Public Health Center a grant of \$75,000 for the purpose of addressing the current opioid crisis and to conduct opioid response efforts in the county. The one-time funding will be used by Clay County Public Health Center to strengthen local data collection and analysis on opioids to inform decision-making and provide education to community members and public health partners on opioid use and overdose prevention.

Specific goals for utilizing the funding include reaching 100% enrollment for Clay County health care providers and pharmacies in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) and improving the efficiency and speed of collecting and distributing county overdose data. This information will help public health officials make evidence-based decisions for developing interventions that address opioid misuse. The health center will also develop a media campaign targeted to reduce opioid addiction and prevent overdoses in the county.

“This funding gives us a great opportunity to look at ways we can anticipate and meet the needs of our community as we see the number of opioid misuse cases rise across Missouri,” said Ashley Wegner, section chief, Health Planning and Policy. “It will allow us to provide more resources for local health care providers and to more broadly share information about prevention and resources.”

The purpose behind the funding meets an identified health need in Clay County: according to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, there were 879 emergency visits due to opioid misuse made by county residents from 2012-2016 and 98 deaths from opioid overdoses from 2013-2017.

#### ***About Clay County Public Health Center***

*Created in 1953, the Clay County Public Health Center is a nationally accredited local public health department protecting the health of all people in the county by implementing population-based prevention programs and services. This community approach to wellness not only prevents the spread of disease but also provides wellness education to empower people to make healthy choices. To learn more, visit [clayhealth.com](http://clayhealth.com).*

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The mission of the Clay County Public Health Center is to deliver the essential public health services of prevention, promotion and protection to the communities of Clay County.