



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Eau Claire City-County Health Department is Celebrating 75 years!**

**Eau Claire, WI, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016** – In 1941, the Eau Claire City-County Health Department was established as a joint city-county health department; a unique collaboration to operate more efficiently and economically in our city and county. The Eau Claire City-County Health Department is currently one of only two joint city-county health departments in the state.

Over the past 75 years, staff at the Health Department have worked to protect and promote the health of our community. Staff have also worked to understand the health of people in our county and develop innovative programs/services to support changing needs. In 1941, the Eau Claire City-County Health Department had nine general program areas and 15 employees. Core programs included: communicable disease control; school nursing; community sanitation; food inspection; milk inspection; maternal, infant and preschool hygiene; water supply inspection; nuisance control; and the keeping of vital statistics. Over the years, the department has significantly expanded services. Today, the Health Department has 40 distinct program areas and has 65 employees.

The Eau Claire City-County Health Department is proud of the work that has happened in our community over the past 75 years that has helped to:

- Keep our homes and places healthy
- Protect our food and water
- Ensure we are prepared for emergencies
- Encourage the healthy growth and development of families
- Reduce the spread of communicable disease
- Prevent chronic disease
- Promote healthy living and prevention



**Community members are invited to attend an open house from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15th, in Room 302/Ground Level Lobby of County Courthouse, 720 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703.**

Health department tours, and displays on accomplishments over the years will be showcased.

Improving issues like chronic disease, communicable disease and environmental hazards is complicated work. “We know that it takes time and partnerships to tackle these issues and move upstream to prevention. We want to thank you the staff, the community, and Eau Claire leaders who support our efforts and look forward to the continued work we do together to create a healthier Eau Claire,” says Lieske Giese, Director/Health Officer of the Eau Claire City-County Health Department.

**For more information about the services provided by the Eau Claire City-County Health Department, please visit [www.ehealthdepartment.org](http://www.ehealthdepartment.org).**

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