



OFFICE OF THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Steve Summers, County Executive

MEDIA RELEASE

Champaign County Awarded Firearms Safe Storage Strategies Grant Through IDPH

Urbana, IL. – October 1, 2024 – Champaign County launches a new grant-funded program providing free gun locks & safes to keep your home and loved ones secure. We are pleased to announce that Champaign County has been awarded a grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to enhance public health and safety through firearm safe storage solutions and education on firearms restraining orders (FROs). The Champaign County Gun Safety initiative is designed to promote responsible gun ownership and reduce the risk of firearm-related incidents in our community.

The grant will support educational programming and outreach that informs residents on the importance of secure firearm storage to prevent unauthorized access, accidental discharges, and theft. It will also include information on firearms restraining orders, helping families and law enforcement use this critical tool to temporarily remove firearms from individuals who pose a risk to themselves or others.

In June 2024, the U.S. Surgeon General issued an advisory on the topic of firearm violence calling it an urgent public health crisis.

"Gun violence including gun suicide continues to be a serious concern throughout our community. Champaign County is committed to supporting gun violence prevention efforts and this grant builds on the financial support the County has provided to local gun violence prevention efforts over the past few years. Increased public awareness of and access to safe storage as well as highlighting options to temporarily remove guns from loved ones who pose a threat to themselves or others will save lives," said Elly Hanauer-Friedman, Champaign County Board Member, District 4 and longtime volunteer leader with Champaign County Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

The program will offer free gun locks and safes paired with educational workshops and outreach efforts to residents, with additional resources made accessible online. The County will also partner with local law enforcement, public health officials, and community organizations to raise awareness of firearms restraining orders and the benefits of safe firearm storage.

Visit www.champaigncountygunsafety.org to sign up for upcoming trainings and to learn more about the program and other events, or email safestorage@champaigncountyil.gov