



## **Mountain Top Cares Coalition awarded a grant from Greene County Mental Health**

In 2020, Mountain Top Cares Coalition (MCC) was one of several Greene County organizations that received funding from The HEALing Communities Study (HCS), a grant awarded to Greene County Mental Health, to combat the opioid crisis. Led by Columbia University, this project is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). It aims to decrease opioid overdose deaths in Greene County and 15 other New York communities by 40 percent over the course of three years.

Understanding that a location is essential to the success of MCC's mission, to help Greene County residents struggling with opioid use disorder, the Community Impact Funds will support renting a small office, purchasing computers, installation of telephone and internet services for telehealth, as well as hiring a peer counselor.

"The HEALing Communities Study has brought much needed attention, expertise and funding to a grave problem in our community. Greene County, unfortunately, is one of the hardest hit counties in the state for opiate-related overdoses. This is a public health crisis that we are all working to address," said Greene County Director of Community Services, Jason Fredenberg.

"The funding from the HEALing Communities Study, which passes through and is awarded by Greene County Mental Health, helps to fund and support various initiatives and agencies who are best suited to address this problem and make the greatest impact. We are excited to include MCC as the recipient of some of these funds with the aim of helping to address the impact of this dire problem in the Mountaintop communities," said Fredenberg.

Recently, MCC found its new home at 4802 Route 23, on the east end of Windham where services will be provided by appointment only. All New York State Department of Health COVID-19 prevention regulations, such as social distancing and wearing masks will be strictly enforced.

"We are honored to be selected along with our Greene County community partners to have received funds from the HEALing Communities Study to combat Opioid Use Disorder on the mountaintop," said Jonathan Gross, Executive Director of MCC. "With the economic, social and healthcare challenges the pandemic poses, especially to our at-risk rural population, MCC is proud to help Greene County build a stronger, healthier and better community for all," said Gross.

Maggie Graham, MCC Board Member and former Director of Community Services for Greene County concurs. "For a large part of my career, I have worked in a rural healthcare setting and understand its unique challenges," said Graham. "Through the HCS Community Impact Funds, MCC has been empowered to address and provide the services the mountaintop communities so desperately need."

The 12 towns and villages served by MCC are Ashland, Haines Fall, Halcott, Hensonville, Hunter, Jewett, Lexington, Maplecrest, Prattsville, Tannersville, West Kill and Windham.