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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Healthy Hometowns: Combat Cancer Prevention and Screening

Marion County Public Health Department (MCPHD) has officially been awarded funding through the State of Iowa's Rural Health Transformation Program to lead a statewide effort focused on reducing cancer-related disparities in rural Iowa.

As the lead contractor for the grant, MCPHD is currently partnering with 67 local public health agencies across Iowa to implement a coordinated, evidence-based approach to cancer prevention, screening, early detection, and access to care. This initiative now provides coverage across all rural Iowa counties, ensuring communities statewide have access to resources and support aimed at improving cancer outcomes.

Through this initiative, MCPHD and its partners will deliver targeted cancer awareness messaging, expand access to screening and early detection services, reduce lung cancer risk through radon testing and mitigation, strengthen the rural radon mitigation workforce, and improve access to cancer-related health services through telehealth and financial assistance.

MCPHD is currently preparing a statewide social media campaign to increase awareness of cancer prevention resources, screening opportunities, and radon education. In addition, Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for dermatoscopes and radon test kits will be released soon as part of the program's implementation efforts.

Iowa continues to have one of the highest cancer incidence rates in the nation. This coordinated effort will establish a sustainable network of trusted local partners working together to improve cancer outcomes and reduce health disparities for rural Iowans.

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