

LEAD allows police, prosecutors, neighborhoods, and community supports and services to cooperate to ensure that individuals who commit repeated low-level offenses motivated by substance use, mental health, and/or poverty get help with addressing their problems.

For more information contact:

Trinitas Regional Medical Center

Jasmine Gonzalez
LEAD Project Director
908-994-7530

Monique Brown
Community Engagement Coordinator
908-994-7535

Prevention Links

732-648-9928
LEAD@preventionlinks.org

LEAD Partners



LEAD

Law Enforcement
Assisted Diversion

Program Information

**Trinitas Regional
Medical Center**

**RWJ Barnabas
HEALTH**



This project is supported by Grant No. 2021-15PBJA-21-GG-04549-COAP awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). BJA is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office of Victims of Crime, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART). Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

23719141-07/23

If you choose to become a LEAD Participant:

- You agree that LEAD care coordinators can talk about you and how you are doing with the other LEAD partners, including police officers and prosecutors, so they can better deal with other cases/arrests that you may have. Police and prosecutors are careful not to use information about you to make things worse for you.
- You have 30 days to meet with your LEAD case manager and complete your intake. If you do that, you will not be charged for the crime that caused you to be referred to LEAD. Remember-- LEAD isn't a get-out-of-jail-free card and officers may still arrest you and bring you to jail if you break the law.

After your intake and agreement to share information about yourself, your LEAD care coordinator:

- Will work with you to figure out your needs and what community supports and resources can best help you.

These could include:

- housing
- finding a job
- family reconnection
- harm reduction
- legal issues
- medications for opioid use disorder
- treatment for substance use or mental health disorders
- applying for government benefits

LEAD operates in several nearby areas:

LEAD programs are also being launched in Bridgeton, Brick, Irvington, New Brunswick, and Phillipsburg. However, this material only pertains to the process for LEAD in Elizabeth.

Additional information on the intake process:

Initial screening for arrest diversion: When an individual arrested for a crime is diverted to LEAD, LEAD care coordinators will immediately gather basic information about the person and identify any immediate needs. Case managers will try and meet those immediate needs, such as shelter for the night or safety strategies.

Intake: After the initial screening, LEAD care coordinators will try and set-up another meeting as soon as possible with the individual to get much more information about the individual, their needs and their goals. (Social contact referrals have the same intake process.)

Once any immediate needs have been addressed, the LEAD case managers will work with each participant to design an Individual Care Plan. The plan may include assistance with housing, treatment, family reconnection, mental health care, education, job training, job placement, licensing assistance, legal help, small business counseling, child care and/or other services. LEAD outreach workers and case managers will work with the individual to carry out the plan and will work with officers, neighborhood residents and businesses, and law enforcement, to best coordinate the plan.

LEAD isn't just arrest diversion:

Many people get referred to LEAD through a "social contact referral." That means that law enforcement and community members may refer individuals in the community that are known to struggle with issues of substance use, mental health, and/or poverty to get help from a LEAD case manager prior to an arrest occurring. As with arrest referrals, social contact referrals to LEAD are completely voluntary. Once someone completes the intake process, it doesn't matter how the referral started—the services, approach and sharing of relevant information are the same.

Crimes that can be diverted to LEAD:

Low-level non-violent offenses that are motivated in part due to substance use, mental health, and/or poverty, including but not limited to: shoplifting, criminal trespass, loitering, disorderly conduct, and prostitution.

