Overview of LEO

WE BELIEVE

Poverty can be outsmarted.

The social service community contains innovations
that show us how to end poverty.

Evidence (rather than hunches or assumptions) lights
the path to learning what works, with whom,
and at what frequency, sequence, and intensity.

Families in poverty deserve interventions that work.

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WHY WE EXIST

42 million people in poverty

$1 trillion spent annually fighting poverty

As little as 1% goes to evidence-based programs

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WHAT WE DO

Find the innovators

Teach about impact evaluations

Overlay research design on anti-poverty programs

Learn & iterate

Share findings & scale

PARTNERS & PROJECTS

100+ projects

29 states

12 cohorts

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TRADITIONAL PROGRAM ROLLOUT

1 Program

Provider develops program to address a community need.

Outcomes 2

Provider measures and reports on outputs and anecdotes.

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HOW WE WORK

5 Present
Partners share their research designs with experienced and passionate researchers and funders.

4 Design
Partners work with the LEO research team to design their research studies.

3 Learn
Partners learn the ins and outs of impact evaluation.

2 Invite
Organizations apply to join our partnership program to understand, design, and launch a research study.

1 Connect
Provider develops disruptive anti-poverty program.

Plan 6
LEO's research team leads our partners through all the steps to launch their research studies.

Launch 7
The research study goes live.

Discover 8
Together, we learn and communicate our discoveries.

Disseminate 9
We share what we learn with others so every success can unleash thousands more.

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WHY PARTNER WITH LEO

Impact starts with knowing. Evidence-based solutions provide better insight and actionable steps for fighting poverty. The more we know, the better our impact.

Our research is free. We don't charge our partners a fee for our work.

More evidence = more money. Today's philanthropists care about impact on people's lives. Being able to prove this impact with evidence helps our partners raise more money to support their poverty-fighting missions.
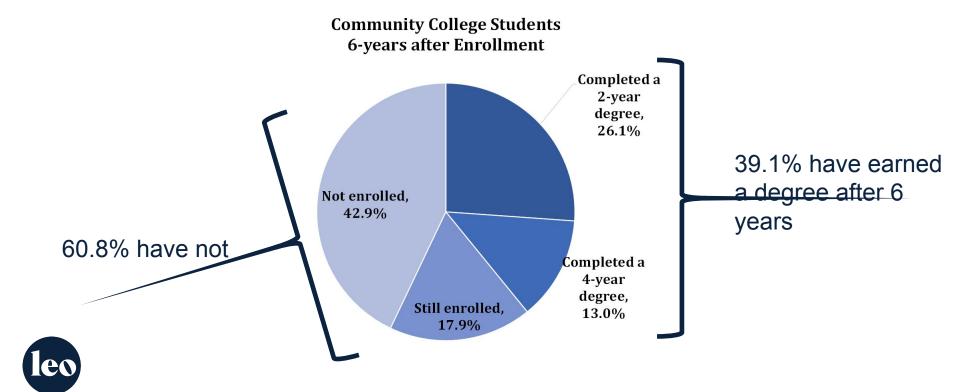
Our research is third-party validation of impact. Evidence speaks for itself. Many social service leaders, staff, and supporters welcome independent confirmation of the impact of the agency's work. Third-party validation is critical to creating continuous improvement and attracting future investment.
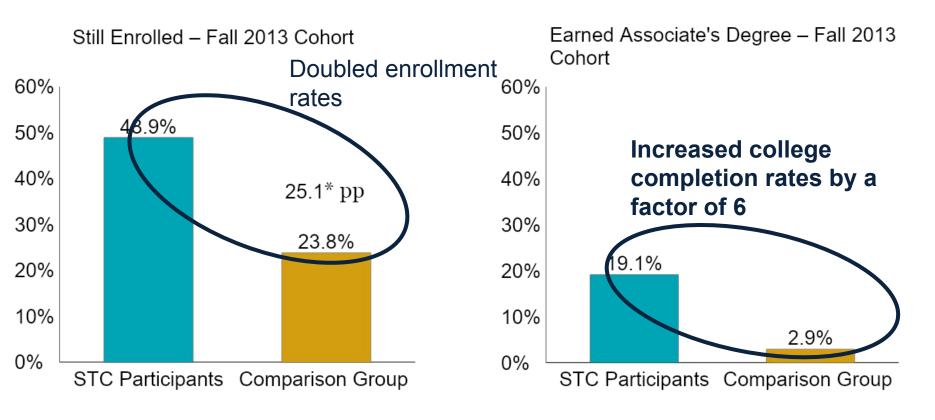
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A DEEP DIVE:

COLLEGE COMPLETION
& STAY THE COURSE™

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THE PROBLEM

LOW COLLEGE-COMPLETION RATES

**Community College Students
6-years after Enrollment**

Completed a
2-year
degree,
26.1%

Not enrolled,
42.9%

Completed a
4-year
degree,
13.0%

Still enrolled,
17.9%

39.1% have earned
a degree after 6
years

60.8% have not

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THE INTERVENTION:
STAY THE COURSE

INDIVIDUALIZED

HOLISTIC

Photo courtesy of the Stay the Course program at Catholic Charities Fort Worth

IMPACT AFTER 6 SEMESTERS

Still Enrolled – Fall 2013 Cohort

Doubled enrollment rates

48.9%

25.1* pp

23.8%

STC Participants | Comparison Group

Earned Associate's Degree – Fall 2013 Cohort

Increased college completion rates by a factor of 6

19.1%

2.9%

STC Participants | Comparison Group

Evidence to Impact

Local fundraising = expansion across all campuses to serve thousands more students

LEO + TICAS community of practice

Federal success: securing the **Postsecondary Student Success Grants (PSSG)** in the federal budget

- FY22: $5M in funding
- FY23: Increased to $45M
- FY24: Biden administration requested $165M

LEO PROJECT: SELF-SUFFICIENCY & THE PADUA PROGRAM

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THE PROBLEM

POVERTY IS COMPLEX

Meet Rosa

Single mom
Three young kids
No high school diploma
No job
No car
About to be evicted

To move out of poverty, Rosa needs to:

Acquire credentials that lead to an employable skill
Find quality, affordable daycare
Manage her time
Address her transportation needs
Address her housing needs

But this is made more difficult because:

English is not her first language
One of her children has a disability
She has a parent with healthcare needs
She has untreated trauma from her childhood

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THE INTERVENTION

Meet the Padua Program
at Catholic Charities Fort Worth

Holistic and individualized services
First address basic needs
Financial assistance
Referrals
Skill-building
Coaching and mentoring

SUMMING UP WHAT WE FIND

Those offered Padua were 25% more likely to report being employed full time
Unemployed individuals earned 46% more

Unstably housed individuals were 60% more likely to have stable housing

Sharp decline in credit card debt: **$420/month**

Improved health conditions: **53%**

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Evidence to Impact

- **Taking Evidence to Action:** LEO testified before the House Ways and Means Subcommittee discussing impact of Padua.

- **Maximize Impact:** building national office and take program to national replication and scale.

Who are we looking for as partners?

THE RIGHT LEO PARTNER

Believes in the people they serve.

Has stable, committed leadership.

Demonstrates the grit rigorous research requires.

Nurtures a culture of learning.

THE RIGHT LEO PROJECT

Well-defined intervention with potential for scale and/or replication.

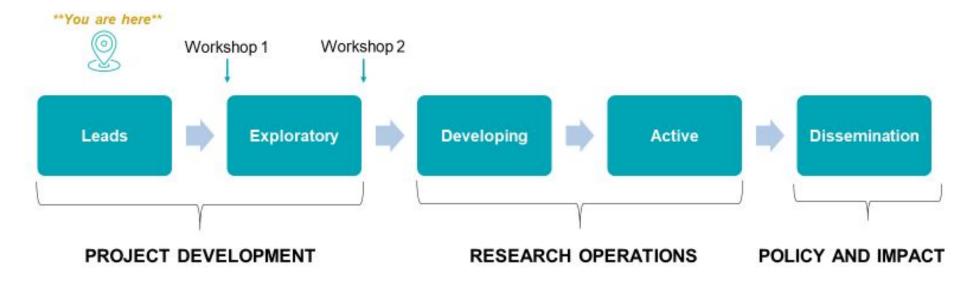Advances collective learning and contributes to existing research.

Commits to incorporating research design into day-to-day operation.

Identifies key desired outcomes.

Uses a comparison group to pinpoint impact.

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LIFECYCLE OF A LEO PROJECT

You are here

Workshop 1   Workshop 2

| Leads | → | Exploratory | → | Developing | → | Active | → | Dissemination |

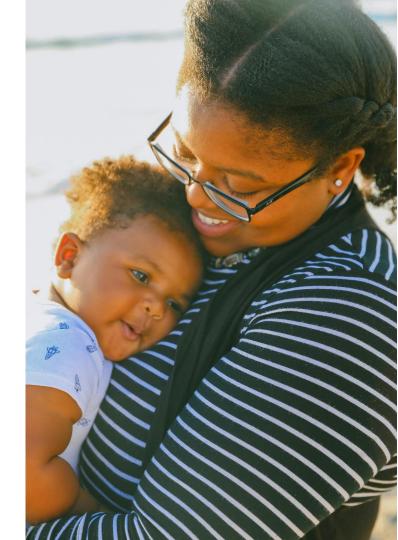**PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**   **RESEARCH OPERATIONS**   **POLICY AND IMPACT**

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Next Steps

OUR ASK

Help us create a cohort of US based service organizations for 2025.

We are seeking service providers engaged in the fight against poverty and offering services in any of LEO's focus areas:

- Homelessness
- Economic Mobility
- Employment
- Housing & Homelessness prevention
- Health
- Education
- Strengthening families
- Criminal justice

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JOIN US

Start the journey with an introduction to LEO.

Mara Trionfero Lucas, Project Development Associate

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QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

Study #1: Shelter Diversion

- Research questions:

  (1) Does the Shelter Diversion Program reduce the likelihood of individuals and families using emergency shelters or street outreach (signaling on-the-street homelessness) in both the short and long term?

  (2) How does participation in the Shelter Diversion Program impact broader outcomes such as housing stability, employment, and criminal justice involvement?

- Study Outcomes

  Primary: Emergency Shelter Stays, Days in Shelter. Street Outreach Engagement, Additional CAP Helpline Calls

  Secondary: Involvement in Other Homelessness Services and Programs, tice Involvement, Evictions, Education, economic redit Outcomes, Neighborhood Quality, Access to Social Support Programs

STRATEGIES TO
END HOMELESSNESS

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Study #2: Housing Stability Collaborative

Using **predictive data analytics** to identify households

in the very early stages of a housing crisis

– *even before they realize their situation could lead to housing loss –*

and **proactively offer assistance** to resolve the situation

- Supported by the City of Cincinnati as first Impact Award in 2023
- Pursuing 25+ data sets that are predictive of housing instability
- Predictive Data Model, which is being updated with new data sets quarterly
- Outreach being conducted to highest risk households identified
- Services provided by:

- Other key partners:

Launching this fall