

# PROMOTING HEALTHY OUTCOMES THROUGH SUPPORT SERVICES

for people who use injecting and other drugs

**Point Defiance Aids Projects (PDAP) has worked to improve the health and safety of people living in Pierce County for more than 25 years.** Through community outreach and relationship building, PDAP has developed multiple points of contact with hard-to-reach communities at high risk for developing chronic diseases and other health conditions: low income, chronically homeless, and unstably housed drug users and sex workers. PDAP's outreach focuses on these individuals, but the health benefits of our services extend to the friends and families of those we serve, and to the broader health care system in the form of reduced costs.

*PDAP has developed multiple points of contact with high risk, hard-to-reach communities: low income, chronically homeless, and unstably housed drug users and sex workers.*

**PDAP's goal is to ensure that everyone has access to quality health care and disease prevention, without judgment, and regardless of their financial situation.** PDAP recognizes that the opportunity to improve health begins long before people get sick. Capitalizing on this opportunity, our community health workers meet people where they live, work, and play to promote healthy, safe communities.

**PDAP does what health care providers cannot do.** We go into the community with culturally competent, non-judgmental services that facilitate long-term relationships and more effective linkages to health care, drug treatment, housing and other stabilizing services. Governor Jay Inslee has set ambitious health and healthcare goals for the state of Washington, including a vision for the full integration of mental health, chemical dependency, and physical health care. To meet these goals, communities and health jurisdictions across the state are creating innovative collaborative networks that include the type of community outreach PDAP provides. PDAP sees itself as a vital part of the continuum of whole person care.

***The opportunity to improve health begins long before people get sick.***

**See the back of this sheet for an inventory of PDAP's services and the benefits they provide to clients, the community, and the health care system.**

**Pt. Defiance AIDS Projects**

Saving lives. Preventing disease. Protecting the community.

**PDAP**

# PT. DEFIANCE AIDS PROJECTS INVENTORY OF SERVICES

## and stakeholder benefits

Support Service	Benefit to the Health System	Benefit to the Community	Benefit to the Client
<b>Access to Sterile Injecting Supplies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduces disease transmission, wounds, blood infections, phlebitis, blood clots</li> <li>Fewer acute episodes that demand significant health system resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced needle stick injury and improper disposal of syringes in public places</li> <li>Protects health and safety of families, law enforcement, and public workers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improves health outcomes</li> <li>Empowers individual with ability to administer preventative self-care</li> <li>Reduces stigma</li> </ul>
<b>Wound Care Supplies and Health Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduces skin and soft tissue infections</li> <li>Increases timely linkage to health services before serious acute episodes occur</li> <li>Encourages treatment adherence and retention in care through ingoing care coordination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decreases transmission of community acquired MRSA and other infections via contact with public surfaces</li> <li>Saves public resources by treating wounds before they require emergency services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enables patient self-care</li> <li>Prevents acute episodes requiring medical attention</li> </ul>
<b>Health Insurance Enrollment Assistance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increases access to health care for hard to reach populations</li> <li>Provides opportunity to educate clients on use of primary care for non-emergent issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saves public resources used to care for uninsured people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists people with limited access to computers and information access health insurance and find medical homes</li> </ul>
<b>Screening, Intervention, and Referral to Drug Treatment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduces drug related use of health services for acute and chronic conditions</li> <li>Facilitates appropriate linkage to treatment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthens families and communities by assisting the individual's return to health and productivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduces drug related health consequences, diseases, accidents, and injuries</li> <li>Engenders hope for positive change</li> </ul>
<b>Overdose Prevention and Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduces emergency room visits and 911 calls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevents trauma and adverse experiences for children, families, and communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empowers individuals and communities to save lives</li> </ul>
<b>Hepatitis C and HIV Testing, Counseling, and Referral</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies cases of disease infection</li> <li>Creates effective linkages with appropriate care setting</li> <li>Encourages treatment adherence and retention in care through ongoing care coordination and tracking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduces disease burden and financial cost associated with caring for those with chronic disease</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increases disease status awareness</li> <li>Reduces risky injecting and sexual behaviors</li> <li>Provides access to supplies and health education the individual to care for self and others</li> </ul>
<b>Care Coordination and Linkage to Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduces impact of acute and chronic conditions associated with homelessness, mental illness, and substance use</li> <li>Reduces cost of services across health and social sectors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduces environmental, social, and economic impacts of homelessness, mental illness, substance use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides stability for those living in crisis</li> <li>Improves health outcomes</li> <li>Reduces isolation</li> </ul>
<b>Peer and Mentor Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigates acute and chronic episodes associated with past experience of trauma and lack of access to appropriate health care, housing, and social services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports social connection between the individual and the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduces isolation and stigma</li> <li>Improves health outcomes</li> </ul>