

A Toolkit on Alternative Response for Advocates

This toolkit is designed to help advocates better understand the landscape of alternative response, where responders such as social workers, mediators, or peers are deployed to handle situations that don't require armed police. Because this is an emerging field, it can be challenging for advocates interested in starting or expanding these programs in their community to identify viable options, communicate about potential benefits to stakeholders, and demonstrate success to the public.

This toolkit provides local leaders and community members with a starting point, bringing together basic information along with data and strategic guidance, to help them better advocate for alternative response as an expanding and vital part of the public safety ecosystem. More comprehensive information about alternative response can be found on our website, safetyreimagined.org.

Toolkit Components:

- FAQ: What is Alternative Response? Common questions and answers about what alternative response is – and is not.
- Evidence on Implementing Alternative Response: A guide to existing academic evidence on whether alternative response is effective, efficient, and safe.
- How to Engage Media: Tips for engaging journalists to tell the stories necessary to build community support for alternative response.