

Deflection

The majority of people who come into contact with law enforcement have a substance use disorder, a mental health condition, or both. As the cornerstone of our mission, TASC strives to prevent the unnecessary and expensive arrest and incarceration of people who have substance use or mental health conditions.

TASC serves both individuals and law enforcement by facilitating solid connections to treatment and recovery support in the community. We help individuals get into and remain in the services they need, and we guide them as they progress to self-sufficiency. Our Deflection programs lessen burdens on law enforcement and increase health for individuals and communities.

A Proactive Approach with Connection to Community Services

Deflection represents an early, "upstream" approach to addressing substance use and mental health disorders. Unlike traditional responses that wait for crises, such as overdoses or arrests, deflection intervenes and proactively creates community-based pathways to recovery for individuals who would be better served by the behavioral health system.

TASC's Operational Support

TASC's Deflection division works collaboratively with first responders and other community stakeholders to promote recovery from drug use, reduce overdoses from opioids and other drugs, and interrupt the cycle of drugs and crime. These specialists work within the community and are trained to intervene during crises and address public health concerns without arrest and incarceration.

TASC's Deflection team also provides TASC Specialized Case Management, facilitating a warm handoff to the services people need most, from substance use and/or mental health treatment to victim/survivor support services to housing assistance. Additionally, Deflection specialists provide training on preventing opioid overdose deaths, including naloxone administration and use of fentanyl test strips.

Center for Health and Justice Training & Technical Assistance

TASC's Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) offers training and technical assistance to communities interested in launching deflection efforts. These initiatives prioritize assisting individuals with substance use or mental health challenges and connecting them to services that are both equitable and responsive to individual needs, regardless of gender, race, or ethnicity.

TASC's Deflection Partnerships Across Illinois

TASC is actively involved in deflection initiatives in Harvey, Justice, and Schiller Park, and working on new sites in Dixmoor and Chicago Heights. Deflection is not limited to Cook County Suburbs. Around the state, TASC is involved in existing or new deflection initiatives in West, Central and Southern Illinois.

Collaborating with first responders and community-based service providers across Illinois, TASC helps create healthier families and safer communities.

TASC, Inc. is an Illinois-based nonprofit agency committed to reducing justice involvement and its consequences by offering broad-scale solutions and by serving adults and adolescents who have a variety of social and health-related needs.

Administrative Offices
700 S. Clinton St.
Chicago, IL 60607
tel: 312-787-0208
fax: 312-787-9663
www.tasc.org