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MEDIA CONTACT:
Jen Ryan
386-804-7996
gaopioidtrust@dbhdd.ga.gov

Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust Awards \$416,000 Grant to Expand Georgia Sheriffs' Association Youth Opioid Prevention Program

ATLANTA – The Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust is proud to announce a \$416,000 grant to the Georgia Sheriffs' Association to expand the CHAMPS (Choosing Healthy Activities and Methods Promoting Safety) program. This funding reflects the Trust's commitment to proactive prevention, ensuring that Georgia's youth receive the education and resources needed to stay safe from opioid addiction.

"As the Trustee of the Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust, I am honored to oversee the distribution of these critical funds to programs that make a real impact," said Kevin Tanner. "Every child in Georgia deserves the chance to grow up in a safe, supportive environment, free from the dangers of opioid addiction. Through this partnership, we are addressing the opioid crisis at its root—before addiction takes hold."

The CHAMPS program has been a vital tool in substance abuse prevention for over 20 years, equipping students with real-world knowledge about the dangers of opioids and other substances. Through deputy-led lessons, the program reaches children at a critical age, giving them the tools to make informed, responsible decisions.

With this grant, the Trust is ensuring the CHAMPS program can:

- Train and certify new CHAMPS instructors, increasing the number of deputies in classrooms statewide;
- Expand lesson plans and educational materials to keep the curriculum relevant and impactful;
- Provide scholarships to sheriff's offices with limited budgets to ensure full participation;
- Enhance data tracking and program evaluation to measure effectiveness and improve outreach efforts;
- Support CHAMPS Camp and youth conferences, offering at-risk children positive experiences and life-saving education.

The Georgia Sheriffs' Association was awarded funds after undergoing a competitive application process. The award comes from state portion of the Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust funds. The goal is to expand CHAMPS into all 159 counties, ensuring that every student in Georgia has access to this life-saving education.

Georgia's Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust is projected to receive \$638 million in settlement funding over the next 18 years. For more information on the Trust and its efforts to combat the opioid crisis, visit <https://www.gaopioidtrust.org/>.

The Georgia Sheriffs' Association promotes and professionalizes the Office of Sheriff to enhance public safety statewide. Since 1954, the association has provided essential training, advocated for effective crime policies, and supported community initiatives, including the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes for abused and neglected children. For more information about the Georgia Sheriffs' Association, please visit <https://georgiasheriffs.org/>.

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