

**Ohio Department of Health**

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*Ted Strickland, Governor*  
*Alvin D. Jackson, M.D., Director*



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**Office of Public Affairs**  
*Robert Jennings, Director*

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**ODH HONORS RURAL HEALTH CHAMPIONS**

COLUMBUS – A hospital administrator from Paulding County, a physician from Jackson County and a program in Morrow County are this year’s Ohio Department of Health (ODH) honorees for helping to increase access to quality care in rural Ohio.

“This is a critical public health function,” ODH Director Alvin D. Jackson, M.D., said of helping rural residents find the care they deserve and need. “I applaud this year’s award winners and hope others will follow their examples and strive to make lasting contributions to the rural health care system.”

The winners are:

Rural Health Administrator: Honoring an administrator who displays strong leadership in community needs assessment and program implementation at a critical access hospital (CAH) in Ohio. The honoree must be an effective leader at his CAH and in the community.

- **Gary Adkins of Paulding County Hospital.**

Rural Health Provider: Honoring a clinician who provides outstanding care to patients, is dedicated to the community and who displays leadership in providing health care services at a CAH in Ohio.

- **Douglas Jones, D.O. of Holzer Medical Center in Jackson.**

Rural Health Program: Honoring a innovative, effective program that makes a lasting impact on the community while coordinating efforts with various community members.

- **Sports Medicine Program/Rehabilitation Services Department of Morrow County Hospital.**

The awards were given at the Aug. 11-12 Ohio Flex/CAH annual meeting.

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**Contact: Ohio Department of Health – Office of Public Affairs (614) 644-8562**

*Editor’s note: Contact information for the honorees is available upon request.*