

# LEAD 2020:

Ending Police Gatekeeping Role,  
Maintaining Coordination



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NEWS

## SEATTLE POLICE CHIEF TO MAYOR: TAKE COPS OUT OF THE PROCESS FOR DIVERSION REFERRALS

🕒 JULY 17, 2020   🧑‍💻 EDITOR   💬 LEAVE A COMMENT

by Erica C. Barnett

*“I’m interested in reconsidering the requirement that police OK every referral to LEAD and Co-LEAD services. These services are needed throughout our community, and it doesn’t seem sensible to require us to approve it before people get the help they need. In any event, due to staffing pressures and COVID-19 health constraints, we aren’t likely to be able to prioritize this for the indefinite future. But beyond that, this is the type of work most people in Seattle think the police don’t need to take the lead on. I’d appreciate seeing this change.”*

*Currently, we do not have the capacity to keep the level of response that we would like toward the LEAD program based on the current environment.”*

– Chief Carmen Best



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# COUNTY COUNCIL PROVISO

## Ordinance 19138

### Lines 705-723:

#### ER 5 EXPENDITURE RESTRICTION:

Of this appropriation, \$4,000,000 shall be expended or encumbered solely to support a Public Defender Association-led program through December 30, 2020, to provide temporary lodging and other COVID-19 related support services to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions for those vulnerable persons living unsheltered.

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the program will provide funding for deintensification of existing shelter facilities and hotel vouchers to those vulnerable populations living without shelter in the city of Seattle's Pioneer Square and Chinatown-International District neighborhoods ("program participants"). In administering the program, the Public Defender Association shall contract with high quality and culturally competent service providers for COVID-19 related behavioral health services as part of the implementation of the demonstration program.

The program is expected to respond to current COVID-19 conditions, including:

(1) the reduction of congregate shelter capacity due to the closure and deintensification of shelters in the Pioneer Square and the Chinatown-International District neighborhoods that has led to an increased number 1653 of unsheltered persons in those neighborhoods; (2) the reduction of hours and accessibility to both physical and behavioral health providers for that vulnerable population ; and (3) difficulty in accessing federal and state provided economic relief assistance by program participants due to required closures of government and service provider offices.

The program elements include, the following: (1) providing rapid assessment of program participants; (2) securing rooms for temporary lodging in underutilized hotels to be used by program participants through the earlier of the end of public health emergency in King County or December 30, 2020; (3) providing access to hygiene facilities to program participants to facilitate compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions; (4) providing intensive case management for program participants designed specifically to mitigate COVID-19 effects and enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions; and (5) administrative costs associated with services to program participants for opportunities to transition them to permanent supportive housing.



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# CITY COUNCIL PROVISO

## Amendment 5 to CB 119825 - 2020 Budget Revisions Ordinance

“Notwithstanding powers provided to the Mayor by Section 3 of the Proclamation of Civil Emergency dated March 3, 2020, none of the remaining funds of the appropriation in the 2020 Adopted Budget for the Human Services Department appropriated solely for contracting with a law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD) program may be spent in fulfillment of discretionary payment provisions of a City contract for LEAD until the Public Defender Association (PDA) files written confirmation with the City Clerk that PDA will provide street outreach, case management and direct services (services) for individuals who pose a risk of ongoing law violations due to behavioral health conditions or extreme poverty in Seattle according to the following required provisions:

1. Using funds from sources other than the City of Seattle for the balance of 2020, PDA will accept referrals of eligible individuals for services without prior approval from law enforcement personnel from community sources and agencies such as the Seattle Fire Department, the Mobile Crisis Team, the Crisis Diversion Facility, the King County Prosecutor, the Seattle City Attorney, the King County Jail, the Department of Public Defense, Business Improvement Associations, other neighborhood groups and business groups, housing and health care providers.
2. All referrals of eligible individuals for services without prior approval from law enforcement personnel from community sources and agencies must satisfy all these criteria: a. The LEAD project management team believes the candidate chronically violates the law; b. The LEAD project management team has agreed that accepting the referral is consistent with City of Seattle’s racial equity policies; and c. The LEAD case management team has agreed that and the resources available to them are appropriate to the known needs of the individual referred.”

*Renumber the following sections of the bill, as appropriate Effect: This amendment would proviso spending of funds of the 2020 Adopted Budget appropriated to HSD for law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD). The conditions of the proviso would require the service provider contracted for LEAD to commit in writing to accept referrals of eligible individuals for street outreach, case management and direct services from community sources and non-law enforcement agencies without prior approval from law enforcement personnel. The services for individuals so referred would be paid for with funds from sources other than the City of Seattle. The City has contracted with the Public Defender Association (PDA) for services of the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program. LEAD is a pre-arrest diversion program for people involved in low-level criminal activity. PDA has previously declared willingness to accept referrals without approval from law enforcement personnel. The City’s contract with PDA for LEAD requires prior approval of referrals by law enforcement personnel and expires on December 31, 2020.*



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