

PROGRAM UPDATE

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Intensive case management for people who:

- Have committed low-level law violations



Intensive case management for people who:

- Frequently contact 911 for non-emergencies
- Cycle through EMS, the emergency department, or criminal justice system

What is LEAD?

The LEAD program offers people who have committed low-level law violations a path out of the criminal justice system and into intensive case management.

“Our deputies often encounter situations where arresting the person does not serve the best interest of the individual or the community as a whole.

LEAD provides an option for positive change and growth instead of repetitive incarceration.”

-Chief Deputy Jason Gum, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office

LEAD Partners

- **Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office**
- **Whatcom County Public Defender's Office**
- Whatcom County Health Department
- Whatcom County Sheriff's Office
- Bellingham Police Department
- All small city police departments in Whatcom County
- Community programs addressing homelessness, mental health, substance abuse and medical

LEAD PROGRAM GOALS



Increase
Community Safety



Address Racial Disparities in
the Criminal Justice System



Improve Health
and Well-Being



VOICE OF LEAD FILM

Why do we need LEAD?

Arrest and incarceration are ineffective at offering meaningful help for people with behavioral health issues.

Why do we need LEAD?

Arrest and incarceration can damage relationships between law enforcement and the community.

Does LEAD Work?

LEAD members are 58% less likely to be arrested after joining the program.

Source: Seattle's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD): Program effects on recidivism outcomes Susan E. Collins, Heather S. Lonzak, Seema L. Clifasefi Harm Reduction Research and Treatment Center, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Washington – Harborview Medical Center, 325 Ninth Ave., Box 359911, Seattle, WA, 98104, USA*

Does LEAD Work?

LEAD increases the likelihood that members will obtain shelter, unemployment, and income/benefits.

*Source: LEAD Program Evaluation, The Impact of LEAD on Housing, Employment, and Income/Benefits. Seema L. Clifasefi
Heather S. Lonczak Susan E. Collins*

How Does LEAD Work?

Currently enrolled: 50 LEAD members

Staff: LEAD Supervisor, 4 Intensive Case Managers, 1 Outreach Specialist

Connections to services in Summer 2021: 180 (housing, mental health, medical, income, employment, transportation, etc.)



What is GRACE?

GRACE connects people who frequently interact with emergency systems to more effective resources and support.

GRACE MEMBERS

Residents of Whatcom County who are the “familiar faces” of emergency services.

- Law Enforcement
- EMS/Fire
- Emergency Dept.
- County Jail
- Criminal Legal System



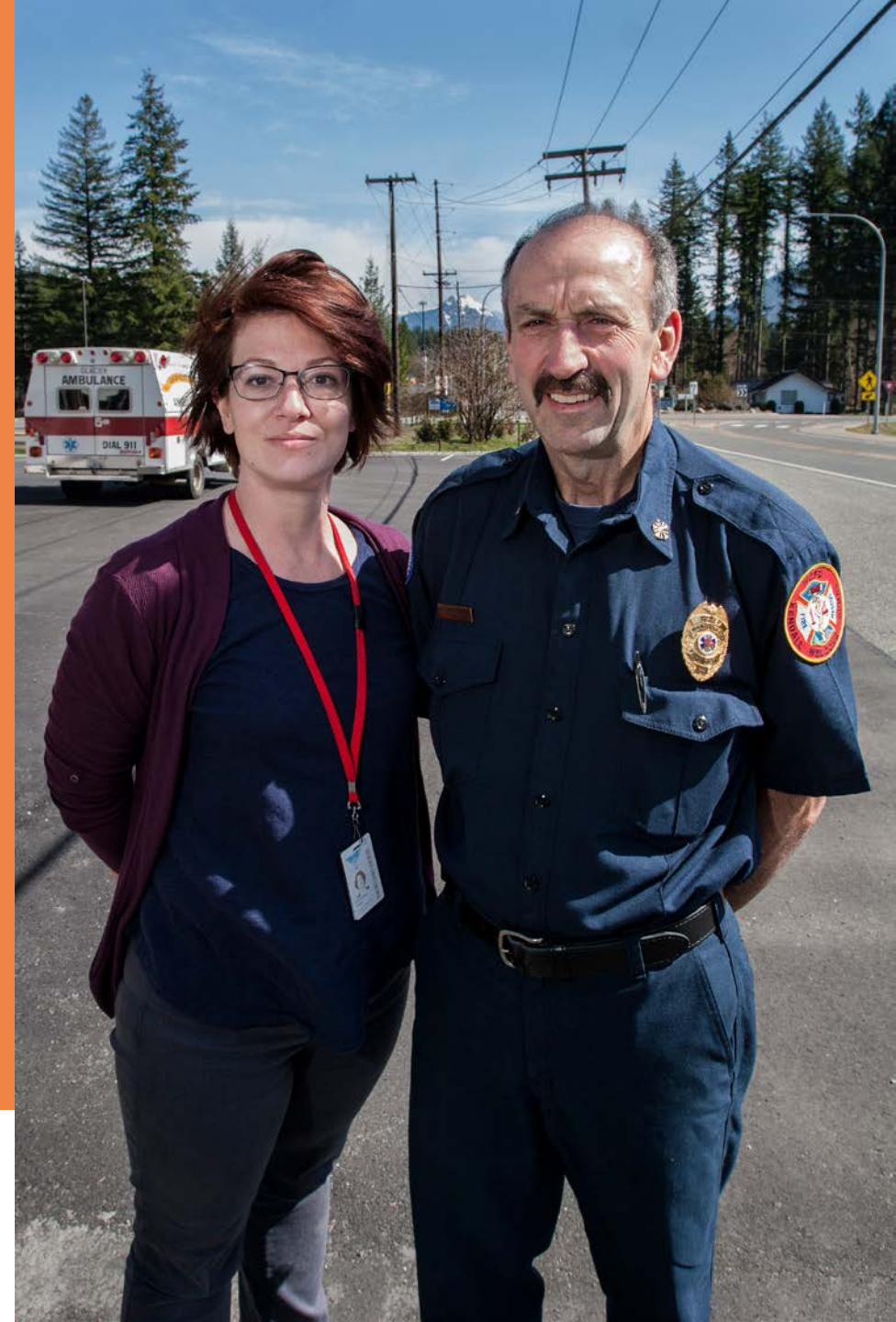
“There is no better feeling than being the person dedicated to helping those in our community with the greatest needs.”

*—Captain Joe Frank, Community Paramedic,
Bellingham Fire Department*

RESULTS:

GRACE served 179 unique individuals in the 12 month period July 2019-July 2020.

In 2021, GRACE has 126 individuals.





DOES THE GRACE PROGRAM WORK?

Over a one-year period, the GRACE Program worked with 179 people:

- 52% connected with behavioral health and medical services
- 50 members found permanent housing
- 59 people graduated into stable situations, no longer requiring GRACE case management

Does GRACE Work?

Over a one-year period:

- 52% of people connected with behavioral health and medical services

Does GRACE Work?

Over a one-year period:

- 50 members found permanent housing

Does GRACE Work?

Over a one-year period:

- 59 people graduated into stable situations, no longer requiring the GRACE Program



DOES THE GRACE PROGRAM

People who were referred by law enforcement had a **95% reduction in jail bookings.**

Overall, GRACE members **reduced emergency medical services contacts by 39%**

RESPOND WHATCOM: SPECIALIZED CRISIS PROGRAMS

Supportive and stabilizing responses for people with behavioral health needs, medical issues, and trauma

Is 911 responding to someone with a behavioral health issue?

OR

Is this a familiar person with behavioral health issues needing proactive support?

Has 911 been called to respond to a non-emergency medical issue?

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Has this person frequently called 911 for emergency or non-emergency issues?

Is this an adult having a mental health crisis and/or substance abuse crisis?

OR

Are they in need of support during a mental health crisis and/or substance abuse crisis?

Has this person had frequent contact with the Emergency Department, 911, or jail?

&

Do they lack sufficient care for behavioral health needs, medical issues and/or complex trauma?

Has this person been arrested for a low-level crime and/or had frequent contact with law enforcement?

&

Do they have complex needs stemming from mental health, poverty, and substance abuse?

Is this person having a mental health or substance abuse crisis?

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Do they need support during a mental health crisis?

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPUTY/OFFICER

Specialized police response for behavioral health-related calls

Focus: Behavioral health, legal, outreach, urgent response

COMMUNITY PARAMEDICS

Connects people frequently using emergency services for ongoing health issues with effective care

Focus: Medical, outreach, urgent response

CRISIS STABILIZATION CENTER

Overnight facility for adults needing support during a mental health crisis or withdrawal

Focus: Behavioral health, medical, urgent response

GRACE PROGRAM

Intensive case management for people cycling through 911 and other emergency systems

Focus: Behavioral health, legal, medical, ongoing support, outreach

LEAD PROGRAM

Intensive case management for people who've committed low-level offenses

Focus: Legal, behavioral health, ongoing support, outreach

MOBILE CRISIS OUTREACH TEAM

Urgent response by a behavioral health team for people experiencing a mental health/substance abuse crisis

Focus: Behavioral health, urgent response

More information: www.respondwhatcom.org

[Home](#) [About](#) [Our Programs](#) [Community Reports](#)

**IMPROVE LIVES
REDUCE POLICE CONTACT
OFFER SUPPORT SERVICES
KEEP EVERYONE SAFE**

Building caring community health and safety responses in Whatcom County

What We're Doing

QUESTIONS?

