



POLICING ALTERNATIVES & DIVERSION INITIATIVE

The Policing Alternatives & Diversion Initiative works to reduce arrest and incarceration of people experiencing extreme poverty, problematic substance use, or mental health concerns and to increase the accessibility of supportive services in Atlanta and Fulton County.

PAD provides an alternative to criminal justice involvement through **two core strategies**:

PAD 311 COMMUNITY REFERRAL SERVICES

PAD services are available to community members in Atlanta who need assistance addressing concerns related to unmet mental health needs, substance use, or extreme poverty.

To make a referral, community members can call the City of Atlanta's 311 non-emergency services line. Then, a two-person PAD Harm Reduction team will travel to the area to engage the referred individual. They offer immediate assistance, and our Care Navigation team provides additional case management for those who may need more support.

PAD 311 Community Referral Services are available citywide, Monday - Friday, 7am-7pm. Please go to our website at atlantapad.org to learn more.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- If you need assistance addressing a non-emergency concern related to substance use, mental health, or extreme poverty in your community, call 311 (or 404-546-0311).
- Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter at @PADatlanta.
- Spread the word about PAD 311 Community Referrals on social media, to friends and family, and in your community.

LEAD DIVERSION SERVICES

PAD provides an immediate alternative to arrest for individuals detained by the Atlanta Police Department or MARTA police for law violations related to mental health, substance use, and extreme poverty.

If the individual consents, the officer calls the PAD Harm Reduction team instead of making an arrest, and we begin working with the individual to address immediate basic needs. No police report is made. Then, our Care Navigation team works with the individual to identify goals, provide case management, and establish connections with social services and other community supports.

LEAD Services are available citywide, Monday - Friday, 7am-7pm.

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) is a partnership between the Atlanta and MARTA police departments, Fulton County offices of the District Attorney, Public Defender, and Solicitor General, and City of Atlanta offices of the Public Defender and Solicitor. PAD works with these agencies to assist PAD LEAD participants in addressing outstanding legal issues and reduce legal barriers to success.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Encourage officers to divert to PAD instead of arresting for activities related to substance use, mental health, or extreme poverty.
- At NPU and community meetings, make it a habit of asking Atlanta Police Department and MARTA police representatives for a diversion report.