



Today's Date: August 1, 2022

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## **Horizon Behavioral Health aims to locate permanent supportive housing for 245 homeless adolescents in central Virginia**

**Lynchburg, VA** – Horizon has been awarded \$1,991,554 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to implement a program for homeless adolescents and young adults, ages 18 through 25. This program, and others like it, will be paramount to changing the narrative of the 20,443 public school students in Virginia who experienced homelessness over the course of the 2018-2019 school year, as reported to the U.S. Department of Education ([USICH](#)).

The SAMHSA Grant to Benefit Homeless Individuals (GBHI) will be utilized to provide outreach and engagement, screening and same-day assessment, treatment, case management, peer recovery support, and location of permanent housing, among other specialty services. To be eligible for this program, an adolescent must (1.) have a mental health diagnosis, substance use disorder, or a co-occurring diagnosis, (2.) be homeless or at a high risk of becoming homeless, and (3.) reside in the Counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Campbell, or the City of Lynchburg.

Jennifer Smith Ramey, Program Manager at Horizon says, “The goal is to eliminate homelessness by linking individuals in need to permanent stable housing in addition to providing wraparound services and support to meet the varied needs of persons experiencing marginal housing or homelessness.”

The grant will support five positions to include a Program Director, Case Manager, Peer, Housing Specialist, and an administrative position. Program implementation is slated to begin in September 2022 with a goal of reaching 245 transitional age youth (TAY) over a period of 5 years.

Horizon would like to thank the community partners who have come together, collaboratively, to support the goals of this initiative including the Central Virginia Continuum of Care (CVCOC) and Salvation Army.

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*Horizon Behavioral Health has been the primary public behavioral healthcare provider in the Region 2000 area for more than 53 years. In the last year, Horizon provided services to approximately 12,000 adults and children, addressing problems 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.*