



Sullivan Allies Leading Together (SALT)
Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County
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PRESS RELEASE

Sullivan Allies Leading Together (SALT) announces that it has been granted federal funds from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in the amount of \$125,000 per year for five years to support substance use prevention through positive youth development, youth/adult partnerships, and support of the SALT coalition.

SALT is a diverse partnership of agencies, caring individuals, and community resources working together to reduce substance use among community youth. Sullivan County is a rural area which, for the past decade, placed second to last in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New York State County Health Rankings. Through information sharing, increased prevention efforts, and interagency collaboration, SALT seeks to improve access to services that empower members of our community to make lasting change.

Recently, SALT was instrumental in establishing a transportation loop in Sullivan County, NY, giving community members affordable transportation to medical and employment opportunities.

"Transportation provides hope, which we feel prevents substance use," said Thomas Bosket, SALT Program Manager.

In December, SALT partnered with Monticello Central School District, Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County, and Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther in the development and opening of the St. John Street School Community HUB in Monticello. The HUB serves 35-60 youth each weeknight, providing a safe environment for youth in accord with their developmental phases, in turn leading to "wrap around" services.

SALT committees include: Outreach, Prevention and Risk/Protective Factors, Equity and Justice, Advocacy, and Public Relations.

Recent accomplishments include:

- Outreach: Monthly outings to stay in contact with our neighbors
- A resource exchange with community buy-in, but little to no resources
- The Committee for Equity and Justice partnered with the Human Rights Commission to develop a 'Hate Has No Home' vigil and rally in Monticello. This vigil will travel to three more towns this year.
- The Prevention and Risk/Protective Factor Committee (PARFACT) holds an Opioid Task Force Meeting on a monthly basis with the leaders of prevention in the community, aiding to coordinate and maximize prevention efforts. Recently, this committee was responsible for a county-wide scan designed to assess the environmental health of Sullivan County and its effect on youth.

SALT members meet monthly in a ZOOM on the third Monday of every month at 9:00 am.

The public can obtain more information on SALT or learn how to get involved by calling 845-397-7258 or visit saltcares.com.

All are welcome!