

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RATIFIED SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CHEYENNE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER FOR GENERAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUNDING, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING TO REQUEST FUNDING FOR THE LARAMIE COUNTY LEAD PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,500.00.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF: REQUESTED FUNDS WILL BE USED TO MINIMIZE FOOD INSECURITY AMONG LARAMIE COUNTY LEAD PARTICIPANTS.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the Cheyenne Regional Medical Center is accepting applications under their General Community Benefit Program and;

WHEREAS, the Laramie County Board of Commissioners is eligible to apply for and receive community benefit funds for the Sheriff's Office and;

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of Laramie County has been provided with preliminary cost estimates and information on this project and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF LARAMIE COUNTY that a grant application in the amount of \$1,500.00 be submitted to Cheyenne Regional Medical Center for consideration of assistance in funding the Laramie County Sheriff's Office for the LEAD Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Sandra Bay, or her successor in the position of Laramie County Grants Manager, is appointed as agent of the Laramie County Board of Commissioners to execute and submit applications and certifications for these funds and to receive funds and implement the programs funded under this grant.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 6TH DAY OF MAY 2025.

By: _____
Chairman, Laramie County Commissioners

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Debra Lee, Laramie County Clerk

Date: _____

Received and Approved as to Form only By:

Laramie County Attorney's Office

Date: 4/21/25

Applications must be typed and submitted electronically to:

Amy Spieker, DrPH, MPH and Brittany Wardle, MPH
Amy.Spieker@crmcwy.org and Brittany.Wardle@crmcwy.org
(307) 773-8188 and (307) 773-8260

Please limit the applications to only the requested materials.

Cover Sheet Format:

Date of Request: April 10, 2025

Program/Activity Title: Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)

Organization's Legal Name: Laramie County Sheriff's Office

Physical Address: 1910 Pioneer Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82001

Website: <https://leadbureau.org/>

Key Contact for this Project: MacKenzie Howard

Phone Number: 307-286-0407

Email Address: mackenzie.howard@laramiecountywy.gov

Estimated start date: 6/1/25

Amount Requested: \$1,500

Dates and amounts of funds/resources previously provided by Cheyenne Regional for this purpose: \$1,500 awarded in FY21 for two years, \$1,000 awarded in FY25

Please describe other funders of this project: COSSUP (Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program)

What percent of your operating budget do these funds represent? 1%

Typed Name, Signature and date signed of the Program Director.
(CRMC program applications must also be signed by Vice President).

MacKenzie Howard

MacKenzie Howard
4/10/2025

The Laramie County LEAD program was launched in 2020 with the goal of diverting individuals at high risk of becoming involved with the criminal justice system due to untreated mental health issues, substance misuse, and/or extreme poverty. We are a grant funded program, with our most recent award being \$1.3 million. The majority of our budget goes towards salaries for one full-time program manager and two full-time case managers. Each year, we have approximately \$12,000 allocated for client support funds to help with expenditures such as medications, medical/mental health co-pays, identification cards, housing (application fees, eviction prevention), drug testing fees, and transportation to treatment facilities.

The nature of our work is to meet our participants where they are physically, mentally, and emotionally. Under our existing grant funding, we are unable to use funds on food, which is a frequent need among the population we serve. According to the most recent Community Needs Assessment, 1 in 10 Laramie County residents are food insecure. Among LEAD participants, nearly all are struggling with food insecurity when we initially begin our work with them. While the purpose of LEAD is to help individuals accomplish their self-directed goals, research shows that individuals cannot begin to make consistent progress towards their goals when their basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter are not being met. Our previous awards from the Community Benefit Fund have allowed us to purchase an occasional warm meal or coffee for LEAD participants and that gesture proved to be invaluable in building rapport. During the course of our work with participants, we assist them with applying for SNAP benefits, utilizing food pantries, and learning how to budget for groceries so food insecurity is of less concern for them.

The LEAD program aims to reduce barriers that cause individuals to recidivate, such as not being able to afford drug testing fees or not having a reliable ride to court or probation meetings. Given that many folks have previously had negative experiences with the traditional criminal justice system, it takes time and a trauma informed approach to establish trust and rapport with justice involved individuals. Our program serves marginalized members of our community, including those who are unhoused and those who are struggling with substance use disorders. Many of our participants have endured significant trauma and have very little, if any, support from family members or friends who may influence their life in a positive way. LEAD is designed to be low barrier, meaning that we try to keep our eligibility criteria to a minimum to ensure that as many people as possible can access our services and support.

The work of the LEAD program aligns with several of the needs identified in the community needs assessment. Specifically, we assist participants with housing stability, whether it be covering a partial month's rent to prevent eviction, searching for available rentals within the participants' budget, or exploring transitional housing options. Unfortunately, there is a significant lack of affordable housing in Laramie County. For LEAD participants, housing is further complicated due to most individuals having criminal records related to substance use, which disqualifies them from most low-income housing options. Through our partnership with Community Action of Laramie County, we've been able to house four LEAD participants within the past four months. Now having a safe and stable home of their own, each of these participants have since been able to prioritize other goals such as reunifying with their children and completing vocational training.

We often partner with Bethel Outreach Ministries and Recover Wyoming to provide individuals with extra support in securing housing and working towards overall self-sufficiency. Bethel is a faith-based non-profit organization that focuses on re-entry support for recently discharged inmates of all kinds of correctional institutions in Wyoming. The agency is driven by an unwavering commitment to support and assist those trying to rebuild and restore their lives after experiencing incarceration. Recover Wyoming supports recovering individuals to reclaim a productive, healthy place in their families and communities, renew their faith in themselves, and rediscover their strengths and abilities.

Recognizing that many of Laramie County's most vulnerable individuals lack access to quality healthcare, the LEAD program works closely with three federally qualified health centers: Crossroads Healthcare Clinic, HealthWorks, and the University of Wyoming Family Medicine clinic. We assist participants with completing intake paperwork, applying for the sliding fee scale, identifying a primary care doctor, scheduling appointments, advocating for their physical and mental health needs, and providing transportation to appointments. If the participant is prescribed a medication they cannot afford or has co-pays related to their visit, the LEAD program can assist with these expenses to ensure they are receiving adequate care. While roughly 12% of Laramie County residents under age 65 are uninsured, nearly all LEAD participants are uninsured. Our program staff can assist individuals with applying for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which may then allow folks to be covered by Medicaid. We also help people explore coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace.

Given the tremendous increase in fentanyl use and subsequent overdoses, LEAD is working diligently to help those struggling with opioid use disorders. We utilize our resources to increase access to medication assisted treatment (MAT) to increase the likelihood of individuals achieving and maintaining long-term sobriety. Currently, we have 12 participants who are utilizing MAT in addition to other avenues to support recovery. We routinely speak with participants about having Narcan readily available, not using alone, and calling for help if they are with someone experiencing an overdose. Knowing that a significant portion of the population we serve does not routinely seek medical, dental, or mental health care, we encourage all participants to get established with a primary care team to triage any immediate needs and ensure that any potential health issues are detected and treated early.

The third priority identified by the Community Health Improvement Plan is economic stability by increasing workforce participation. The LEAD program has referred several individuals to vocational training programs such as Dads Making a Difference, Climb Wyoming, Workforce Services, and the various day labor organizations in our community. We spend the majority of our time providing transportation for participants to obtain forms of identification for employment, apply for work, attend job interviews, and get to work once they've secured employment. Very few LEAD participants have their own vehicle due to the expense of the vehicle itself, car insurance, and registration fees. As the LEAD program has become more established within Laramie County, our staff have become more familiar with workplaces that are felon-friendly and/or willing to hire justice involved individuals.

In screening our LEAD participants, nearly all of them report feeling lonely, sad, depressed, or hopeless nearly every day. Because many individuals have strained or unhealthy relationships with their family and friends, they lack meaningful connections with people who are in a position to help in a non-punitive way. By building a sense of community with our participants, we contribute to Cheyenne Regional Medical Center's definition of health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." We aim to provide a safe place for individuals to land, where they will be treated with dignity and respect, while also allowing them the autonomy to decide the changes they feel ready to make in their lives.

Throughout the past year, the LEAD program has been able to provide occasional meals for approximately 55 participants utilizing Community Benefit funding. We typically use these funds during an initial meeting as a welcoming gesture or to celebrate participants who are making positive, meaningful changes in their lives. Since the program launched in September 2020, we have received 465 referrals from our partners. Of those, 309 individuals met our eligibility criteria. We are recently revised our MOU to include new community partners such as the Laramie County Treatment Court Programs, Wyoming Department of Corrections (Laramie County Field Office), Laramie County Public Defender's Office, Community Action of Laramie County, HealthWorks, Volunteers of America, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, Cheyenne Police Department, and the Laramie County Sheriff's Office. Through our growing network of community agencies and our fully staffed program, we can extend help to more individuals. Realizing the stages of change and the challenges many participants face, we focus on harm reduction and incremental improvements.

The LEAD program respectfully requests \$1,500 in funding which will be utilized to minimize food insecurity among some of our community's most vulnerable individuals, while also allowing us to build rapport and celebrate victories with those who are making meaningful changes to become productive members of society. As of April 2025, LEAD has 36 participants who have never been re-arrested or whose offenses have become less severe over time. Some of these individuals previously spent time in prison, so the cost savings of no longer incarcerating these individuals is significant. Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We sincerely appreciate your time and consideration in advance.

With gratitude,

Mackenzie Howard

Mackenzie Howard
LEAD Program Manager
Laramie County Sheriff's Office
1910 Pioneer Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Cell: 307-286-0407
Email: mackenzie.howard@laramiecountywy.gov



**Cheyenne Regional
Medical Center**

We Inspire Great Health!

April 9, 2025

Community Benefit Committee
Cheyenne Regional Medical Center
Re: LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion), Funding Application

Dear Community Benefit Committee:

I am writing to express our support for LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) to receive funding through Community Benefit to address needs for their clients. The staff at LEAD are a major resource in this community and can make a difference in someone's life. LEAD has turned into such a valuable resource for many in our community. Clients have been able to get the support they need to stay out of jail through the case managers, connection of resources and the support of other community partners. Many of those who are clients of LEAD need support, and these funds would be able to assist with that.

As a community partner, we are committed to collaborating with LEAD through community education, connecting partners and participating in the operational work groups for the program. There is a lot of collaboration amongst community partners and LEAD, to make sure the staff and clients have the resources they need. We are assisting with making sure more partners know about LEAD and can make community referrals and for warm handoffs.

We highly recommend funding this essential work and would be happy to discuss it further with the committee if needed. LEAD is a great asset to the community, and the staff meet clients where they are and do not force change. Our community is fortunate to have this resource.

Sincerely,

Shelbie Sherard

Shelbie Sherard
Community Health Project Manager
Cheyenne Regional Medical Center

CHEYENNE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

214 E. 23rd St. • Cheyenne, WY 82001 • (307) 634-2273 • cheyenneregional.org



LARAMIE COUNTY TREATMENT COURT OFFICE

DRUG COURT • DUI COURT • MENTAL HEALTH DIVERSION COURT

April 8, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to submit comments in support of Laramie County's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program. It is my understanding that they will be applying for Cheyenne Regional Medical Center's (CRMC) General Community Benefit Funding, and in all my dealings with their organization, I can't think of another as deserving.

There is not a population as underserved or who struggles as much as individuals newly released from custody. They typically struggle with employment, housing, and food shortages. And while there are some agencies and people who are willing to work with this population, they are sometimes difficult to find due to the person's charges or criminal history.

LEAD is not that kind of agency. From the Program Manager to the Case Workers, all are friendly, respectful, and (most importantly) non-judgmental. This population is welcomed with open arms. They are provided with transportation to any number of places for any number of reasons. Sometimes the transportation is to a residential treatment program outside of Cheyenne, and sometimes that might be in the form of a bus ticket. They are offered assistance with housing and job searches, provided with cell phones, and even given a much needed meal or snacks to take with them.

It is assistance such as this that encourages those newly released from jail to seek higher and better. They are provided with resources and encouragement. I have witnessed LEAD personnel attend court hearings with their clients and even program graduations. They have also graciously assisted participants in my treatment programs when we could not.

In my humble opinion, CRMC's support of this terrific program would be serving those that are often ignored. I hope that will be taken into consideration when searching for worthy applicants. If you have any further questions, I would be delighted to share more. You may contact me at the number below or my mobile number, 307-286-5366.

Respectfully,

Fernando Muzquiz
Director

309 W. 20TH Street #2300
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Phone (307) 633-4588

Laramie County Data



- 465 referrals since the program launched in 2020, of those 309 met eligibility criteria
- ~ 55 individuals have utilized LEAD for long-term support, case management
- ~30 individuals have sought treatment for substance use disorders
- 12 individuals have found stable, long-term housing
- We have helped pay for medications, drug testing fees, rental applications fees, utility bills, identification documents, bus tickets to inpatient treatment.
- We have supported our clients by providing transportation to drug testing, court, probation, job interviews, work, medical/mental health appointments.
- We currently have 12 individuals who have utilized medication assisted treatment to support long-term sobriety.
- We have 36 individuals who have either never been re-arrested or have only been arrested for much less significant offenses. Most of these individuals previously spent months in jail.