

# GEORGIA Rural Health INNOVATION CENTER

AT MERCER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

This is the official newsletter of the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center designed to keep stakeholders up-to-date on key information and events.

## Sow A Seed Grant Recipient Heard County Community Partnership Addressing Food Insecurity in their Community



*Pictured Above are the food pantry volunteers with Heard County Community Partnership.*

The Heard County Community Partnership, located in Franklin, Georgia, has been selected as a Sow A Seed 2021 grant recipient based on their innovative approach to address food insecurity in their community, as well as supporting the continuation and growth of their food pantry which has been expanding over the past year through the Heard County Food Pantry Project. Two new areas of innovation to address the community's needs will be a Mobile Food and Resource Pantry and a School-Based Student Grocery Store.

In September 2020, Heard County Community Partnership assumed administrative responsibility for the Heard County Food Pantry. In addition to the transition in leadership, the food pantry was also moved to a new larger, more accessible location. The new location not only allowed for more user-friendly service to the community, but it also provided extra space that allowed for the creation of a Community Resource Center. The Resource Center allows new and expecting mothers to get supplies for their infants through the Pregnancy Resource Center, and provides assistance to low-income elderly residents applying for energy bill assistance and weatherization home repairs from Community Action for Improvement.

[Read More](#)



# Center Projects



## 2022 Grantees Positioned for Success

The Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center is hosting free, informational, grant preparation seminars. These seminars will focus on developing skills to equip organizational leaders with the tools to successfully compete for grant funding.

### ***Introduction to Public Health & Community Impact***

Tuesday, March 8, 11:00am - 12:00pm

### ***Searching for Suitable Grants***

Tuesday, April 12, 11:00am - 12:00pm

### ***Building Beneficial Budgets***

Tuesday, May 10, 11:00am - 12:00pm

### ***Proposal Planning & Design***

Tuesday, June 14, 11:00am - 12:00pm

### ***Engaging Communities with Enthusiastic Communication***

Tuesday, July 12, 11:00am - 12:00pm

### ***Activity Assessment Amidst Implementation***

Tuesday, August 9, 11:00am - 12:00pm

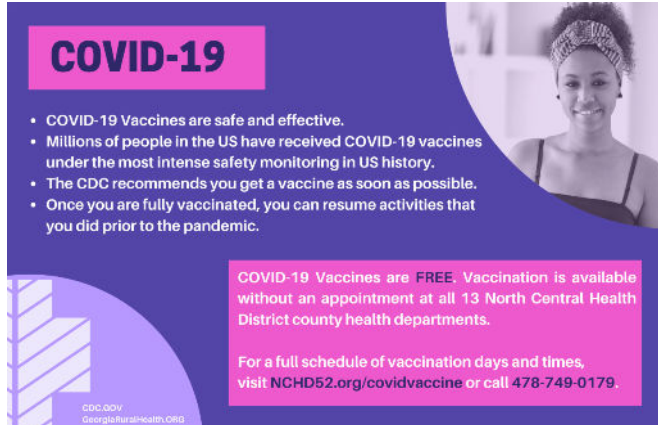
In 60  
minutes!

**Please register here**

**[www.georgiaruralhealth.org/grant-program/](http://www.georgiaruralhealth.org/grant-program/)**

GEORGIA  
**Rural Health**  
INNOVATION CENTER  
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## Abstracts Selected for the 2022 Georgia Public Health Association Annual Meeting



**COVID-19**

- COVID-19 Vaccines are safe and effective.
- Millions of people in the US have received COVID-19 vaccines under the most intense safety monitoring in US history.
- The CDC recommends you get a vaccine as soon as possible.
- Once you are fully vaccinated, you can resume activities that you did prior to the pandemic.

COVID-19 Vaccines are **FREE**. Vaccination is available without an appointment at all 13 North Central Health District county health departments.

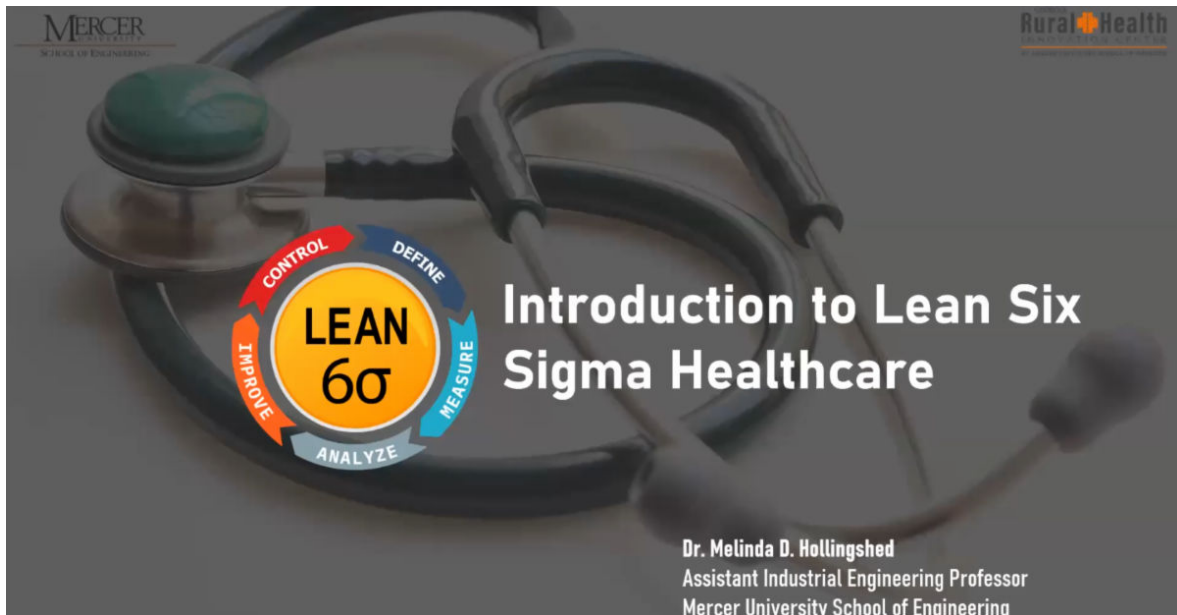
For a full schedule of vaccination days and times, visit [NCHD52.org/covidvaccine](https://NCHD52.org/covidvaccine) or call 478-749-0179.

CDC GOV  
GeorgiaRuralHealth.Org

Several abstracts submitted by team members of the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center were selected for the 2022 Georgia Public Health Association Annual Meeting. The 2022 Georgia Public Health Association (GPHA) Annual Meeting will convene in Jekyll Island, Georgia from May 4 to 6, 2022. Below you will find each selected abstract with a brief overview of the project.

[Learn More](#)

## Center to Collaborate with Mercer School of Engineering to Host Lean 6 Sigma Informational Sessions for Rural Healthcare Providers



**Introduction to Lean Six Sigma Healthcare**

**LEAN 6σ**

DEFINE  
MEASURE  
ANALYZE  
IMPROVE  
CONTROL

Dr. Melinda D. Hollingshed  
Assistant Industrial Engineering Professor  
Mercer University School of Engineering


On February 23, 2022, the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center in partnership with the Mercer School of Engineering offered a webinar addressing the basic principles of the Lean Six Sigma methodology and its application in rural healthcare. Dr. Melinda Hollingshed, Mercer University School of Engineering, hosted this informational session. Dr. Hollingshed has many years of practical experience in the field working as an industrial engineer and leading Lean Six Sigma projects in manufacturing, healthcare, and supply chain logistics. As a certified Lean Six Sigma (LSS) Master Black Belt, she has also developed LSS training courses for all belt levels.

In this introductory session, Dr. Hollingshed defined LSS and its guiding principles, presented case studies on LSS in healthcare, covered potential applications in clinical and non-clinical areas, and presented a roadmap for LSS implementation. Based on the positive response to the initial webinar, we will be following up with additional training opportunities including a free healthcare focused Lean 6 Sigma Yellow Belt course for Georgia Healthcare Innovation Center's rural healthcare partners. Additional details will be posted on our website in the next few weeks.


[Learn More](#)

## Center Surveying Georgia Paramedics and EMT

[Dr. Anne Montgomery](#) and the Center's PhD students are collecting data on Georgia's paramedic and EMT populations. If you are a paramedic or EMT based in Georgia, please take the survey below.



# Georgia EMS Survey



Are you a Georgia-based paramedic or EMT? We are looking into the self-reported pros and cons of joining the field. Interested? Scan the QR code to fill out a brief survey!



## Health Fairs & Events

Join us at these upcoming events for giveaways, free healthcare screenings, and wellness activities.

### Clay County

March 19, 2022, 10 am - 1 pm, Fort Gaines Baptist Church

**Sumter County** | June 25, 2022

**Hancock County** | July 2022

**Putnam County** | September 24, 2022

**Peach County** | coming soon

**Are you interested in hosting a health fair in your community or**

being a vendor at one of the fairs listed above?

Please email [Morgan Williams, MPH](mailto:Morgan.Williams@georgiaruralhealth.org)

# NEWS & NOTABLES



## Ongoing Center Projects 2022

- [Maternal Health Improvement](#) - All Rural Counties
- [Maternal Health Observership](#) - All Rural Counties
- [Maternal Health Symposium](#) - All Rural Counties
- **Barber/Beauty Shop Project** - Rural counties to be determined
- [Sow a Seed Grant](#) - Putnam, Heard, Ben Hill
- [Community Health Reporter](#) - All Rural Counties
- **Clergy/Physician Program** - Rural counties to be determined
- **Community Health Needs Assessment** - Morgan, Greene, Putnam, Hancock
- [Hancock County COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine Hesitancy Study](#) - Hancock
- [Clinical Ethics ECHO](#) - All Rural Counties
- [Lean Six Sigma Webinar](#) - All Rural Counties
- [Mental Health First Aid](#) - All Rural Counties
- [Pediatric Mental Health Initiative](#) - Ben Hill, Washington
- **Health Fairs** - All Rural Counties
- **QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention** - All Rural Counties

Visit our website to learn more.



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