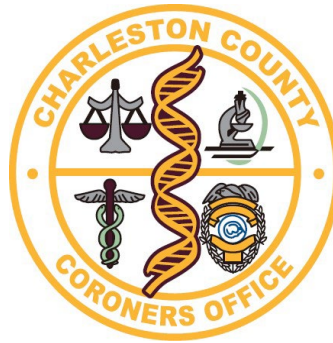


News Release



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Charleston County Coroner's Office Receives Emergency Preparedness Grant

The Charleston County Coroner's Office has been awarded \$625,212 in grant funds provided by the Lowcountry Healthcare Coalition through a grant from the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

Funds will be used to develop a regional plan to create a Family Assistance Center in the event of a mass casualty event, to purchase a forensic radiology system, and to purchase a point of care toxicology analyzer. This analyzer will provide immediate drug testing results and real-time data to the Coroner's Office, law enforcement, and medical providers. This information will be used to impact the opioid epidemic with real-time data as it relates to fatal drug overdoses.

The mission of the Lowcountry Healthcare Coalition is to support local healthcare organizations and encourage partnerships with response agencies. The organization also helps regional community partners to adequately plan and respond to man-made or natural hazard emergencies.

"The Charleston County Coroner's Office is a member of the Lowcountry Healthcare Coalition and works with stakeholders to improve emergency preparedness in South Carolina. We are honored to have been awarded funds which will focus on the specific needs of drug related death investigations, provide forensic radiology technology, and provide needed resources in the event our region experiences another mass casualty event," said Coroner Bobbi Jo O'Neal.

"The Lowcountry Healthcare Coalition is so grateful to have the Charleston County Coroner Bobbi Jo O'Neal on our executive board. She single-handedly has brought the involvement of all ten other coroners in our region to the table to partner with us in preparedness, response, and recovery from natural and man-made events. She passionately communicates the needs of her colleagues in such a way that we can create grant opportunities that help all our communities not only in the county and region but also in South Carolina," said L Diane Fox, Lowcountry Healthcare Coordinator.

For information on Charleston County Coroner Office news and services, the public can:

- Visit our website: <https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/coroner/index.php>
- Visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/charlestoncoroner>

-written by the Charleston County Coroner's Office-

