

WE

are reducing the
number of people
entering the criminal
justice system



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LEAD Partners

- City of Albany Mayor's Office
- Albany Police Department
- Albany County Executive and Departments
- Albany County District Attorney's Office
- Albany County Public Defender's Office
- Albany County Sheriff's Office
- Center for Law and Justice
- Central District Management Association
- Catholic Charities Care Coordination Services
- Albany Medical Center
- Community Leadership Team
- John F Finn Institute for Public Safety
- Katal Center for Health, Equity, and Justice
- LEAD National Support Bureau



LEAD
Law Enforcement
Assisted Diversion

INITIATIVE

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LEAD Background.

In 2011, in an attempt to move away from the War on Drugs paradigm and to reduce gross racial disparities in police enforcement, LEAD® – a new harm-reduction oriented process for responding to low-level offenses such as drug possession, sales, and prostitution – was developed and launched in Seattle, WA. It was the result of an unprecedented collaboration between police, prosecutors, civil rights advocates, public defenders, political leaders, mental health and drug treatment providers, housing providers and other service agencies, and business and neighborhood leaders – working together to find new ways to solve problems for individuals who frequently cycle in and out of the criminal justice system under the traditional approach that relies on arrest, prosecution, and incarceration. LEAD was launched in Albany in April, 2016.

An unplanned, but welcomed, effect of LEAD® has been the reconciliation and healing it has brought to police-community relations.



LEAD Goals.

Reorient government's response to safety, disorder, health-related and social problems.

Improve public safety and public health through research-based, health-oriented harm reduction techniques and interventions.

Reduce the number of people entering the criminal justice system for low level offenses related to drug use, mental health, sex work and extreme poverty.

Undo racial disparities at the front-end of the criminal justice system.

Sustain funding for alternative interventions by capturing and reinvesting criminal justice savings.

Strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and the community.



58%

LEAD participants were 58% less likely to be arrested after enrollment in the LEAD program in Seattle, compared to those who went through the "system as usual" criminal justice processing.

LEAD Services.

Short-term

Food, clothing, hygiene services, medical referrals, and shelter.

Long-term

Services such as substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling, housing, transportation, health care, benefits, obtaining ID, vocational training, education, employment, and legal services.

