



Today's Date: October 29, 2024

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Release Date: IMMEDIATE

Federal Drug Free Communities Grant to support CVARR, a local substance use resources coalition

Lynchburg, VA – Horizon Behavioral Health has been awarded the federal Drug-Free Communities grant from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) for a total of up to \$625,000 over a five-year period to support the Central Virginia Addiction and Recovery Resources (CVARR) Coalition. This grant program, managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), represents an opportunity to strengthen ongoing local efforts in preventing youth substance use in our community through local partnership.

ONDCP's DFC program is the nation's leading effort to mobilize communities to prevent and reduce substance use among youth. The DFC program provides federal grants to community coalitions to identify and respond to the issues unique to their community and change community conditions tied to youth substance use. With this grant, CVARR will be able to continue building a safe, healthy, and drug-free community in the City of Lynchburg.

"Preventing substance use today is critical, so that today's youth don't become tomorrow's overdose victims. We are thrilled to award this grant because we know the outcomes DFC funded coalitions are capable of achieving when implementing evidence-based prevention strategies at the local level," said Helen Hernandez, Administrator of the DFC Program at ONDCP.

"Through the DFC program, CDC is empowering community coalitions to implement local solutions to unique, local conditions, with the common goal of preventing youth substance use," added Allison Arwady, MD, MPH, director of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at CDC.

Since 2016, CVARR has been entrusted with the responsibility of dealing with emerging drug trends in our region, such as opioids, methamphetamine, prescription drug misuse and synthetic drug use, by capitalizing on community partnerships to lead a comprehensive, multi-sector approach to community-driven problem solving. Horizon serves as the fiscal agent to support the CVARR coalition.

"We recognize the tremendous impact that the drug crisis is having on our community and the need for innovative prevention strategies in our collective response," said Januwaa Davis, CVARR Coalition Chair and Program Manager of Prevention &

Wellness Services at Horizon Behavioral Health. “Through collaborative problem solving, grassroots efforts and federal support, we strengthen our commitment to creating a safe and healthy community for all.”

To learn more about CVARR, please visit their website: <https://www.cvarr.org/>

The CVARR Coalition is made up of representatives from the following partners:

- 24th District Court Services Unit
- Anthem Healthkeepers
- Centra Health
- City of Lynchburg
- Community Access Network
- Embrace Healthily Solutions
- Families Anonymous
- Gospel Community Church Rivermont
- The Haven
- The Hope Initiative
- Horizon Behavioral Health
- Lighthouse Community Center
- Lynchburg City Schools
- Lynchburg Commonwealth’s Attorney
- Lynchburg Police Dept.
- Madeline Centre
- Mid-State Safety
- Pathways Recovery
- Virginia Dept. of Corrections
- Virginia Dept. of Health
- Virginia Nat. Guard Counterdrug Taskforce
- Virginia Roads to Recovery
- Virginia Veterans & Family Support
- VVFS Veteran Justice Specialist
- We Recover Group
- The UP Foundation

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Central Virginia Addiction & Recovery Resources Coalition, CVARR, was created to help foster a community-wide approach to stop addiction and promote recovery and healthy lifestyles across the central Virginia Region. Our goal is to connect people with the resources they need to find their own path to treatment and recovery.

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.