



POLICING
ALTERNATIVES
& DIVERSION
INITIATIVE

MONTHLY REPORT

March 2023

*A NEW APPROACH
TO COMMUNITY SAFETY
& WELLNESS*





PAD promotes a new approach to community safety and wellness by reducing police involvement in issues related to quality-of-life concerns and by increasing the accessibility of supportive services. We engage in creative problem-solving to respond to community concerns, and addressing people's human needs with dignity, patience and care. PAD provides an alternative to criminal justice involvement through two core strategies:

1. Community Response Services: We partner with the City of Atlanta's 311 non-emergency services line to accept community referrals for issues of concern related to mental health, substance use or extreme poverty.

2. Diversion Services: We accept pre-arrest diversion referrals from law enforcement to provide an immediate alternative to arrest for individuals experiencing substance addiction, mental health concerns, or extreme poverty. We also accept post-booking diversions from the Fulton County Jail and Atlanta City Detention Center.

Our Care Navigation Team provides housing support, case management, and legal navigation for individuals who have been diverted by law enforcement or have an open and eligible criminal case in the City of Atlanta or Fulton County. We provide case management assistance to our participants for as long as they need assistance. We aim to build relationships to support our participants in achieving their goals for more stable and healthy lives.

THE TOP LINE: March 2023

16

Diversions

129

Community
Response
Requests
Through ATL311

16

New
Participants
Enrolled

101

Businesses
Engaged Through
Outreach



When I met my wife, she was a schoolteacher and I worked at a restaurant washing dishes. Later on, I became a nurse. My wife died in 2002 of breast cancer. The night she died, we'd gotten in a fight. Whenever we fought, I would leave the house and go to a gas station parking lot to cool off, and later she'd come and pick me up. After she died, I lost the zest for nursing. I didn't know I was grieving. After she died, I was on the street for 22 years. I waited for my wife to pick me up for 22 years.

I was sleeping on the porch of an abandoned house when an officer woke me up and asked me to leave. I was diverted to PAD – they came and picked me up, brought me things I needed, took me to a hotel. Once I started receiving my Social Security check, I started looking for a place. It's been a great ride. I'm in a place where I can be independent. It's a whole new world and life for me. There's a fountain here. I fell in love with it from the first moment I seen it. It overwhelmed me. I'm looking out the window now. I'm surrounded by trees. It's wonderful. It's beautiful.



Robert Mitchel moved into his own apartment in late March. He was diverted to PAD in June 2022 for Criminal Trespass.

Diversions

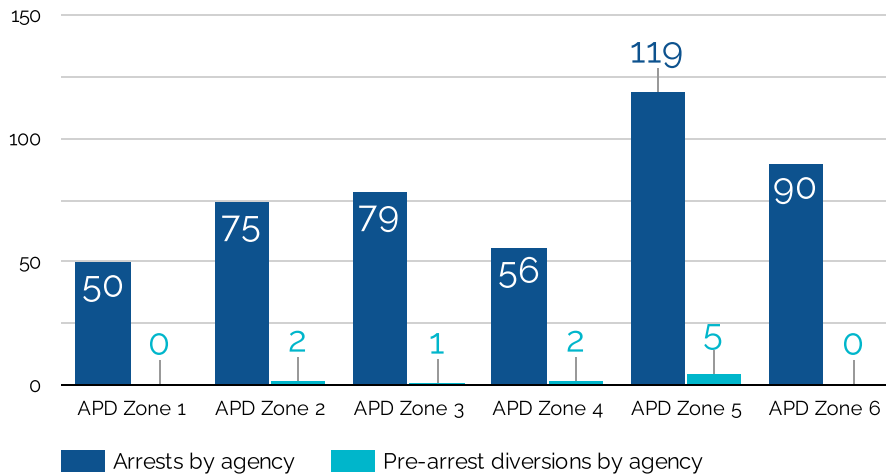
16 COMPLETED DIVERSIONS

- 9 Total pre-arrest diversions, excluding re-referrals
- 5 Total post-booking diversions
- 2 Total re-referrals
- 5 CHANGE IN DIVERSIONS FROM PRIOR MONTH
- 37 CHANGE IN DIVERSIONS FROM PRIOR YEAR

PAD accepts pre-arrest diversions from Atlanta Police Department, MARTA police officers, and Georgia Tech police officers who have probable cause to arrest an individual and identify that there is a need related to substance use, mental health, or extreme poverty. We also accept post-booking diversions from the Fulton County Jail and Atlanta City Detention Center.

The Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion initiative, or LEAD, is a collaboration between PAD and the Atlanta Police Department, MARTA Police Department, City of Atlanta Public Defender's Office, City of Atlanta Solicitor's Office, Fulton County Public Defender's Office, Fulton County Solicitor General's Office, and Fulton County District Attorney's Office.

Diversions and diversion-eligible arrests by police zone/agency



RESPONSE STATISTICS

Average response time to diversions was

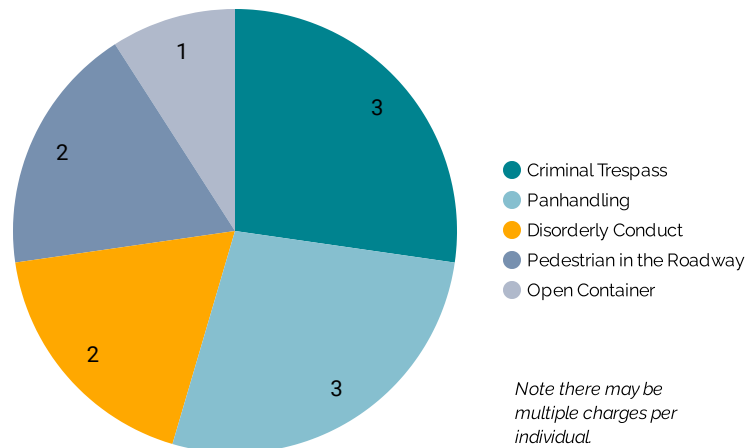
19 minutes

TYPICAL TIME OF DIVERSION*

APD Zone 2	12pm-2pm
APD Zone 3	12pm-2pm
APD Zone 4	2pm-4pm
APD Zone 5	12pm-2pm
GT PD	10am-12pm

*50% or more of diversions happened during this time. If no diversions occurred, the zone will not be listed.

CHARGES AT THE TIME OF DIVERSION



Note there may be multiple charges per individual.



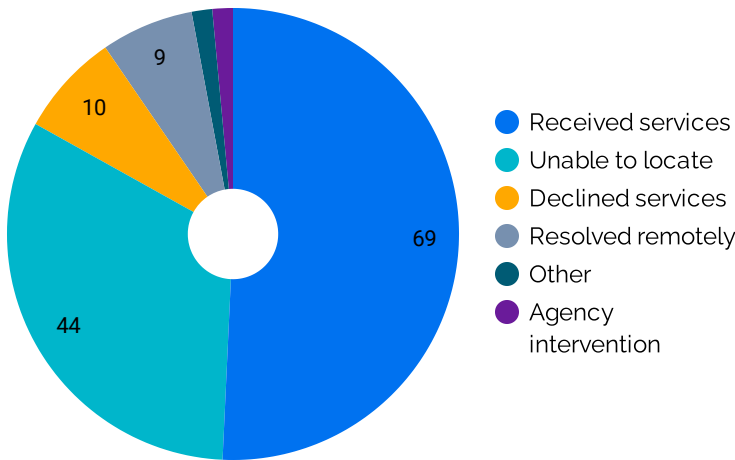
Community Response Services

129 RESPONSE REQUESTS

7	# of 911 call transfers to 311
+ 55	Change in total 311 requests from prior month
+ 20	Change in total 311 requests from same month, prior year

Community members in Atlanta can call 311 regarding issues of community concern related to behavioral health or poverty. In October 2022, 911 also began transferring calls concerning public indecency to 311. Our team responds to these concerns and offers individuals immediate resources and warm referrals to other service providers.

Response Outcomes - 311



Note: "Declined Services" may include individuals who are already working with other service providers or would prefer to be re-engaged at another time

311 RESPONSE STATISTICS

99 referrals (76.7% of all calls) were designated as requiring an immediate response.

79% of these calls (78) received an in-person response within 30 minutes.

21 minutes was the average response time to calls designated as requiring an immediate response

14 requests were designated as outreach requests. 93% of these calls (13) received a response within 48 hours.

9 requests were provided with resources by PAD staff over the phone.

Demographics of Engaged Individuals

By Race and Ethnicity:

48	Black, not Latinx
4	Latinx
12	Not specified
14	White, not Latinx

By Gender:

34	Cis men
29	Cis women
12	Not specified
1	Trans men
2	Trans women

By age:

18 - 24	3
25 - 40	11
41 - 60	10
61+	4
Not specified	35



Community Response Services *continued*



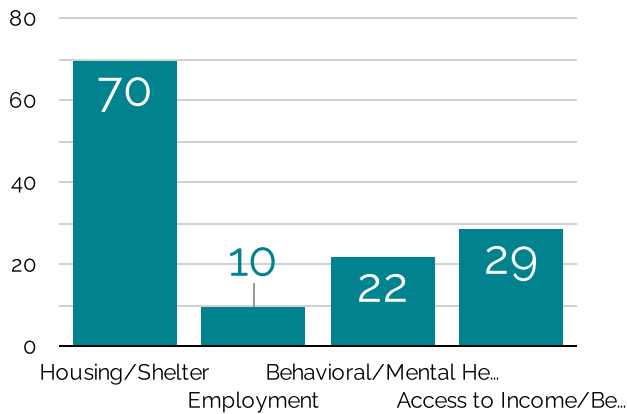
78 SUCCESSFUL ENGAGEMENTS

- +46 CHANGE IN SUCCESSFUL ENGAGEMENTS FROM PRIOR MONTH
- +37 CHANGE IN SUCCESSFUL ENGAGEMENTS FROM PRIOR YEAR
- 0 ENROLLED 311 LEAD PARTICIPANT(S)

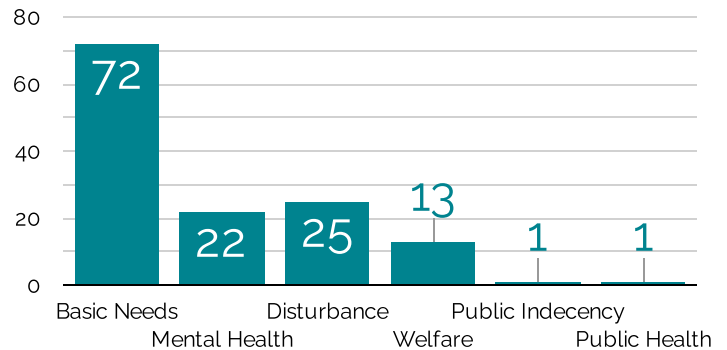
"I think it's easy for people in day-to-day life to see someone who is experiencing homelessness as a threat even though they're just a victim of circumstance. Having this alternative to call instead of police is a great option."

- Alex Valentine, Collier Hills

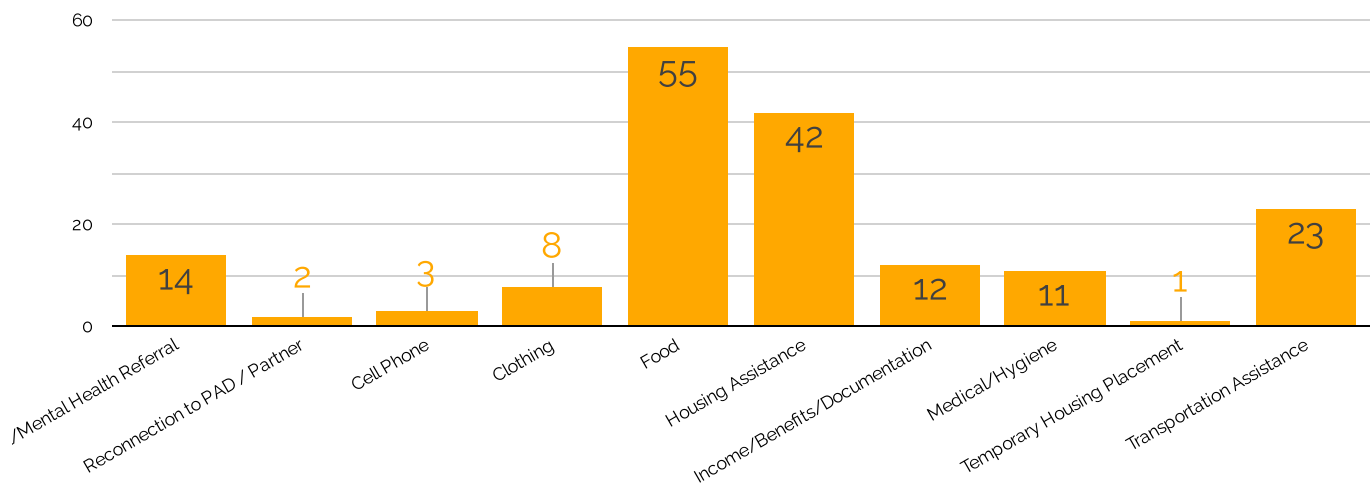
Identified Needs Among Successful Engagements



Top 311 Caller Concerns Among Successful Engagements



SERVICES PROVIDED DURING COMMUNITY RESPONSE ENGAGEMENT





Care Navigation

16 NEW PARTICIPANTS

+ 1 CHANGE IN PARTICIPANT ENROLLMENTS FROM LAST MONTH

Newly Enrolled Participants by Referral Source

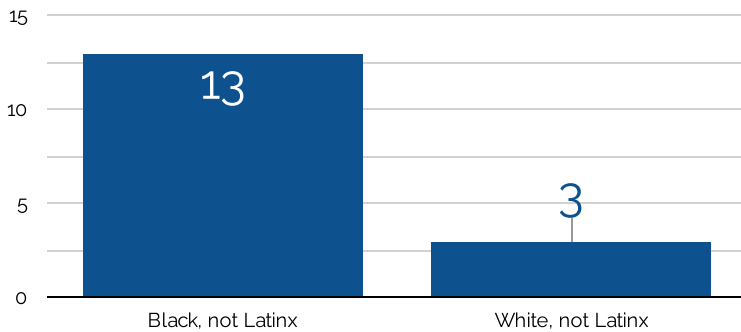
LEAD Diversion	9
Partner Agency Referral	5
311 Referral	2
Outreach Engagement	0

PAD provides direct services to individuals that are focused on reducing the activities that lead to police contact and address quality of life concerns in a way that honors the dignity and self-determination of the referred individual. Our direct services include:

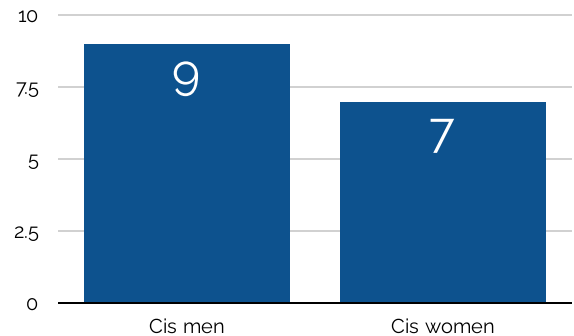
• **Immediate Shelter & Basic Needs:** People are offered emergency shelter, transportation and food assistance.

• **Linkage to Care:** People are supported with care navigation, and connected to service providers for identification documents, recovery support, employment, and other services.

Participant enrollment by age, race/ethnicity

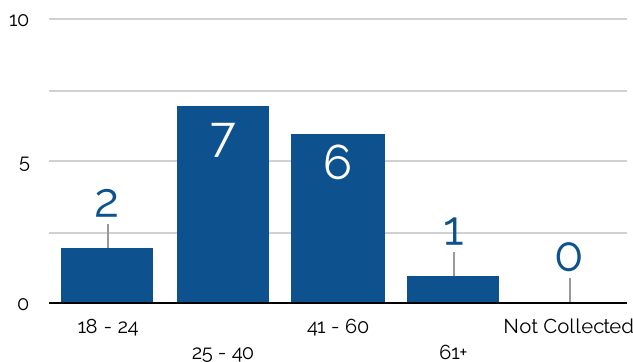


Participant enrollment by gender

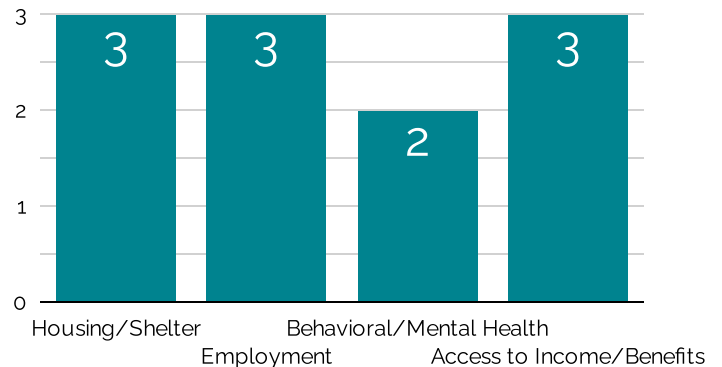


*People who are Latinx may be of any race. API = American Pacific Islander

Participant enrollment by age



Identified needs among newly-enrolled participants



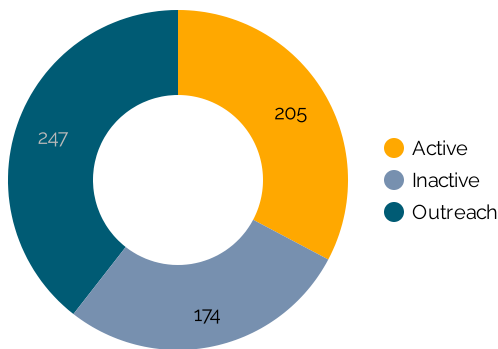


Care Navigation *continued*

64 PARTICIPANTS ENROLLED YEAR TO DATE

Our participants have reconnected with family members, started working, secured name changes and disability benefits, and resolved longstanding legal issues that had prevented them from moving forward.

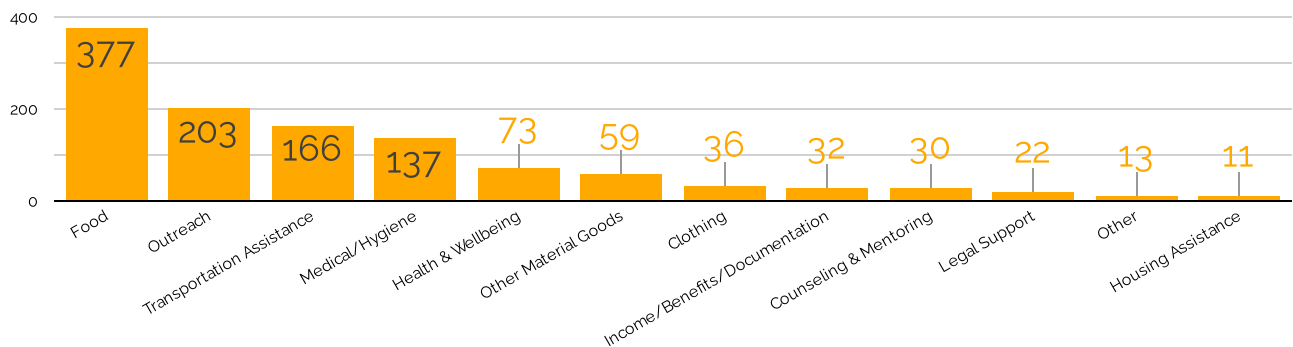
PARTICIPANT STATUS



HOUSING SUPPORT

Placed in Recovery Housing	14
Placed in Permanent Supportive Housing	10
Placed in Bridge Housing	7
Placed in Shelter	6
Provided Emergency Housing	5

SERVICES PROVIDED - ALL PARTICIPANTS



PARTICIPANT ARRESTS IN THE 6 MONTHS BEFORE AND AFTER APD DIVERSION

PAD provided legal system navigation to 22 participants this month in order to reduce legal barriers, resolve cases, and advocate for reduced jail sentences.

Of the 417 active participants for which we have data on the 6 months prior to and after their first diversion:

- 372 were not arrested by APD in the 6 months prior to their first diversion
- 45 were arrested in the 6 months prior to their first diversion, 14 with all charges eligible for diversion

Of these 417 participants, in the 6 months after their most recent diversion:

- 382 were not arrested by APD in the 6 months following their most recent diversion
- 35 were arrested in the 6 months following diversion, 12 with all charges eligible for diversion

Of PAD's currently active participants, 8 were arrested by APD in March 2023.



January 2023 - March 2023

Diversions

60 DIVERSIONS

Includes individuals who are referred more than once to PAD.

Total re-referrals	11
Total pre-arrest diversions, excluding re-referrals	37
Total post-booking diversions	12

Pre-Arrest Diversions by Zone and Agency

APD Zone 1	0
APD Zone 2	6
APD Zone 3	2
APD Zone 4	12
APD Zone 5	23
APD Zone 6	1
GT PD	2
MARTA	2

RESPONSE STATISTICS

Average year to date response time to diversions was:

20 minutes

January 2023 - March 2023

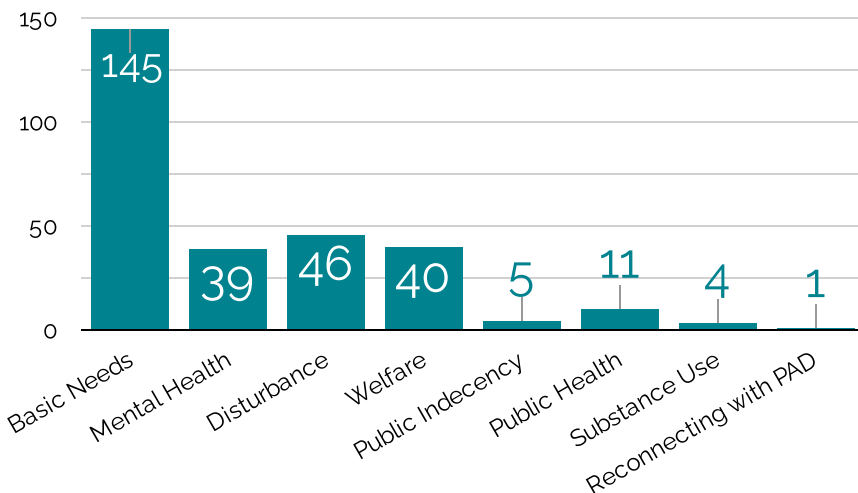
Community Response Services

280 RESPONSE REQUESTS

Excludes ineligible and duplicate calls.

152 SUCCESSFUL ENGAGEMENTS

Top 311 Caller Concerns Among Successful Engagements



311 RESPONSE STATISTICS

202 referrals (72.1% of all calls) were designated as requiring an immediate response.

79.2% of these calls (160) received an in-person response within 30 minutes.

22.0 minutes, average response time to calls designated as requiring an immediate response

36 requests were designated as outreach requests. 92.9% of these calls (35) received a response within 48 hours.

26 requests were provided with resources by PAD staff over the phone.

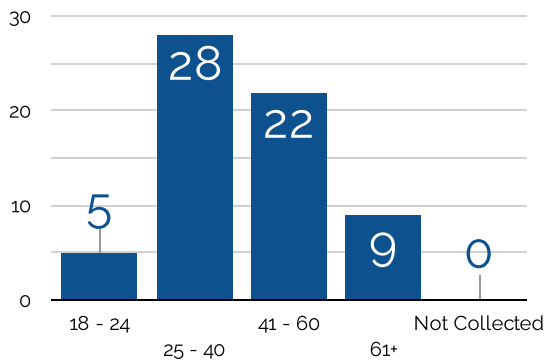
January 2023 - March 2023

Care Navigation

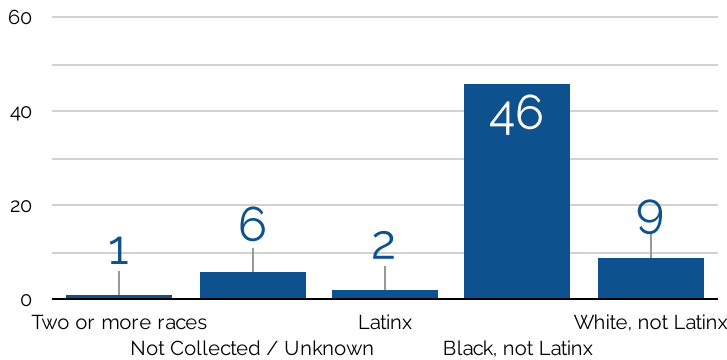
64 PARTICIPANTS ENROLLED
YEAR TO DATE

626 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
CURRENTLY ENROLLED

Participant enrollment by age



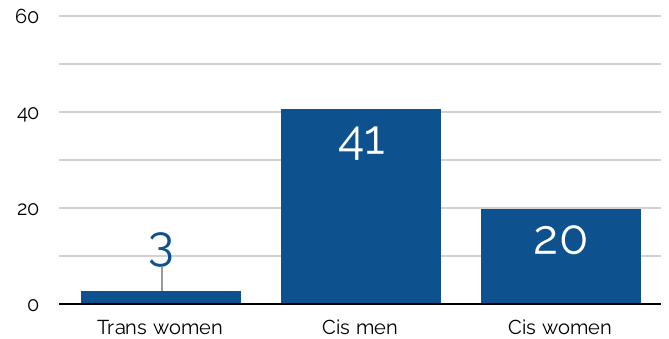
Participant enrollment by race/ethnicity



HOUSING SUPPORT

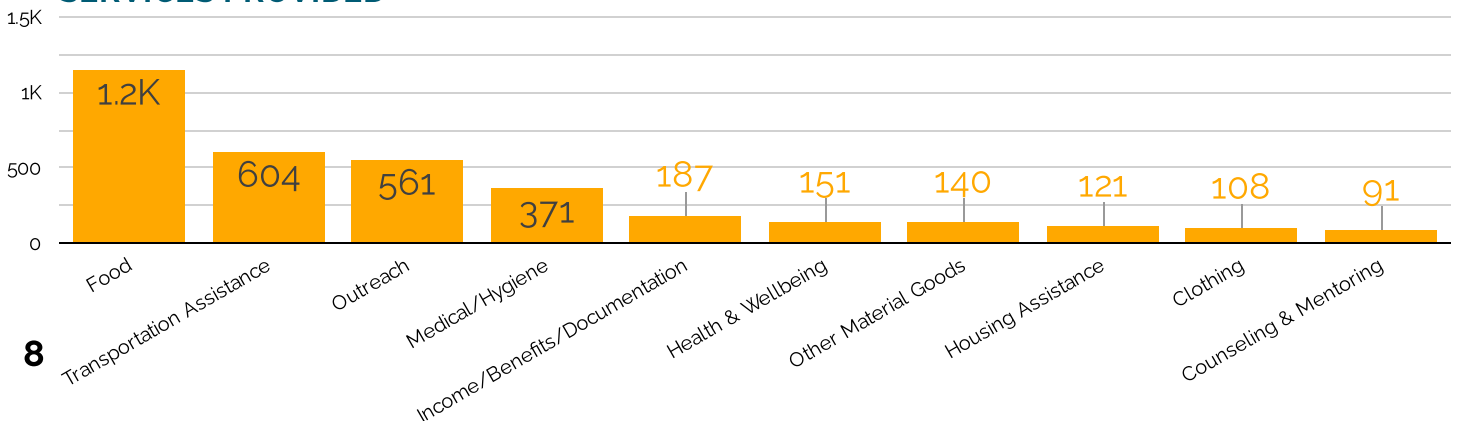
Provided Emergency Housing	43
Placed in Recovery Housing	24
Placed in Shelter	19
Placed in Permanent Supportive Housing	19
Placed in Bridge Housing	18

Participant enrollment by gender



*People who are Latinx may be of any race. API = American Pacific Islander

SERVICES PROVIDED



Community Engagement

On March 31st, we helped celebrate the official groundbreaking of the Center for Diversion & Services, kicking off a year-long construction process to open the first 24/7 hour alternative to jail here in Atlanta and Fulton County.

When the Center opens, pre-arrest diversion will not only expand to year-round 24/7 availability, but we will also have a sobering center in our community for the first time since before the 1996 Olympics.



This resource has been many years in the making, beginning with PAD's launch of pre-arrest diversion mobile response in 2017, the recommendations for a physical location made by the Fulton County Justice and Mental Health Taskforce in 2018, and the ongoing work of the Justice Policy Board.

As we work together to prepare for the Center's opening in 2024, PAD will continue to engage impacted community members to ensure that the Center is a welcoming, consent-based, and recovery-oriented space for people who would otherwise have been booked into jail.



PAD staff, PAD board members, and ATL311 celebrating the official groundbreaking of the Center for Diversion and Services.

101	businesses engaged
21	community events attended
2	media appearances
0	public trainings



From farmers markets to NPU meetings, business canvassing to community events, PAD had a presence at 21 events in March! With each event, more and more Atlanta residents know about PAD services.