



**Substance Abuse Prevention & Mental Health Alliance**

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**For Immediate Release:** October 1, 2024

## **THRIVE Bedford | Lewisboro | Pound Ridge Alliance Awarded \$125,000, First of Five Years Drug-Free Communities Grants for Youth Substance Use Prevention from Federal Government**

The Towns of Bedford, Lewisboro and Pound Ridge have secured a \$125,000 federal grant, renewable for four additional years, totaling \$625,000, for their tri-town drug abuse prevention alliance THRIVE Bedford | Lewisboro | Pound Ridge. Through the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) under the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) support program, this grant is managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and represents an opportunity to strengthen ongoing efforts of the tri-town coalition to prevent youth substance abuse.

ONDCP's DFC program is the nation's leading effort to mobilize communities to prevent and reduce substance abuse among youth. This grant can provide \$125,000 per year for five years to THRIVE to strengthen the infrastructure among local partners to create and sustain a reduction of local youth substance abuse. After five years, awardees may re-apply for another five-year cycle. The two goals of the program are to increase community capacity to address youth substance abuse and to prevent and reduce youth substance abuse. With this grant, THRIVE Bedford | Lewisboro | Pound Ridge will further develop and accelerate its work in building a safe, healthy and drug-free community.

"Leveraging the groundwork already established through rebranding and strengthening its mission and outreach, THRIVE is well-positioned to receive a much-needed infusion of cash to bring its vision to a reality. By proactively seeking grant funding and leveraging the deployment of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to work with grant consultant through the competitive and comprehensive application process, we have now placed THRIVE in a position to hire a full-time director and build a coalition to expand its reach and accelerate positive health and community outcomes using this incredible grant of as much as \$625,000 over five years," said **Bedford Supervisor Ellen Calves**.

"The Town of Lewisboro is grateful for the DFC Grant award which will provide for the continued support of THRIVE. THRIVE seeks to raise awareness regarding substance abuse and mental health issues to the residents of Lewisboro, Bedford and Pound Ridge and with this grant I am looking forward to future programming by THRIVE. Being part of THRIVE is very important to The Town of Lewisboro and we encourage citizens to get involved," said **Tony Gonçalves, Lewisboro Town Supervisor**.

"More than substance abuse prevention, I am thrilled that this essential funding will permit THRIVE to help the youth and parents of Pound Ridge (and our neighbors in Bedford and Lewisboro) to understand and mitigate against root-causes and amplify awareness. Thank you to the working group who worked tirelessly to submit the DFC application and provide THRIVE with the opportunity to fund its critical work," said **Kevin Hansan, Pound Ridge Town Supervisor**.

"Combatting the drug and opioid crisis is going to take all our communities working together," said **United States Congressman Mike Lawler**. "I've been proud to work with my colleagues and partners at every level of

government to combat the scourge of drug abuse. The recent announcement of Drug Free Communities Grant Awards to several localities here in the 17th District is great news for Hudson Valley families. I look forward to continuing to work with Bedford, Lewisboro, Pound Ridge, and localities across our district to curb the flow of drugs in our community and ensure those suffering from addiction get the help they need,” added Lawler.

“THRIVE Bedford | Lewisboro | Pound Ridge believes the Drug Free Communities grant will prove transformative in our quest to increase community engagement in preventing drug and alcohol abuse and reducing the stigma surrounding these topics,” said the THRIVE Steering Committee. “We are eager to build organizational capacity, including developing partnerships, participation and resources especially to deter youth alcohol and marijuana use via initiatives ranging from collaboration with local authorities to empowering youth to create attractive alternate activities.”

Appointed by the town boards, THRIVE’s Steering Committee is Sally A. Corbett-Turco (Interim Chair) and Sharon Kennedy-Nolle from Bedford; Jennifer Coulter (Secretary), Roberta Markowitz and Donna Volpitta (Interim Vice Chair) from Pound Ridge and Tammi Jacobs Shulman (Interim Treasurer) from Lewisboro. The grant required THRIVE to lay the groundwork for broader representation from twelve community sectors ranging from places of worship to law enforcement, schools to business and civic organizations. “We appreciate the partnership with the ONDCP and CDC and are grateful for the support of the town boards and for the participation of the community sector partners,” **added THRIVE’s Steering Committee**. Town board liaisons to THRIVE are Andres Castillo, Bedford, Mary Shah, Lewisboro and Namasha Schelling, Pound Ridge.

“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**.

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## **About THRIVE Bedford | Lewisboro | Pound**

### **Mission**

THRIVE Bedford | Lewisboro | Pound Ridge is a driving force for combating today's mental health and substance abuse challenges by fostering healthy lifestyles through education, resources, and strategies in the Bedford, Lewisboro, and Pound Ridge communities

### **Background**

THRIVE Bedford | Lewisboro | Pound Ridge was previously known as the Drug Abuse Prevention Council. In recent years, it has begun to use its new moniker, rebranded and launched a new website. The alliance includes representatives and volunteers from the three towns, and welcomes new members and affiliate members, youth and adult volunteers, and partnerships. Bedford serves as fiscal and human resources administrator to the alliance.

### **Get Involved**

Residents of all ages, organizations and businesses in Bedford, Lewisboro and Pound Ridge are encouraged to support, volunteer and partner with the alliance. To sign up for email notices and explore the new website (still under development), do so online at <https://www.thrive-alliance.net/contact-us/>. Individuals interested in seeking a town board appointment to the THRIVE Steering Committee may email their resume and cover note for consideration to [thrive.steering.committee@gmail.com](mailto:thrive.steering.committee@gmail.com) or their town supervisor’s office. For any other inquiries or information, please email [thrive.steering.committee@gmail.com](mailto:thrive.steering.committee@gmail.com).