

# a new approach to **COMMUNITY SAFETY** and **WELLNESS**

## Atlanta/Fulton County Pre-Arrest Diversion

The Atlanta/Fulton County Pre-Arrest Diversion (PAD) initiative strives to reduce the number of people involved in the criminal justice system who are experiencing mental illness, substance use disorders, and/or extreme poverty. Pre-arrest diversion allows police officers to offer consent-based and individually-tailored social services instead of making an arrest. Officers initiate diversions, and are met at the scene of the offense by a PAD Care Navigation team who immediately begin working with a diverted participant.

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTERVENTION

We coordinate criminal justice agencies in order to divert individuals from the jail and court systems, and remove legal barriers to their success.

#### OUR PARTNERS:

- Atlanta Police Department
- City of Atlanta Solicitor
- City of Atlanta Public Defender
- Fulton County District Attorney
- Fulton County Solicitor
- Fulton County Public Defender

### OUR PARTICIPANTS

- ✓ Unmet mental health needs
- ✓ Substance use disorders
- ✓ Extreme poverty
- ✓ Excluded from other services
- ✓ Impacted by racial disparities in the criminal justice system
- ✓ Multiple contacts with the criminal legal system

### CARE NAVIGATION

We provide case management, linkage to care, and participant advocacy. We work to strengthen social services in the Metro Atlanta region by building capacity for evidence-based care.

#### OUR CARE VALUES:

- Harm Reduction
- Trauma-informed
- Housing First
- Cultural Competency

## Building Momentum on a Community-Driven Vision

Pre-arrest diversion is a strategy designed by people directly impacted by policing and incarceration, who built a broad grassroots coalition to champion criminal justice reform and propose more effective approaches to public safety. The two-year pilot initiative was developed in collaboration with criminal justice agencies, local governments, neighborhood and faith leaders, and social services providers. Since October 2017, PAD has partnered with the Atlanta Police Department to divert people subject to arrest in Downtown, Midtown and Old Fourth Ward. Our goal is to divert 150 participants in our first two years, eventually expanding to serve the entire city of Atlanta.



*The Atlanta/Fulton County Pre-Arrest Diversion initiative is a coordinating agency that strives to reduce the number of people in jails who would be better served by social services. We do so through unique partnerships with local law enforcement, criminal justice agencies, policy advocates, and social service agencies in the greater Atlanta area.*