



LEAD serves people committing crimes due to extreme poverty and/or unaddressed behavioral health issues, and prioritizes BIPOC and Trueblood-eligible individuals.

In 2019, the City Council resolved to [bring LEAD to scale by 2023](#).

In 2021, the LEAD program projected the budget that it would need in order to serve all LEAD-eligible individuals throughout Seattle in the [LEAD Project Management response to SLI](#).

Who is being denied?

Beyond telling communities in Southeast Seattle that we can't take referrals, LEAD is not at saturation in its operating neighborhoods and cannot serve all eligible referrals.

Because of capacity, we have denied **155** community-based referrals. All are people who are committing public safety issues due to extreme poverty and/or unmet behavioral health needs. These referrals come from community members, family members, social service organizations, Department of Public Defense, Seattle Fire Department, and more.

Below are just a few examples:

Lake City referral:

Co-occurring mental health and substance use diagnoses. History of minor charges, such as trespassing, which have since escalated to more serious charges after being released without community support. Urgently needs ongoing support to stabilize and not recidivate.

University District referral:

Victim of gun violence, confined to a wheelchair, experiencing serious mental health challenges. "I hope that by coordinating with LEAD we can get my client off the streets and into a safer environment where he can heal, both body and mind, after such trauma."

Ballard referral:

This individual was referred by SPD and is a daily IV drug user, living in a encampment and interested in obtaining stable housing and substance use disorder treatment.

Georgetown referral:

Has a DOC warrant and cannot access public defense without turning himself in, but fears police brutality due to past experience. This individual would like support from LEAD to address his legal obligations.