

# Clay County Health Department

BETTER CARE. BETTER HEALTH. BETTER LIVING

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 25, 2024

## **September is National Preparedness Month – Volunteer with the Clay County MRC**

As this year's National Preparedness Month comes to an end, the Clay County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is excited to announce a call for new volunteers who are interested in protecting and improving public health in Clay County.

The Clay County MRC is part of a national network of approximately 200,000 volunteers dedicated to building strong, safe, and resilient communities. The need for the MRC became apparent after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, when medical and public health professionals – eager to volunteer in support of emergency relief activities – found that there was no organized approach to channel their efforts. The MRC provides the structure to pre-identify, credential, train, and activate volunteers in the event of a disaster or public health emergency.

Since being established on August 29, 2012, the Clay County MRC's mission has been to protect and improve the health and safety of our community. Our efforts focus on identifying and training qualified medical & non-medical volunteers to support public health initiatives, local emergency response efforts, and community preparedness activities. Clay County MRC volunteers have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities, including:

- **Emergency Preparedness and Response:** Participating in drills, training exercises, and real-life responses to emergencies and disasters.
- **Public Health Initiatives:** Contributing to resource/health fairs, vaccination clinics, and health education events aimed at promoting community well-being.
- **Training and Development:** Participating in virtual and in-person trainings to enhance your skills and knowledge in areas relevant to public health and emergency management.
- **Community Engagement:** Collaborating with local organizations and residents to address health needs and improve community preparedness.

Regardless of whether you have a medical background or simply a passion for serving your community, consider volunteering your time with the Clay County MRC. Our volunteers play an essential role in ensuring that our community is better prepared for any challenges that may come our way.

For more information or to request an application to join the Clay County MRC, please contact the Clay County Health Department at (618) 662-4406 and ask for Emergency Preparedness.

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