



BJA's  
**Comprehensive**  
 Opioid, Stimulant,  
 and Substance Abuse  
 Program



Illinois  
 Chicago Police Department  
 Narcotics Deflection and Connection to Services Project

10/01/19 Grant Start → 09/30/22 Grant End

**Overview**

Chicago’s West Side contains most of the city’s expansive open-air drug markets. Like legal marketplaces, these economies depend on the enforcement of business and property rights. Gang factions have stepped in to enforce these rights in the form of armed security and violent retribution, which usually takes the form of shootings against competing organizations and individuals who are deemed to have committed an offense against protected parties. Per capita income in the West Side ranges from \$10,697 to \$41,488, and between 15 percent and 40 percent of households fall below the poverty line. Opioids—primarily prescription pain relievers and heroin—account for about 60 percent of daily deaths in the area.

**Grant Focus**

- Expand law enforcement diversion and first-responder models that connect individuals to substance abuse treatment and recovery support services.

- Employ the use of alternatives to incarceration programs for nonviolent drug offenders.
- Prioritize real-time data collection, analysis, and dissemination.
- Link data sets to identify trends and focus resources.
- Expand public awareness about opioid abuse.
- Educate public safety and criminal justice stakeholders about substance abuse.

**Program Approach**

Eligibility requirements for the Narcotics Arrest Diversion Pilot Program include the following:

- Individuals must be 18 years of age or older and be arrested within the boundaries of the 10th, 11th, 15th, and 25th Police Districts where a counselor is onsite.

- An individual's arrest must be for possession of heroin or cocaine in the amount of one gram or less in total weight.
- The individual must disclose an addiction problem and consent to a screening with a department-approved addiction counselor for entry into a treatment program.
- The individual's identity can be confirmed, with no warrants or additional felony charges.
- Individuals cannot have been convicted of violent crimes, domestic violence, firearms possession, or sex crimes.

#### Program objectives:

- Thresholds clinicians will assist individuals detained for a diversion-eligible charge as well as community residents who voluntarily walk into the districts and ask for referrals to substance use treatment.
- Clinical staff members will be centered at District 15 and will travel to District 25 as requested by the desk sergeant to screen eligible candidates.
- Thresholds counselors will provide the Chicago Police Department (CPD) with district-based screening, linkage to substance use treatment, and outreach support for all CPD-referred candidates as well as community members voluntarily asking for support.
- The University of Chicago Crime Lab will undertake a rigorous evaluation of the project. The lab will focus on two primary outcomes: (1) Does diversion into treatment have positive or negative public safety implications for diverted individuals compared with those who continue onto the criminal justice system? and (2) What is the extent of time and cost savings throughout the chain of custody for each

agency involved in the detention and prosecution of individuals arrested for possession of heroin or cocaine?

- The Crime Lab will work with CPD and Thresholds in the overdose response continuum to define and collect data needed for local program evaluation. The goal is to understand the impact of grant activities on overdose deaths and reversals, to adjust program strategies to improve impact, and to report on key performance measures. The Crime Lab will also participate in the cross-site evaluation if applicable.

### Project Partners

- University of Chicago Crime Lab
- Thresholds Inc.

### Contact Information

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