

Foundation of HOPE Diversion Program

A Second
Chance
to Succeed

DIVERSION



"It gave me peace of mind to know that the Diversion Program staff were there for my daughter."

~ Diversion youth parent

The HOPE Diversion Program is designed to give young people who commit a non-violent, low-to-medium offense the opportunity to remain in the community while addressing their needs rather than being prosecuted, convicted, or incarcerated.

WHO WE SERVE

The HOPE Diversion Program serves youths aged 12 to 26 who reside or commit an offense in or near targeted communities throughout the city of Pittsburgh.

By partnering with local law enforcement, juvenile probation, the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh, the District Attorney's Office, and other community stakeholders, the HOPE Diversion Program serves as an alternative to prosecution for eligible participants.

Youths have an opportunity to engage in services provided by community-based organizations, including housing assistance, mental health counseling, drug and alcohol counseling, grief counseling, job readiness, after-school programming, homelessness services, community service, and support groups.



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The Diversion Program consists of:

- a youth being identified by the referring partners as a candidate for the program
- the HOPE Diversion Program receiving a referral for an intake evaluation
- HOPE Diversion staff and partners providing support for the youth's needs
- health care and mental health professionals evaluating the youth within 30 days
- the youth and Diversion team creating and developing an individualized goal plan which will focus on counseling, treatment, and behavior modification over punitive measures
- the youth and Diversion team requesting for the case to be dismissed after the goal plan obligations are met
- filing charges for formal prosecution if the youth does not comply with every step of the plan



UNIQUE

The HOPE Diversion Program helps communities to understand that certain offenses can be viewed as a public health problem rather than as a crime against society.

The HOPE Diversion Program helps to bridge the gap between local law enforcement, care providers, and the community.

"I am pleased to see that second chances aren't just available for the wealthy."

~ a Diversion youth

PRODUCTIVITY

- Helps the youth learn from their mistakes through early intervention
- Repairs the harm caused to families, victims, and the community
- Equips and encourages youth to make responsible decisions
- Holds the youth accountable for their actions while ensuring they also make amends for harm caused
- Recognizes that community-based social services can be effective interventions for those youths dealing with mental health and substance abuse issues
- Encourages the youth to fulfill short-term personal goals

FUNDING

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