



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Bacon Street Awarded Federal Grant Totaling \$2 Million over Five Years**

**WILLIAMSBURG, VA, Sept 17, 2018** – Bacon Street Youth and Family Services, a non-profit organization that provides prevention, education, and counseling to youth, their families, and our community, resulting in their living a life free of substance use challenges, has received a federal grant by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals. The grant provides \$400,000 per year for five years and Bacon Street is one of only two agencies in Virginia to receive the grant.

This grant will allow Bacon Street to implement the Journey Home Project, which will expand capabilities, both in service offerings and physical locations. Bacon Street plans to open new offices in Hampton/Newport News, Lower York County, and in the Gloucester area also serving Mathews County. The Hampton/Newport News location will also serve as a drop in center where youth will be able to do laundry, sleep in a quiet and safe environment, and receive a free meal.

Bacon Street's Journey Home Project addresses the issue of homelessness through substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery. Targeting youth and their families between the ages of 10 and 26, this multi-tiered approach will annually serve 1,250 people, using evidence-based practices that will move youth and families toward stability in housing, recovery, and success.

We are beyond thrilled about this amazing opportunity to dramatically expand services in the Hampton Roads area," says Kim Dellinger, Bacon Street Executive Director. "This allows us to provide substance use counseling, parent education, youth and family programming, treatment, and case management through a tiered approach."

The program reach includes Greater Williamsburg and the Upper Peninsula of Hampton Roads including the cities of Williamsburg, Newport News, Poquoson, Hampton along with James City County, Gloucester County and Mathews County. Included in this population is one federally recognized Native American Tribe, the Pamunkey. Clinically, these youth and families are at particularly high risk for substance use and mental health disorders, and these risks are compounded by their precarious housing situation. Of particular focus are youth who are aging out of the foster care system.

"With the continuing challenges related to the opioid epidemic, layered over the already insurmountable circumstances of housing, families who are struggling, are homeless, or are precariously housed will be able to receive services at low or no cost to them," explains Dellinger. "Being able to provide these services at not just our current Williamsburg location, but in Gloucester, Lower York County, and Hampton/Newport News is a game changer for Bacon Street Youth and Family Services and the youth, families, and communities we serve, and we cannot wait to make a difference!"

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The Journey Home Project goals include:

1. Provide outreach and other engagement strategies to increase participation in, and access to, treatment for at least 500 youth and their families in the Greater Williamsburg and Upper Peninsula areas of Hampton Roads, who are either homeless or precariously housed.
2. Provide direct treatment (including screening, assessment, and case management) for at least 500 youth and their families in the Greater Williamsburg and Upper Peninsula areas of Hampton Roads who are either homeless or precariously housed.
3. Provide a strengths-based approach to clinical case management to link with and retain our clients in permanent housing and other necessary services, including primary care services and wrap around support services, and to coordinate these services with other service agencies in the catchment area.
4. Engage and enroll youth and families in the Greater Williamsburg and Upper Peninsula areas of Hampton Roads by connecting them with enrollment resources for Medicaid and other benefits programs (e.g. SSI/SSDI, TANF, SNAP, etc).
5. Provide “wrap-around”/recovery support services for the youth and their families who are precariously housed and/or homeless in the Greater Williamsburg and Upper Peninsula areas of Hampton Roads.

“We are so very excited to have been awarded this grant,” says Erin Ellis, Bacon Street Prevention Director. With this funding, we can expand our outreach services to include surrounding communities, providing wraparound and prevention programming for our youth and their families. Personally, I feel extremely grateful that Bacon Street has been given this opportunity to more fully serve our community.”

### **About Bacon Street Youth and Family Services**

Founded in 1971, Bacon Street Youth and Family Services is a private, not-for-profit organization that provides services to young people and families affected by substance abuse and/or mental illness in the Hampton Roads area. To learn more about their services and how to help, visit [www.baconstreet.org](http://www.baconstreet.org) or call at 757-253-0111.

### **Photo Caption**

Bacon Street staff members celebrating the grant award.

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