



## Wyoming Cheyenne Regional Medical Center Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)

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

### Overview

The project serves Laramie County, with a population of 98,976. Unintentional poisonings, mainly drug overdoses, were the second-leading cause of accidental injury deaths in Wyoming over the last decade. In Laramie County, there have been 30 hospitalizations due to a primary diagnosis of opioid use since 2016, representing 17.5 percent of all opioid-related hospitalizations in the state. There were 64 administrations of naloxone in 2018 in Laramie County by EMS personnel, out of 435 in the state overall. The Cheyenne Police Department (CPD) reported 956 drug cases in 2018. Of those, cases involving methamphetamine represented nearly half of all cases (49 percent), heroin 16 percent, and prescription opioids 11 percent. LEAD Laramie County seeks to connect high-need drug offenders to culturally competent, community-based service providers at the earliest point of contact with law enforcement, and to keep individuals out of the criminal justice system. LEAD envisions a non-punitive, health-centered approach to ensure that

individuals struggling with addiction or mental illness are diverted from the criminal justice system while decreasing recidivism and improving public safety.

### Grant Focus

- Expand law enforcement diversion and first-responder models that connect individuals to substance abuse treatment and recovery support services.
- Expand models of public health, behavioral health, and public safety information sharing and collaboration at state and local levels.
- Educate public safety and criminal justice stakeholders about substance abuse.

## Program Approach

LEAD Laramie County will establish a pre-arrest law enforcement diversion program, replicating the LEAD model, diverting individuals who commit low-level, nonviolent, drug-related offenses to community-based social services. It will build on existing efforts to address the needs of repeat drug offenders through an initiative based on shared planning, decision making, data sharing, and evaluation. LEAD envisions a nonpunitive, health-centered approach to ensure that individuals struggling with addiction or mental illness are diverted from the criminal justice system while decreasing recidivism and improving public safety.

The goals of the program are as follows:

- Expand outreach to eligible individuals within the county.
- Enhance coordination of service delivery through the existing social service network.
- Increase referrals to substance use and mental health treatment centers.
- Improve collaboration and communication among law enforcement agencies and social services providers.

Project evaluation will be conducted by a contracted external party, which will be responsible for data collection, analysis, and reporting. The contractor will gather and analyze quantitative and qualitative data from key stakeholders, generate evaluation reports, and conduct interviews with LEAD leadership, key stakeholders, program staff members, and program participants.

## Project Partners

- Cheyenne Police Department
- Laramie County Sheriff's Office
- Cheyenne City Attorney's Office
- Laramie County Attorney's Office
- District Attorney's Office
- Healthworks
- Peak Wellness Center

## Contact Information

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