



Resources to Address Nonviolent Repeat Offenders

The Project Safe Neighborhoods Training and Technical Assistance team researched ways that jurisdictions in the U.S. address nonviolent repeat offenders, particularly offenders with mental health and substance abuse issues. To organize the findings, the PSN TTA team compiled a list of local, state and federal programs that includes program descriptions, goals, agencies and partners, and evidence ratings. If a PSN partner would like to learn more about one or more of the programs below, the PSN TTA team can facilitate a peer exchange—that is, a coordinated conversation between agencies to share information about program strategies and implementation.

Methodology

To identify high-quality programs within the scope of the focus area, the PSN TTA team established criteria for the programs listed below. The criteria included the following:

- Does the program explicitly address repeat misdemeanor offenders, substance abuse, or nonviolent offenders?
- Is the program facilitated by the prosecutor’s office/USAO?
- Is the goal of the program diversion oriented?

Programs that met the criteria were added to a list for evaluation and are presented below.

Program	Description	Target Areas	Primary Agency and Partners	Evidence Rating ^a
Conviction and Sentence Alternatives (CASA) Program	CASA is a post-conviction program in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California that uses alternative sanctions and incentives to address offender behavior, rehabilitation, and community safety. Program participants are subject to regular court appearances before the CASA team and participation in related programs, such as substance abuse and/or mental health treatment, employment or education programs, and restorative justice programs. Conviction and Sentence Alternatives Program (CASA) (justice.gov)	Rehabilitation; Offender Behavior; Substance Abuse; Mental Health	U.S. District Court, U.S. Pretrial Services Agency, Federal Public Defender’s Office, the USAO, and various community-based treatment providers and organizations	No rating available

Program	Description	Target Areas	Primary Agency and Partners	Evidence Rating^a
Discretionary Parole	Discretionary Parole in New Jersey is an early release program designed to allow incarcerated individuals to serve the remainder of their sentences under supervision to aid their transition back into the community and reduce recidivism. Those seeking to participate in the program attend a release hearing prior to their eligibility dates to discuss their bids for release. If a person meets the criteria for early release, he or she engages in usual parole services. Program Profile: Discretionary Parole in New Jersey CrimeSolutions, National Institute of Justice (ojp.gov)	Reentry; Recidivism	New Jersey Department of Corrections, Discretionary Parole Board	Promising
Drug Treatment Alternative to Prison (DTAP)/ Alternative Programs Bureau	The DTAP program’s objective is to reduce recidivism and drug use by diverting nonviolent felony drug offenders to community-based residential treatment. DTAP participants are sent to long-term, intensive, residential drug treatment programs for 15 to 24 months. DTAP website DTAP evaluation (ojp.gov)	Substance Abuse; Nonviolent Offenders	Brooklyn Mental Health Court; Psychiatric Centers	Promising
Fairfax Diversion First Program	Diversion First is designed to prevent repeat encounters with the criminal justice system, improve public safety, and promote a healthier community. It is a more cost-effective and efficient use of public funding. The program uses court-supervised, community-based programs after arrest that are showing increased compliance by defendants who are given second chances. Diversion First Annual report	Mental Health; Substance Abuse	Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office; Fairfax County General District Court: NAMI	No rating available
Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)	LEAD is a pre-booking diversion pilot program developed with the community to address low-level drug and prostitution crimes. The program allows law enforcement officers to redirect low-level	Substance Abuse; Prostitution; Recidivism	King County Prosecuting Office; Seattle City Attorney’s Office; ACLU, Drug Policy Project;	Promising

Program	Description	Target Areas	Primary Agency and Partners	Evidence Rating ^a
	offenders engaged in drug or prostitution activity to community-based services, instead of to jail and prosecution. LEAD website LEAD evaluation (ojp.gov)		Washington Department of Corrections	
Mentally Ill Offender Community Transition Program (MIOCTP)	MIOCTP is designed to target offenders suffering from mental illnesses who are likely to benefit from community treatment. MIOCTP includes structured programming, post-release case-management services, and treatment services aimed to achieve structured goals focused on reducing further offender behavior. Program Profile: Mentally Ill Offender Community Transition Program (Washington) CrimeSolutions, National Institute of Justice (ojp.gov)	Mental Health; Substance Abuse; Recidivism; Reentry	Washington Department of Corrections, Community Corrections, community-based treatment and counseling providers	Effective

^a Assigned by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Crime Solutions unless otherwise noted.

Detailed Methodology

Program pages were reviewed and assessed based on the established criteria. The PSN TTA team also looked for more in-depth descriptions of the program (published reports, primary partners, etc.) and referred to an academic journal article that evaluated prosecutor-led adult diversion programs. In the case that we missed sites from our web-based search, we reviewed the Crime Solutions website, based on the same key words. According to Crime Solutions, a “promising” rating is given to programs where some evidence indicates that they achieve their intended outcomes. Programs designated as “effective” have strong evidence to indicate that they achieved their intended outcomes with fidelity when implemented.