Developing a Focus on Healthcare—Washington County’s healthcare needs led to the creation of the first issue-based Archway position. The Archway Public Health Professional works much like the Archway Professional in any other community: convening the stakeholders, building consensus on priority issues and strategies, and moving toward implementation and improvement. An advisory committee reviews the needs and proposes a list of priorities and collaborates on implementing programs that meet these priorities. Hospital officials, physicians, public and community health professionals, business and industry leaders, and educators from across Washington County all sit on this committee. Thus far, the Washington County Archway Partnership has collaborated with Georgia Southern University, Georgia College and State University, Mercer University, The Medical College of Georgia, Darton College, and Sandersville Technical College on various health care projects.

Federally Qualified Health Center—In Clayton County, the Archway Executive Committee determined that quality affordable healthcare was a priority in a community with a growing and diverse population. The Archway Partnership assembled faculty and students from UGA’s College of Public Health, Clayton State University’s Information Technology program, and Georgia Tech’s Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development to assist in researching and preparing an application to establish additional Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers (FQHC) in Clayton County. Data have been collected and applications are being submitted to bring a new FQHC to Clayton County. Over 60,000 uninsured citizens in the Atlanta metro area will be potentially impacted by the improved care offered by this center.

Building a USG Platform—The partners involved in the establishment of the Farmworker Health Summer Program - Ellenton Clinic are the Ellenton Migrant Health Clinic, Emory University Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, Georgia State University Departments of Physical Therapy and Psychology, Darton College Dental Hygiene Services, Clayton State University Dental Hygiene Services, Georgia Department of Community Health, and Health District 8-2. These partners work together to provide a two week mobile health clinic during the summer for the migrant farm workers housed on produce farms in the Colquitt County area. Department of Community Health statistics show that migrant laborers are one of the most medically underserved populations in the country, and this project helps by bringing the services to the workers in their homes, schools, and community gathering places. Archway Partnership Health was able to engage the UGA College of Pharmacy to fill a need for pharmacists in the mobile clinic with six pharmacy students.
Health Professional to RN Bridge Program—Seeking to improve the quality and access to healthcare in Washington County, local leaders sought assistance from Archway to further develop the relationship between Washington County Regional Medical Center, Sandersville Technical College and Darton College to offer the Healthcare Professional to RN Bridge degree program. The program gives Emergency Medical Technicians and Licensed Practical Nurses the necessary classes and certifications to become Registered Nurses, thus improving their career opportunities, as well as increasing the number of highly-qualified nurses in Washington County. The Archway Partnership surveyed the local community and hospitals for their interest and assisted with communication to potential students. The first cohort of 25 students began classes in October 2009 and will complete the training within one year.

College of Public Health Archway Orientation Tours—The first annual UGA College of Public Health Archway Orientation Tour was conducted in August 2009. The tours were developed to expose graduate students to public health in communities in Georgia. Graduate students chose between Hart, Clayton, and Washington Counties and participated in a day long experience in those communities. Approximately 20 graduate students participated in the tour. Internal partners include the UGA College of Public Health and Cooperative Extension. Community partners include Clayton County Board of Health, Hart County Hospital, local health professionals in Washington County, and Thiele Kaolin.

State of Georgia Emergency Response Pharmacist Protocol—The Archway Partnership facilitated the State of Georgia Emergency Response Pharmacist Protocol initiative. The goal of the initiative is to establish an infrastructure in Georgia to utilize pharmacists in dispensing medications in a declared state of emergency. Internal partners include UGA College of Pharmacy and Institute for Health Management and Mass Destruction Defense. External partners include the Georgia Composite Medical Board, Georgia Board of Pharmacy, Georgia Pharmacy Association, Georgia Emergency Preparedness and Response Division, Georgia Emergency Management Agency, and Georgia Office of the Governor.

Local Washington County volunteers and University of Georgia College of Public Health students assist clients in Washington County at the 2009 Medicare Made Easy Event organized through Archway Partnership: Health (hosted by Sandersville Technical College).