



THURSTON COUNTY

**LAW
ENFORCEMENT
ASSISTED
DIVERSION**

DIVERSION

DI-VER-SION: an instance of turning something aside from its course.

Traditional Criminal Justice Diversion:

A **diversion** program in the **criminal justice** system is a form of sentence in which the **criminal** offender joins a rehabilitation program, which will help remedy the behavior leading to the original arrest, and avoid conviction and a **criminal** record. In Thurston County this would be DRUG Court, DUI Court, MENTAL HEALTH Court and VETERANS Court.

LEAD Diversion:

LEAD takes away the requirement that an individual needs to be “booked and charged” to receive access to case management and wrap around services.

WHAT IS LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTED DIVERSION (LEAD)

- **LEAD** is a diversion program designed to provide intensive case management services to people who have committed low level drug crime and “nuisance crimes” due to substance use disorder (SUD) or mental health issues.
- **LEAD** participants must agree to the services in lieu of being booking into jail and complete a brief screening process.
- If the **LEAD** participant does not follow through after the initial screening, their criminal case proceeds as usual.
- If the **LEAD** participant engages in intensive case management services their criminal case is not charged.

MISSION AND PURPOSE

Elected officials, law enforcement, residents, business owners, and service providers in the community want to improve public safety in Thurston county by reducing future criminal behavior from individuals engaged in low level offenses that can be attributed to behavioral health issues and substance abuse disorder.



“participants were 58% less likely to be arrested after enrollment in the LEAD program in Seattle, WA”

CORE PRINCIPLES

- **Client Centered Philosophy**

Participants will be engaged where they are.

Harm Reduction Model: individuals will not be penalized if they do not achieve abstinence.

The goal is to reduce as much harm done to themselves and to the surrounding community through problematic drug or mental health related activities.

- **Community Transparency and Accountability**

Community stakeholders and public safety leaders be able to participate in regular Operations staffing meetings and have access to program performance reports.

Community confidence that pre-booking diversion is an effective way to accomplish the goal of improving public safety is essential to the viability of the program.

DIVERSION PROCESS

- Instead of jail and referral for prosecution, clients will be engaged by a BHO Contracted provider serving as the Mobile Outreach Team (i.e.Telecare).Telecare will access:
 - Factors that led to the individual engaging in drug activity, misdemeanor crimes of public disorder attributed to SUD or behavioral health issues.
 - Confirm the person agrees to be in treatment.
 - Signs release of confidentiality.
- Initial crisis intervention will be offered with Intensive Case Management services for ongoing treatment.
- A client will be considered to be in LEAD if they complete an intake session within 14 days of referral, sign a release of information allowing the sharing of information on an as-needed basis among the LEAD Operational Partners.
- LEAD trained officer will complete the report needed to refer the case to the County Prosecutor
 - the incident report will be reviewed by the arresting officers supervisor and indicate that the case has been referred to LEAD.

WHO MAKES THE DECISION

LEAD trained law enforcement officers and their sergeants. They will make a series of decisions about the individuals they contact to determine whether or not those individuals are appropriate to go to jail, or to the community-based program. The LEAD trained officer has sole discretion on a participants entrance into the LEAD program.



white area is unincorporated Thurston County



City of Lacey

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

- Adults suspected of felony possession VUCSA crimes and misdemeanor crimes of public disorder attributed to behavioral health issues will be eligible, EXCEPT when:
 - Amount of drug for simple possession is over 7 grams or 6+pills
 - Arrests for delivery or possession with intent to deliver all controlled substances
 - Individual does not appear amendable to diversion
 - Individual has disqualifying criminal history in the following:
 - Murder 1 or 2, arson, robbery 1 or 2, assault 1,2, 3 kidnapping, any sex offense, burglary 1 or residential burglary
 - Unless more than 5 years have elapsed since conviction on any of the following;
 - Assault 4- DV, violation of a domestic violence no contact order, violation of a domestic violence protection order, or burglary 2.
 - Individuals who are arrested/ warrant on a DOC violation cannot be referred to LEAD

WHICH CRIMES ARE ELIGIBILITY

Crimes of public disorder attributable to behavioral health issues and substance abuse disorder and low level drug possession crimes are eligible for diversion to LEAD.

PUBLIC DISORDER

- Urinating in public
- Disorderly conduct
- Harassment
- Malicious mischief
- Alcohol violations (no DUI)
- Trespassing
- Noise violations
- Use of drug paraphernalia
- Loitering/ pedestrian interference

LOW LEVEL DRUG POSSESSIONS

- Simple possession of less than 7 grams of controlled substances
- Simple possession of 5 pills or less of prescription medication

HARM REDUCTION MODEL

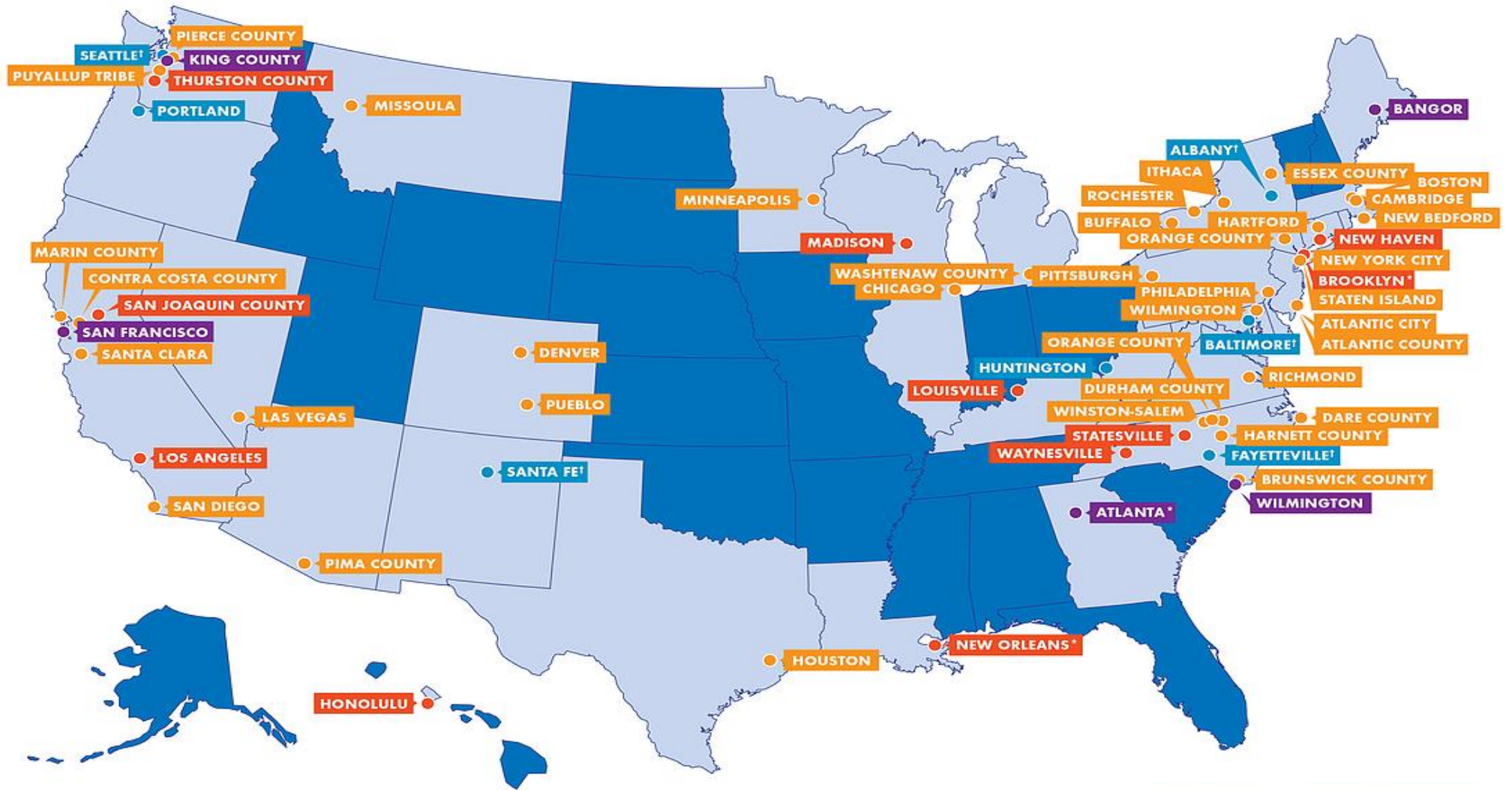
- Harm reduction services are a holistic approach to substance misuse issues and aim to meet the client 'where they are at.'
- Harm reduction does not require abstinence from substance use during case management and recognizes that complete abstinence from substances might be unattainable for many.
- By engaging the client 'where they are at' case managers are able to help individuals attain basic needs and social supports while they are negotiating their relationships with substances.

CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

LEAD clients will have access to the following resources:

- Employment services
- Social Security benefits
- Housing options
- Counseling
- Prescribe need medications
- Medical care
- Transportation to appointments
- Intensive case management

LEAD: ADVANCING CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM IN 2017



¹ Site certified by the LEAD National Support Bureau

* Jurisdictions developing police diversion/deflection that are not called LEAD, but are in alignment with LEAD Core Principles.

Exploring

Developing

Launching

Operating

WHY LEAD?

- The LEAD program will provide much needed services to individuals such as case management to help access what issues are driving their criminal behavior.
- LEAD will result in less law enforcement contact and have less “repeat” offenders using resources and actually receiving helpful treatment.

THURSTON COUNTY LEAD

Thurston County LEAD is NOT a:

- carbon copy of Seattle LEAD
- stagnant program

Thurston County LEAD is a:

- unique program designed for our Thurston County community
- option for law enforcement to divert certain individuals directly to case management
- constantly evolving process
- Harm Reduction Model of diversion and case management

Santa Fe LEAD Video....it's short - don't stress

<https://vimeo.com/184378713>