

LEAD PROGRAM

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion

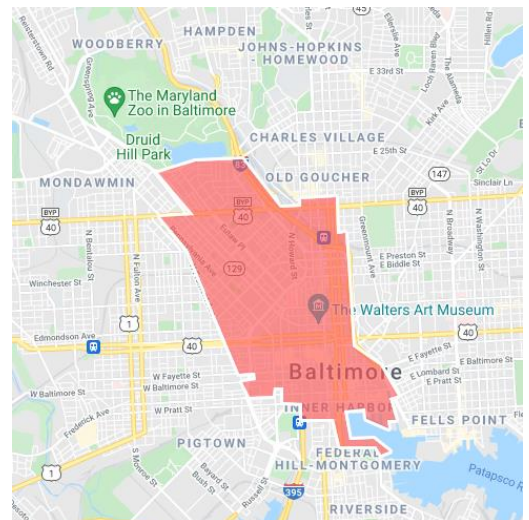
The Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) is a pre-booking diversion program that allows law enforcement to connect eligible participants with intensive case management and divert them away from the criminal justice system. The LEAD program is a collaboration between Behavioral Health System Baltimore, the Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore Crisis Response, Inc., and other stakeholders.

HOW LEAD WORKS

Instead of arrest and prosecution, LEAD participants are linked to trauma-informed intensive case management. LEAD case managers and peer recovery specialists work with participants to connect them to a wide range of support services, including substance use disorder treatment. Case managers also work closely with a community-based organization and other local authorities to coordinate LEAD participants' care.

LEAD follows a harm reduction framework to help individuals who have a mental illness and/or substance use disorder. Police officers can refer people involved in qualifying offenses such as committing crimes related to supporting one's addiction. The LEAD program currently operates in the Baltimore City Central Police District.

Central District




EVIDENCE AND OUTCOMES FOR LEAD PARTICIPANTS



58% less likely to be arrested.



45% gained housing



58% gained income



WHO IS LEAD FOR?

- Individuals, in the Central District, who are at increased risk of arrest or interaction with the criminal justice system for crimes related to supporting one's addiction or behavioral health condition. Charges include:
 - Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) possession or distribution for subsistence purposes,
 - Prostitution,
 - Larceny, including petty larceny and larceny from auto, for subsistence purposes,
 - Misdemeanor Trespass (members shall seek the victim/store owners' approval prior to referring an individual to LEAD)
 - Public urination (members shall seek the victim/store owners' approval prior to referring an individual to LEAD)
- Individuals who have been most disconnected from primary healthcare services and who have had trouble completing treatment.
- Individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty.

HOW CAN I ACCESS LEAD?

- Stop Referral: An encounter where a member has Reasonable Articulate Suspicion (RAS) to believe that an individual is committing or has committed a LEAD-eligible offense, the BPD member performs a lawful investigative stop, and refers the individual to the LEAD program.
 - A LEAD-trained police officer can assist with referring eligible participants to LEAD. Contact 410-299-5743 to speak with Sergeant Luis Ruiz.
- Social Referral: Chronic low-level offenders can be referred to LEAD, absent of an arrest diversion if the individual has recent law violations or police contacts in the precinct stemming from drug use, mental health issues, or extreme poverty.
 - Contact LEAD Case Management Team at 443-869-3524.
 - A LEAD-trained police officer can assist with referring eligible participants to LEAD. Contact 410-299-5743 to speak with Sergeant Luis Ruiz.

For more information, please contact Danielle Johnson at Danielle.Johnson@bhsbalttimore.org.