



## Catawba County Public Health

[www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth](http://www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth)

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### **CATAWBA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH RECEIVES CAROLINA STAR AWARD**

HICKORY, NC – As part of its safety recognition program, Carolina Star, the N.C. Department of Labor certified Catawba County Public Health as a Public Sector Star site. State Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry attended a ceremony at Public Health on Thursday, June 6 to present employees with a certificate and the Carolina Star flag.

Catawba County Public Health is the third health department in North Carolina to be recognized as a Public Sector Star site. There are now four total Carolina Star sites in Catawba County and 144 across the state.

The Carolina Star is the most prestigious safety recognition given by the N.C. Department of Labor. Organizations that qualify for the award have exemplary safety and health programs in the workplace. The Star Program recognizes excellence in site-specific occupational safety and health management systems. Star Program participants have effective safety and health management systems that serve as models for other businesses.

“Being a Carolina Star site shows the community that you are committed to a safe work environment,” said Commissioner Berry. “I encourage everybody to follow your lead. You have set the bar very high for all other businesses in the area and in the state by achieving this recognition.”

“We sought this recognition in part to show the community our commitment to high quality safety and health,” said Doug Urand, health director, Catawba County Public Health. “Becoming a Public Sector Star site is a testament to our employees for all the hard work they’ve put into achieving the highest safety standard in the state.”

Carolina Star sites are determined through an application process. Organizations applying for the recognition must fill out a multi-page, multi-question application including topics such as emergency programs and drills, as well as injury and illness rates. Applicants also undergo an onsite evaluation including document review, a walk-through to identify hazards, and employee interviews.

Located off Fairgrove Church Road behind Catawba Valley Medical Center in Hickory, N.C., Catawba County Public Health provides health and education services to eligible men, women, and children in the community. For more information, please call (828) 695-5800 or visit [www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth](http://www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth).

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*“Leading the Way to a Healthier Community”*

