



Fact Sheet: Monthly Call for Community-Based, Pre-Arrest Diversion

Katal is hosting monthly conference calls about developing community-based pre-arrest diversion processes and programs. **Community groups working to build, facilitate, or learn more about pre-arrest diversion programs are invited to join.**

Background: Pre-arrest diversion programs, if built appropriately anchored in community groups and aimed toward racial equity, can serve efforts for advancing decriminalization, ending mass incarceration, and expanding the social safety net. Pre arrest diversion programs are not a panacea for mass incarceration or mass criminalization; if not built carefully and anchored in community leadership, such programs may not only serve to *uphold* systems of criminalization, but can also disrupt and undermine local community-led efforts to achieve real reform. Supporting community groups in their efforts to develop pre-arrest diversion programs increases the likelihood that such programs will serve the movement to end mass incarceration and mass criminalization.

Goals for the monthly call:

- *Sharing* ideas, lessons, and practical tools for community groups working to establish community based diversion programs rooted in health and racial equity
- *Improving* municipal based public safety strategies through public health services, harm reduction, and public education
- *Connecting* community groups across the with their peers working develop, implement, and sustain accountability in pre-arrest and other diversion projects

Agenda topics for the calls may include:

- How to differentiate between arrest diversion processes and police-led referral programs – they may look similar from the outside, but are drastically different
- How to ensure diversion programs serve the goal of addressing and reducing racial disparities in policing practices
- Strategies for community engagement
- Setting up Community Leadership Teams
- Using data collection and reporting for program accountability
- Connecting with the healthcare system to provide services and displace the justice system
- Building with local partners for better regional access to services
- Engaging other state/local agencies (Housing, Education, Transportation) to increase impact
- Establishing evaluation processes
- Making pre-arrest diversion serve the goal of decriminalization
- Understanding the limits, contradiction, and potential problems associated with of pre-arrest diversion programs

Receiving additional Technical Assistance: For groups who join these calls, additional, one-on-one technical assistance may be available.

The conference calls will be held monthly with a video-conference option. These meetings are for community organizations (not police or city officials). To be added to the invitation list for these calls, for more information, please contact Keith Brown at keith@katalcenter.org.