



West Central Behavioral Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Central Behavioral Health Announces CDC Drug Free Communities Federal Grant

Claremont, Lebanon, and Newport, NH – West Central Behavioral Health, the community behavioral health center for the Upper Valley and Sullivan County, NH, as fiscal agent and coalition member of the Youth CAN (Claremont and Newport) Coalition announces it has received an award of a FY2021 Drug-Free Communities Support Program grant in the amount of \$125,000 by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The project period for the grant is 5 years, with additional grants of \$125,000 anticipated each year during that term.

The Coalition serves the communities in and around the town of Newport and the city of Claremont, a community of 20,000. The purpose of the Youth CAN Coalition is to strengthen and expand community partnerships in order to prevent and reduce substance misuse among youth in Claremont and Newport. The coalition will achieve its goals by addressing risk factors and promote prevention strategies that are proven to minimize risk of substance misuse, in particular the use of alcohol and marijuana. This will include efforts to reduce access to substances, change perceptions among youth and adults in the community relative to alcohol and marijuana use, and raise awareness of the consequences associated with substance misuse, especially for youth.

Members of the Youth CAN Coalition include: Claremont Learning Partnership, UNH Cooperative Extension, Newport School District, Newport Police Department, Sullivan County Family Treatment Court, Greater Sullivan County Public Health Network (GSCPHN), Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce, WCNL Country, Claremont Elks Lodge, Greater Sullivan County Medical Reserve Corps, Keady Family Practice, Groups Recover Together, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, and West Central Behavioral Health.

West Central Behavioral Health is the non-profit community mental health center for the Upper Valley and Sullivan County regions of NH. It ensures access to advanced counseling, treatment, and support for people of all ages and income levels. Its vision is to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness and substance use disorders so people will seek out help when they need it most, and before a crisis occurs. With locations in Claremont, Lebanon, and Newport, NH, West Central offers adult outpatient services, child & family services, substance use services, 24/7 mobile crisis response services, and residential services. Its Mobile Crisis Response phone number is 1-800-564-2578. Learn more online at: www.wcbh.org.