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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Greene County Public Health Department Honored for Excellence in Public Health**

***Local Health Department Program is One of 22 Nationwide to Receive  
"Model Practice Award" in 2014***

**Catskill, NY (July 9, 2014)** – Greene County Public Health Department was honored at the 2014 annual conference of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), an organization representing the nation's 2,800 local health departments, for a program that demonstrates exemplary and replicable qualities in response to a critical local public health need. *Project Needle Smart* was one of 22 local health department programs to receive NACCHO's prestigious Model Practice Award.

Project Needle Smart is a Public Health Initiative that offers a convenient way to properly dispose of "home sharps". This alternative keeps needles out of our landfills and transfer stations reducing injury and illness. There are now five Kiosks located in Greene County that residents can use to drop off their home sharps. The Sharps Disposal Kiosks are similar in size and appearance to a mail box. We request that all sharps to be disposed of in a Kiosk, be placed in a puncture resistant container, such as sharps container, or a plastic container with a secure lid. Personal Sharps Containers are available for free at all of the Kiosk sites. The kiosks are located at Emurgent Care in Coxsackie, The Greene County Office Building, Water Street landing, Catskill, Windham Pharmacy, Windham, CVS Pharmacy, Cairo, and Kelly's Pharmacy in Greenville. Two additional sites will soon be available: Hunter EMS in Tannersville and The Hannaford Store in Cairo. "We are proud to receive NACCHO's Model Practice Award. The award is evidence of our commitment to developing responsive and innovative public health programs that improve the health of local residents," said Laura Churchill, FNP, Interim Director, Greene County Public Health Department.

Each innovative project receiving the Model Practice Award was peer-reviewed and selected from a group of 71 applicants.

Since 2003, NACCHO's Model Practice Awards program has honored programs, resources, and tools that demonstrate how local health departments and their community partners can effectively collaborate to address local public health challenges.

*Project Needle Smart* is now part of an online, searchable database of successful public health practices in areas ranging from immunization and maternal and child health to infectious diseases and emergency preparedness. The NACCHO Model Practice database is publicly accessible, and allows local health departments, public health partners, and other important stakeholders to learn about the good work being done by local health departments across the country. The database also provides an opportunity for users to learn from colleagues' best practices and what resources are needed to implement comparable programs in other jurisdictions that produce results.

This award puts Greene County Public Health in special company—a select group of health departments that exemplify a forward thinking, proactive attitude toward protecting and promoting the health of communities across the nation.

For more information about the NACCHO Model Practice Awards and to view a list of other award winners, go to [www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org)

**About the National Association of County and City Health Officials**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation's 2,800 local governmental health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities.

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