

Final Version of Milwaukee-LEAP Scope of Work

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Tailored Scope

The purpose of this tailored scope is to assist the task force in developing design and implementation recommendations for a community responder model by the end of September.

LEAP will:

1. Obtain calls-for-service data and conduct an analysis to identify existing operations and needs.
2. Engage in initial 1-on-1 conversations with police, fire, dispatch, community groups, and other key stakeholders to study Milwaukee's relevant existing operations and needs
3. Compare Milwaukee's existing operations and needs with those of jurisdictions already operating community responder models to inform design and implementation recommendations.
4. Lead portions of each task force meeting to present status and results from data analysis and stakeholder meetings, ask the task force key questions to guide the work, and field questions from the task force. (Allotted time to be decided by the task force.)
5. Answer questions posed by task force members, either in meetings or via email, as time and resources permit.
6. Prepare a brief report summarizing design and implementation recommendations by September 30, 2022.

Milwaukee task force members will:

1. Assist LEAP in connecting with city and county agencies in order to successfully obtain data and arrange conversations.
2. Assist LEAP in connecting with community groups to successfully arrange conversations.

3. Allot time in each task force meeting for LEAP to provide updates, ask questions, and answer questions.
4. Consider LEAP's design and implementation recommendations in drafting the task force's own recommendations.
5. Allow LEAP an opportunity to provide feedback on a draft of the task force's own recommendations while changes are still feasible.

Cost

LEAP will provide the above assistance to the Milwaukee task force through September 30, 2022, without financial compensation.

Purpose

In Milwaukee, like most cities, police are the default responders for most 911 calls. Many of these calls are related to low-priority and low-risk quality-of-life and behavioral health issues. When all of these calls fall on the police's shoulders, they are forced into social worker and counselor roles for which they have not been trained, they have less time to focus on serious crime, and they run the risk of negative interactions and uses of force. All of these issues can break down community trust in police, which is essential for police to effectively prevent and solve a crime.

Other jurisdictions have shown that the entire community benefits when low-priority calls can be taken off the police's plate and handled through a carefully designed alternative. For example, calls related to mental health, addiction, and homelessness can often be handled by responders who specialize in behavioral health issues. Juvenile complaints, neighbor disputes, noise complaints, and disturbances can often be handled by people trained in mediation and conflict resolution. By sending the right responder to each 911 call, cities are rebuilding the trust of citizens and improving public health and safety.

The Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP) is a nonprofit organization that has designed "community responder" programs tailored to specific cities around the country. LEAP conducts research on existing programs, investigates local 911 call data, talks to a broad range of city stakeholders to understand local resources and priorities, and designs a process for community input on key questions. LEAP brings in police representatives to vet program safety and build bridges with local first responders.

LEAP applauds Milwaukee's leadership in resolving to find common-sense alternatives to help shoulder the burdens currently placed on police. Through this scope of work, LEAP will help the city ensure that Milwaukee community members receive effective responses to calls for service that resolve conflict, improve health, free up police resources, and improve public trust.