



**Joseph H. Firth Youth Center**  
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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 31, 2019

The Joseph H. Firth Youth Center Board of Directors is pleased to announce a recent federal grant award of \$125,000 per year for five years by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, in cooperation with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for a new program, LEAD Phillipsburg. LEAD Phillipsburg: Learn, Educate, Advocate, Develop Drug Free Community Coalition was awarded a FY2019-FY2024 Drug-Free Communities Support Program grant for a new coalition. The Coalition will serve the Town of Phillipsburg and the five school sending districts. The goals of the coalition are to establish and strengthen community collaboration in support of local efforts to prevent youth substance use. The coalition will focus on integrating prevention and environmental strategies to decrease underage drinking, tobacco and marijuana use among youth.

“The Board of Directors is thrilled to announce these new funds that will have a lasting impact on youth to help decrease underage drinking, tobacco and marijuana use in Phillipsburg and the surrounding districts. The Board was very excited to compete for these funds, as we believe prevention is the key to inspire our youth to pursue fulfilling drug-free lives and we have to do this collaboratively, as a community. We thank the LEAD Phillipsburg Coalition and the dedicated leadership of Kelly Post-Sheedy, Executive Director of the Joseph H. Firth Youth Center, Yvette Day, Executive Director of Community Prevention Resources, Inc. and Georjean Trinkle, Trink Consulting, the driving forces who brought this funding opportunity from a vision to a reality,” stated Jeff Russo, President of the Joseph H. Firth Youth Center. A kick-off event will be announced in the near future.