

**SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE\***

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact/Phone:</b>	<b>CBO Contact/Phone:</b>
Legislative	Greg Doss 206-256-6225	

*\* Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

**1. BILL SUMMARY**

**Legislation Title:** A resolution acknowledging the inherent responsibility of the City to reduce unnecessary justice system involvement; acknowledging that pre-arrest diversion programs, such as the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program, represent a harm reduction, evidence-based approach to reduce recidivism and provide for the public safety; and declaring that the City is committed to ensuring that evidence-based, law enforcement-engaged, pre-booking diversion programs, such as LEAD, receive the funding necessary to accept all priority qualifying referrals.

**Summary and background of the Legislation:** LEAD is a program that focuses on individuals engaged in law violations due to behavioral health conditions, continued drug use and/or extreme poverty. The goal of LEAD is to reduce law violations by participants, through use of harm reduction-based case management, prolonged engagement and coordination among justice system, law enforcement, human services and neighborhood partners.

LEAD staff have indicated that referrals and intakes are expanding faster than the program’s case management capacity. In 2019, the program’s clients grew from 388 cases in January to a current active client of 561. Program staff expect the caseload to grow to 829 by the end of 2019 and believe that current referral rates could result in an active client count of 1,400 by the end of 2020. The caseload growth is creating a need for additional Case Managers and funding to ensure that LEAD has the capacity to provide services to priority clients in Seattle.

The 2020 Adopted budget will include a \$3.5 million increase to the City funding that is currently allocated to the LEAD program. This resolution acknowledges that the City funding will be augmented by a \$1.5 million grant to help provide case management capacity in 2020. As a condition of the grant, the funder has requested a resolution that declares the City’s intent that LEAD is supported through a secure mix of public funding sources, including City funding and some combination of County, state, federal and Medicaid funding. The funder seeks to ensure that the grant is framed as one-time bridge funding for a program that is otherwise publicly funded.

The language in the resolution declares that the City is committed to providing LEAD with a mix of public funding sufficient to accept all priority qualifying referrals citywide.

## 2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? \_\_\_ Yes X No

## 3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? \_\_\_ Yes X No

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?

No.

Is there financial cost or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?

LEAD program staff have indicated that the legislation is necessary to secure a \$1.5 million grant for the program. If the grant funding is not made available, then LEAD may not have sufficient capacity to serve priority clients, who may ultimately become involved in the criminal justice system and create costs for the City.

## 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department? No.
- b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation? No.
- c. Does this legislation require landlords or sellers of real property to provide information regarding the property to a buyer or tenant? No.
- d. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation? No.
- e. Does this legislation affect a piece of property? No.
- f. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? What is the Language Access plan for any communications to the public?

The resolution is intended to build awareness and community support for LEAD and the concept of pre-arrest diversion, which benefit communities of color, who are disproportionately overrepresented in the criminal justice system. A larger, more expansive LEAD program may offer more opportunities to divert people of color from prosecution and incarceration.

- g. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s).**

The resolution is accompanied by a City Council add of \$3.5 million to the LEAD program. The add would: (1) sustain caseloads at no more than 25 cases per case manager vs. the current load of 44 per case manager; (2) increase case manager salaries by 10 percent and all LEAD employee salaries by five percent; (3) provide funding for project management functions such as LEAD Personnel Costs, Rent and Occupancy, Travel and Professional Services, Legal Services and a PDA Administrative Allocation; and (4) bring the number of case managers from 19 to 73.

**List attachments/exhibits below:**

None.