



Today's Date: September 17, 2024

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Release Date: IMMEDIATE

Horizon Behavioral Health awarded federal grant to support Lynchburg Recovery Court Program

Lynchburg, VA – The Lynchburg Adult Recovery Court program celebrates the recent announcement of a \$2 million federal grant provided by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The awarded funds will be used to increase the capacity of the Lynchburg Adult Recovery Court (LARC) by adding a probation officer to supervise participants, funding for recovery housing, and a robust external evaluation.

Since its implementation in 2017, LARC has served 70 individuals by providing comprehensive treatment for those involved in the criminal justice system struggling with substance use addiction with a focus on equitable, accessible, and timely care. The LARC program has been operating at full capacity to meet community needs, but this new funding will allow the program to now serve 20 individuals per year for the next five years.

“A healthy community is a thriving community, and the LARC is dedicated to helping those who are swimming against the tide of addiction by providing a lifeline to an existence of success and sobriety,” said Adedamola Onafowokan, LARC Project Director at Horizon Behavioral Health. “We are thankful for the opportunity to see the LARC go to even greater heights for the betterment of those we serve.”

“I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our entire team and everyone that worked on this grant,” said Taylor Jones, Adult Recovery Court Program Director for the Lynchburg City Circuit Court. “This funding will allow us to expand in a way like never before—we can enhance supervision across the board and give more people in the criminal justice system access to resources to treat their substance use.”

The Lynchburg Adult Recovery Court is a collaborative initiative established by the Central Virginia Health District, the Lynchburg Commonwealth Attorney's Office, Horizon Behavioral Health, the Lynchburg Circuit Court, the Lynchburg Public Defender's Office, and the Virginia Department of Corrections.

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Horizon Behavioral Health has been the primary public behavioral healthcare provider in Central Virginia for more than 55 years. Horizon provides services to adults and children, addressing challenges with mental health,



substance use and intellectual disabilities. Horizon is accredited by CARF International. This represents the highest level of accreditation that can be given to a behavioral health organization.