



SEATTLE · KING COUNTY



QUARTERLY REPORT

Q2 2024 • APRIL-JUNE

CITYWIDE

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SUMMARY

CITY-WIDE, YEAR-TO-DATE

1,216

CLIENTS

At the end of Q2 2024, LEAD/CoLEAD's Seattle roster contained 1,216 clients.*

15,199

SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS

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

462

REFERRALS

LEAD/CoLEAD received 462 referrals for individuals needing support.



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.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CITY-WIDE, YEAR-TO-DATE

446 Connections to behavioral health programs

1,088 Connections to substance use treatment

2,057 Connections to legal services

411 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.

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.

SUSTAINING IMPACT IN SEATTLE

ADAPTING TO NEW CONDITIONS

Ever since Seattle's public use ordinance was signed into law in October 2023, LEAD has received a steady stream of arrest diversions from law enforcement. Although the vast majority of these diversions have been for public use, LEAD is able to accept diversions and referrals for a wide variety of behaviors. Similarly, LEAD's intensive case management model is effective at working with individuals who have a wide variety of unmet needs. As Seattle ponders new public safety legislation, LEAD partners are working to ensure that the program is prepared to accept referrals for people that may be impacted by those policies.

LEAD's continued ability to respond to all law enforcement referrals and select high-priority community referrals can be credited to one-time Washington Health Care Authority funding. The funding was procured by the City of Seattle, partnered with PDA's LEAD project management team, and with support from SPD, the King County Prosecutors, and the King County Sheriff. LEAD's ability to take referrals is also supported by its new service providers, Ideal Option and POCAAN who, after an intensive RFP process, joined REACH in case managing Seattle LEAD clients.

CoLEAD, a small lodging-based service provider under the LEAD umbrella, has also seen continued success in 2024. Stemming from its usage of non-congregate temporary lodging, intensive case management, and LEAD legal system coordination, CoLEAD has been able to demonstrate remarkable outcomes, with a 90% program acceptance rate and a 70% rate of successful move-ins to permanent housing.* The CoLEAD program is stabilizing into a smaller footprint in 2024, consolidating to two locations. CoLEAD has been shown to be a uniquely successful lodging solution for people with complex needs, however, because of its robust staffing and lodging model, it is comparatively expensive when not operated at scale. Without adequate ongoing funding, its long term future is unknown.

For more information on LEAD and CoLEAD, outcomes, funding, and a discussion about their current status, please see our [recent presentation](#) to Seattle City Council's Housing and Human Services Committee on 8/14/24.

*This move-on rate is possibly only when CoLEAD has access to permanent housing units, which depends on the regional stock of available units and the level of prioritization that CoLEAD clients are granted



ONE CLIENT'S JOURNEY

In the Third Avenue Project (TAP), LEAD partners with We Deliver Care (WDC) to respond to public safety concerns on upper Third Avenue. WDC is a team that specializes in non-violent deescalation. They provide 16 hour-per-day support for community stakeholders on Third Avenue while identifying individuals whose negative impact on Third Avenue complex conditions that require intensive case management. When they identify these individuals, they make referrals to LEAD.

WDC first encountered Magnus in February 2023. Magnus was housed but lacked a support system. As someone with a history of housing instability, substance use disorder, and other behavioral health needs, he frequently traveled downtown to buy and use drugs. Between February and June of 2023, his drug use escalated, his behavior became more erratic, and he lost his apartment.

After losing his housing, Magnus began sleeping in alleyways behind businesses throughout downtown Seattle. During daily engagement, WDC noticed that his life was changing for the worse. Though they were able to help in some small ways, like reconnecting him with his estranged sibling, it was clear that Magnus needed more intensive support to make any meaningful changes in his life. At this point, WDC referred Magnus to LEAD.

“Although he still visits the Third Avenue area... Magnus’ LEAD case manager has noted that he looks like a different person; Magnus has expressed that he feels like a different person.

In March 2024, Magnus completed his LEAD intake and began working with his LEAD case manager on many goals, including regaining housing. Magnus’ substance use and mental health needs made it difficult for him to track deadlines and follow through with appointments, but by outreaching him where he was staying and working at his pace, his LEAD case manager was able to create a plan with Magnus that allowed for progress on Magnus’ goals. In June 2024, as a result of Magnus’ steady work with his LEAD case manager and a small stock of housing placements set aside for TAP, Magnus got keys to a new apartment.

Although he still visits the Third Avenue area to see his community, Magnus’ LEAD case manager has noted that he looks like a different person; Magnus has expressed that he feels like a different person. In contrast to his housing experience in 2023, Magnus now has a steady supporter in his LEAD case manager, who helps him cope as he adapts to changing circumstances and works on his own path to recovery.





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

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KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

KING COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & RECOVERY DIVISION

RECOVERY NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

SEATTLE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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