



Massachusetts  
New Bedford Police Department  
New Bedford Outreach and Referral Services

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

## Overview

The area being served is the city of New Bedford, located in Bristol County. New Bedford has a population of 95,072 and is the sixth-largest city in Massachusetts. Cocaine, heroin and fentanyl are the substances most commonly abused in this area. (crack cocaine 74 percent, fentanyl 62 percent, and heroin 60 percent).

In 2018, New Bedford had 563 reported overdoses and 36 fatal overdoses. In 2019, the city had 551 reported overdoses and 50 fatal overdoses. It is estimated that 71 percent of the victims were male and 29 percent female, of whom 50 percent were between the ages of 30 and 47.

The impacts on the community continue to be an increase in crime, as well as health costs to treat various infections and diseases brought on by intravenous drug use.

## Grant Focus

- Expand law enforcement diversion and first-responder models that connect individuals to substance abuse treatment and recovery support services.
- Employ the use of alternatives to incarceration programs for nonviolent drug offenders.
- Increase access to naloxone.
- Expand public awareness about opioid abuse.
- Educate public safety and criminal justice stakeholders about substance abuse.

## Program Approach

The New Bedford Police Department proposes to enhance its existing law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD) program by increasing staff numbers to support capacity and to integrate LEAD into operational strategies. It will use a case management approach for each at-risk individual to build a plan for recovery.

Specifically, the program will:

- Provide staff trainings, education and prevention practices through the Addition Recovery Academy and Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Services.
- Utilizing the Critical Incident Management System (CIMS), it will identify LEAD clients and track regularly scheduled program outreach visits. CIMS will permit seamless data collection and sharing.
- An assigned recovery coach will engage and help individuals with substance use disorders, identify multiple paths to recovery, connect individuals to ongoing services, and record information about each encounter.

- Track, monitor, and analyze data specifications obtained through CIMS and provide quarterly and annual reports to highlight accomplishments and measure success.

## Project Partners

- Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Services (PAARI)
- Seven Hills Behavioral Health
- PAACA Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction
- New Bedford Health Department
- Inter Church Council
- Southcoast Health
- Bristol County District Attorney
- Ad Care
- Other partners include High-Point, Clean Slate, and Stepping Stones

## Contact Information

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