

## Summary of Evaluations on LEAD Effectiveness<sup>1</sup>

### (1) Recidivism

- Participants were **60% less likely to be rearrested** during the six months after evaluation entry, and 58% less likely to be rearrested over the four and half year data collection period.
- Participants had a **39% lower likelihood of being charged with a felony** after evaluation; there was no statistically significant difference in misdemeanor cases.
- The proportion of LEAD participants charged with at least one felony decreased by 52% subsequent to evaluation entry, while the proportion of non-participants decreased only by 18%.

### (2) Criminal Justice and Legal System Utilization and Associated Costs

- The cost of the LEAD program averaged **\$899 per person per month**, but these costs included program start-up and **decreased to \$532 per month** by the end of the evaluation period.
- Participants spent **39 fewer days in jail per year**.
- **Criminal and legal systems costs associated with participants decreased by roughly 30%** (-\$2,100), while costs for non-participants more than doubled (+\$5,961).
- *Costs vary considerably based on participant characteristics and community factors*

### (3) Housing, Employment, and Income/Benefits<sup>2</sup>

- There was a **62% increase in participants housed** over the course of the study.
- At follow-up, participants were over twice as likely to be sheltered (e.g., permanent housing, temporary housing, emergency shelter, motel/hotel).
- Furthermore, each contact participants had with LEAD case managers was associated with a 2% increase in the likelihood of obtaining shelter during the follow-up.
- Participants were **46% more likely to be on the employment continuum** (i.e., in vocational training, employed in the legitimate market, retired).
- Participants were 33% more likely to have income/benefits.

### (4) Participant Perceptions

- All but one participant reported having a positive experience with and perception of LEAD case management.
- About a third of participants reported that LEAD was the first social services program they have ever participated in.

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<sup>1</sup> The information contained in this one-pager was gathered from four related evaluations of the LEAD program, examining recidivism, cost-savings, LEAD effects on housing, and reflections from LEAD participants.

<sup>2</sup> This research on housing, employment and income did not employ the same randomized control trial—instead, this evaluation compares outcomes pre- and post-LEAD for the same group of participants—and the findings cannot be assumed to be causal.

- **All participants said LEAD had changed their lives for the better.**
- Of the individuals who originally reported prior negative experiences with police, about half said these experiences had become positive after their LEAD involvement.