



Healthy
Lakewood Foundation

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Lakewood, Ohio 44107

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Healthy Lakewood Foundation Awards Neighborhood Paramedic Program Funding to the City of Lakewood

The Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF) is pleased to announce a \$70,000 grant to the City of Lakewood in support of its Neighborhood Paramedic Program. The Neighborhood Paramedic Program is a developing initiative that allows the Lakewood Fire Department to expand its Emergency Medical Services (EMS) role in the community, reducing illness and injury by identifying and treating preventable causes.

The Neighborhood Paramedic Program is focused on a fall prevention program for the elderly community modeled on an evidence-based initiative from the Center for Disease Control (CDC). In 2021, over 10% of calls to Lakewood EMS were in response to an older adult who had fallen. The CDC notes that 1 out of 5 falls causes serious injury.

The program is staffed by Paramedic Michael Sanders who has been uniquely trained to provide responsive care which not only builds trust with residents, but also integrates them into the community's medical and social service support systems. By assessing health and coordinating care, Paramedic Sander's efforts will increase access to primary and preventative care services, enhance home safety for Lakewood's older adult residents, and ultimately decrease emergency department utilization.

The funding is HLF's first system-level grant. HLF's [grantmaking strategy](#) addresses [social determinants of health](#) across Lakewood to advance health equity and outcomes.

"As HLF implements our comprehensive grantmaking strategy this year, we see alignment in a city-wide program that will stabilize and improve health for residents by addressing the factors that cause health emergencies," explains HLF's Board President, Khalilah Worley Billy. "We are grateful to Mayor Meghan George and her team for bringing this proposal to us and working collaboratively with our Board to build the program's capacity."

"The Neighborhood Paramedic Program fills a serious gap in Lakewood's health and wellness environment, with a proactive focus on preventing injuries and addressing medical issues before they elevate to the need for a hospital or emergency room visit," said Mayor Meghan F. George. "The City of Lakewood is grateful to the Healthy Lakewood Foundation for seeing the value in this program and providing initial dollars to help us launch the work."

HLF's grant includes funds for program evaluation to assess the program's impact and potential expansion. The program is expected to start in early August of this year.

About the Healthy Lakewood Foundation: The Healthy Lakewood Foundation (HLF) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit public charity. HLF was created to ensure remaining assets from the conversion of the Lakewood Hospital will continue to benefit the health and wellbeing of residents in the City of Lakewood. HLF's grantmaking addresses the social determinants of health, the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age in Lakewood, Ohio. HLF's mission is to advance programs, policies, and practices that inspire a Lakewood community in which health and wellness are reflected in all aspects of life. To contact HLF, please visit www.healthylakewoodfoundation.org or email info@healthylakewoodfoundation.org

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