



Today's Date: August 26, 2025

Gabriella Smith  
*Public Relations Officer*  
(434) 238-7727

Release Date: IMMEDIATE

## **Horizon Behavioral Health awarded \$1 million grant from Health Resources and Services Administration to address rural health disparities**

**Lynchburg, VA** - Horizon Behavioral Health has been awarded a four-year, \$1 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration's Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program, beginning August 1, 2025. The funding will expand Horizon's evidence-based Illness Management and Recovery (IMR) and Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) services into Campbell and Appomattox counties, building on the success of its existing program currently serving residents in Amherst and Bedford counties.

With support from the grant, Horizon will provide intensive, community-based mental health and substance use treatment to at least 150 adults with serious mental illness (SMI) and co-occurring substance use disorders, with a particular focus on justice-involved individuals who face disproportionately high rates of mental illness and systemic barriers to care. Mobile ACT teams and expanded IMR services will bring treatment directly to clients' homes and community hubs, addressing persistent challenges such as transportation barriers, provider shortages, and stigma. The goal is to reduce psychiatric hospitalizations, improve treatment adherence, and empower clients through recovery-focused, culturally responsive care.

The project will be implemented in partnership with a strong rural consortium, including the Bedford Area Resource Council, Central Virginia Health District, District 20 Adult Probation and Parole, and other community organizations. These partnerships will ensure coordinated care, shared resources, and long-term sustainability.

"Horizon's commitment to providing accessible, high-quality mental health services is particularly important for our mutual clients returning to the community, in various settings," said Rhiane Titus, Director of Clinical Social Work at Western State Hospital. "I have personally witnessed the profound difference that Horizon's services have made in the lives of many individuals living with mental illness, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Horizon team's care and expertise have given our mutual clients the tools they need to navigate their mental health challenges in the community, often leading to fulfilling lives."



***Horizon Behavioral Health*** has been the primary public behavioral healthcare provider in the Central Virginia region for more than 56 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.