



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**\$1.1 MILLION IN ARREST AND JAIL ALTERNATIVES GRANTS AWARDED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

(Lacey, WA) --- The Olympia and Port Angeles Police Departments will receive grant funds to support local arrest and jail alternative programs. The funds were awarded by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC), in consultation with the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) National Support Bureau (NSB), as a part of a grant program established by the Washington State Legislature.

The funds will support local initiatives to properly identify criminal justice system-involved persons with substance use disorders and other behavioral health needs and engage those persons with therapeutic interventions and other services prior to or at the time of booking, or while in custody. The anticipated outcomes of the programs include:

- reduce arrests, time spent in custody, and/or recidivism for clients served by the program,
- increase access to and utilization of non-emergency community behavioral health services,
- reduce utilization of emergency services,
- increase resilience, stability, and well-being for clients served; and
- reduce costs for the justice system compared to processing cases as usual through the justice system.

Every day, communities throughout the state continue to be impacted by mental health and substance use. Law enforcement is often called to be the first to respond to the emergency needs of those impacted by these issues. These individuals may be better served by shifting the existing response to programs that support accountability while taking a more person and needs-centered approach. This can be accomplished through the use of innovative justice-based responses and collaboration with community-based services.

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*The LEAD National Support Bureau responds to the national demand for strategic guidance and technical support to local jurisdictions developing Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)<sup>®</sup> programs. The LEAD National Support Bureau is one of several initiatives within the Public Defender Association (PDA), a non-profit corporation which advocates for justice system reform and develops alternatives that shift from a punishment paradigm to a system that supports individual and community health.*

*WASPC was founded in 1963 and represents executive and top management personnel from law enforcement agencies statewide. With more than 900 members it includes the 39 elected county sheriffs, and 240 police chiefs, as well as the Washington State Patrol, the Washington Department of Corrections, and representatives of several federal agencies.*