



QUARTERLY REPORT

Q2 2023 • APRIL-JUNE

UNIVERSITY DISTRICT



LEADKINGCOUNTY.ORG
WEAREPDA.ORG/COLEAD

SUMMARY

CITY-WIDE, YEAR-TO-DATE

952

CLIENTS

At the end of Q2 2023, LEAD/CoLEAD's Seattle roster contained 952 clients.*

17,308

SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS

These figures blend CoLEAD and LEAD outcomes; frequency of meetings increases with CoLEAD because participants are available on site.**

248

REFERRALS

LEAD/CoLEAD received 248 referrals for individuals needing support.

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

A CLOSER LOOK

* This includes active clients who are working with case managers on goals, as well as a smaller number of outreach clients who are in a rapport-building process with case managers. It also includes a small number of alumni clients who may be largely stabilized and self-sufficient, but for whom continued case manager support is beneficial as they set up their lives — even if it's just a few check-ins per year.

** LEAD has undergone a series of performance evaluations to test client outcomes, recidivism, and other metrics. One study found that each meeting between a participant and case manager increases that person's likelihood of gaining shelter or permanent supportive housing. The actual likelihood of gaining these resources depends on many factors, including the regional supply of shelter and housing. These numbers are substantially larger than reported in Q1 because of the addition of CoLEAD. On-site access to CoLEAD staff provides continuous support to participants.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CITY-WIDE, YEAR-TO-DATE

428 Connections to behavioral health programs

742 Connections to substance use treatment

1,594 Connections to legal services

394 Steps taken toward financial self-sufficiency



A CLOSER LOOK

For some LEAD clients, any substantive engagement with a case manager is a huge win. For all LEAD clients, every substantive meeting with a case manager is one step closer to stability.

*The Q1 report indicated this data would be quarterly, but going forward it will be year-to-date.

LEAD clients often face additional barriers to housing, shelter, and other resources. For many LEAD clients, a LEAD case manager is the first form of interpersonal support in years. As a result, LEAD case managers are often required to engage in the slow task of building rapport and trust with LEAD clients before the arduous work of resource acquisition begins.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

SHOWING UP FOR THE UNIVERSITY DISTRICT

LEAD, the University District Partnership, DESC, the Unified Care Team, Human Services Department, Mayor's Office, and other collaborators work together to create response plans for individuals who are having an impact on the community. They identify people who may be possible LEAD clients in order to connect them with the resources that they need to move forward with their life goals, and support the community's need for a coordinated public safety response.

The University District has a concentration of high-need individuals, many of whom face barriers to accessing supportive resources because of their unaddressed behavioral health issues. However, LEAD's consistent presence in the area and that of our case management partners, REACH, demonstrates the program's responsiveness to the needs of our clients and the community.

One client, whom we'll call Jessica, is a middle-aged woman who has been working with LEAD for the past three years. She struggled with maintaining housing throughout her adult life, a challenge that persisted even after Jessica secured a housing voucher and moved inside with support from LEAD. She ultimately couldn't comply with the terms of her lease and became unhoused again after a year, going to live in a nearby encampment. It can be difficult for participants to manage issues around guests, communication with property managers, timely payment of bills, or other tasks that aren't intuitive to someone who hasn't navigated a lease before. But Jessica's case manager stuck by her, helping her with the skills that she needed to get housed and stay that way. By 2022, she was housed.

Once Jessica achieved a level of stability, she could focus on other life goals. She began medication-assisted treatment for her substance use disorder and reconnected with one of her sons, from whom she was estranged. She wanted to become financially secure, so her case manager is assisting her to navigate the complicated systems of public benefits. LEAD case workers stuck with her through ups and downs, and they'll continue to be there for her for the long haul.

ONE CLIENT'S JOURNEY

Our stories are unique and are shaped by the resources available and barriers we face. This is one Seattle LEAD client's story.

When Alice became a LEAD client in 2021, she was living in an RV in Georgetown after having lost housing due to a combination of substance use, COVID-19, and discrimination. Today, Alice remains a LEAD program participant, but her life looks entirely different.

Alice faced violence daily from community members and constant threats of removal when she lived in the RV encampment. Even leaving her vehicle so that she could make appointments had attendant risk: People might take advantage of her absence and steal what little she had. An unhealthy relationship pulled her further away from stability with every passing day.

Upon LEAD enrollment, Alice was legally involved in Seattle Municipal Court and outside jurisdictions with charges mostly related to her vehicle and homelessness, such as criminal trespass and petty theft. LEAD outreach went to her at her RV, engaging Alice where she was comfortable and secure, knowing that her belongings were safe. In August 2021, LEAD helped her move into permanent supportive housing, a form of housing that includes voluntary support

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Alice has been able to resolve all of her legal cases and has not had any additional criminal legal system involvement.

services meant to connect residents with health care and case management.

Permanent supportive housing can be a challenging environment for clients and staff. In Alice's case, she moved into a small room with shared toilet facilities and neighbors who continued to actively use drugs even as she began to open up to recovery. Despite this, Alice used the newfound opportunity to engage with mental health providers and, ultimately, achieve sobriety. Since moving into housing, Alice has been able to resolve all of her legal cases and has not had any additional criminal legal system involvement.

As of July 2023, Alice is living in permanent clean and sober housing. Not everyone needs a clean and sober complex to be successful, but the calm environment works for Alice. While there, she's been able to achieve a sense of stability, something that was impossible when she was living moment-to-moment outside, all her energy spent trying to survive the day. Now, she can focus on the long term and imagine a new life.



ABOUT LEAD & COLEAD

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) is a widely replicated community-based, pre-arrest diversion model that was designed and first implemented in Seattle/King County. CoLEAD utilizes the model and lessons learned from LEAD to provide temporary lodging and intensive case management.

PARTNERS

LEAD is governed under an interjurisdictional memorandum of understanding by a Policy Coordinating Group (PCG), to which the project management team reports. The PCG sets policy and approves all operational protocols for LEAD work.

PDA provides project management for Seattle LEAD and subcontracts with REACH, a program of Evergreen Treatment Services, to provide LEAD's outreach and case management services.

ACLU OF WASHINGTON
KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
KING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

RECOVERY NAVIGATOR PROGRAM
SEATTLE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
SEATTLE MAYOR'S OFFICE
SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT