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## **Cleveland County Awarded Healthiest Employer of Greater Charlotte**

**SHELBY, N.C.**– The Charlotte Business Journal recently ranked Cleveland County Government as the #1 Healthiest Employer of Greater Charlotte with 500 to 1,499 employees.

CBJ's Healthiest Employers of Greater Charlotte Awards program seeks to highlight local companies that are making strides in wellness for employees – physical, emotional, and otherwise. Regional companies, nonprofit organizations, and government entities applied and then participated in an extensive survey process focused on health and wellness-related issues, from benefits like insurance and paid leave to workplace amenities.

"Cleveland County makes employee wellness a high priority. When employees improve their personal health and well-being, they are happier, more engaged, and more productive," said Kerri Melton, Assistant County Manager. "This, in turn, allows us to positively impact the lives of the citizens we serve. It's a win for everyone."



Cleveland County Government provides a wide variety of wellness benefits ranging from lowcost primary care and employee wellness center to programs designed to manage chronic medical conditions, mental health support, and walking or workout opportunities.

The County recently offered a medical weight management program, focused on support and education for those who are motivated to lose weight but have been unsuccessful in past attempts. As part of the program, employees engage in one-on-one sessions, monthly group sessions, and weekly check-ins via text. A total of 40 employees are enrolled and have lost a total of 1,262 pounds.

Over the last 12 months, Cleveland County Government has seen a 6% decrease in claims for their high-risk employees and an 8% decrease in emergency room utilization. Chronic conditions no longer make the top seven conditions for total health-care spending with Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

Cleveland County Government previously ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in 2021 and 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2022.