



# Human Services Department

## Green Sheet 38-1-A-1: Safe Parking Pilot Program

*City Council Housing, Human Services, Health & Culture Committee*

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**Wednesday, September 26, 2012 | Human Services Department | Dannette R. Smith, Director**

Mayor Mike McGinn  
Deputy Mayor Darryl Smith

# Green Sheet 38-1-A-1

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- City Council added one-time funding of \$20,000 of General Fund to implement a Safe Parking Pilot Program in 2012.
- Goal is to serve homeless individuals or families living in their vehicles in a church parking lot 24-hours a day.
- Participants will have access to restroom facilities.
- Case management services to be provided by a nonprofit organization to assist clients in accessing resources or services needed to secure permanent housing.
- An additional \$10,000 in program funding repurposed from Green Sheet 40-1-A-1.

# Safe Parking Program (SPP)

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- HSD worked with Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church (ORLC) in Ballard to develop the Safe Parking Program (SPP).
- Emphasis on serving families with children.
- Safe Parking Program launched at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in mid-March, 2012, with 5 parking spots.
- An additional Safe Parking Site at Woodland Park Methodist Church opened in late-July, 2012 with 2 parking spots.

# Supportive Services

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- HSD is contracting with Compass Housing Alliance (CHA) to provide part-time case management services to SPP participants.
- CHA has been successful in connecting program participants to resources:
  - Many participants entered the program with little to no knowledge of available resources for shelter and transitional housing.

# CHA Contract Outcomes

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- Enroll 15 households in the Safe Parking Program.
- 4 households enter either transitional or permanent housing.
- 2 households maintain housing stability 6 months after placement.

**To date, program achievements  
exceed contract outcomes.**

# Safe Parking Program Achievements

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- 19 Households Served
  - 14 single adults (12 single men, 2 single women)
  - 5 families with children
- 14 Households Exited
  - 10 exited to a more stable living situation:
    - 4 to transitional housing; 1 moved in with friends; 1 renting a room; 4 families with children placed into motels
  - 2 chose to leave
  - 1 left without notice (likely for a job outside the city)
  - 1 asked to leave

# Participant Demographics

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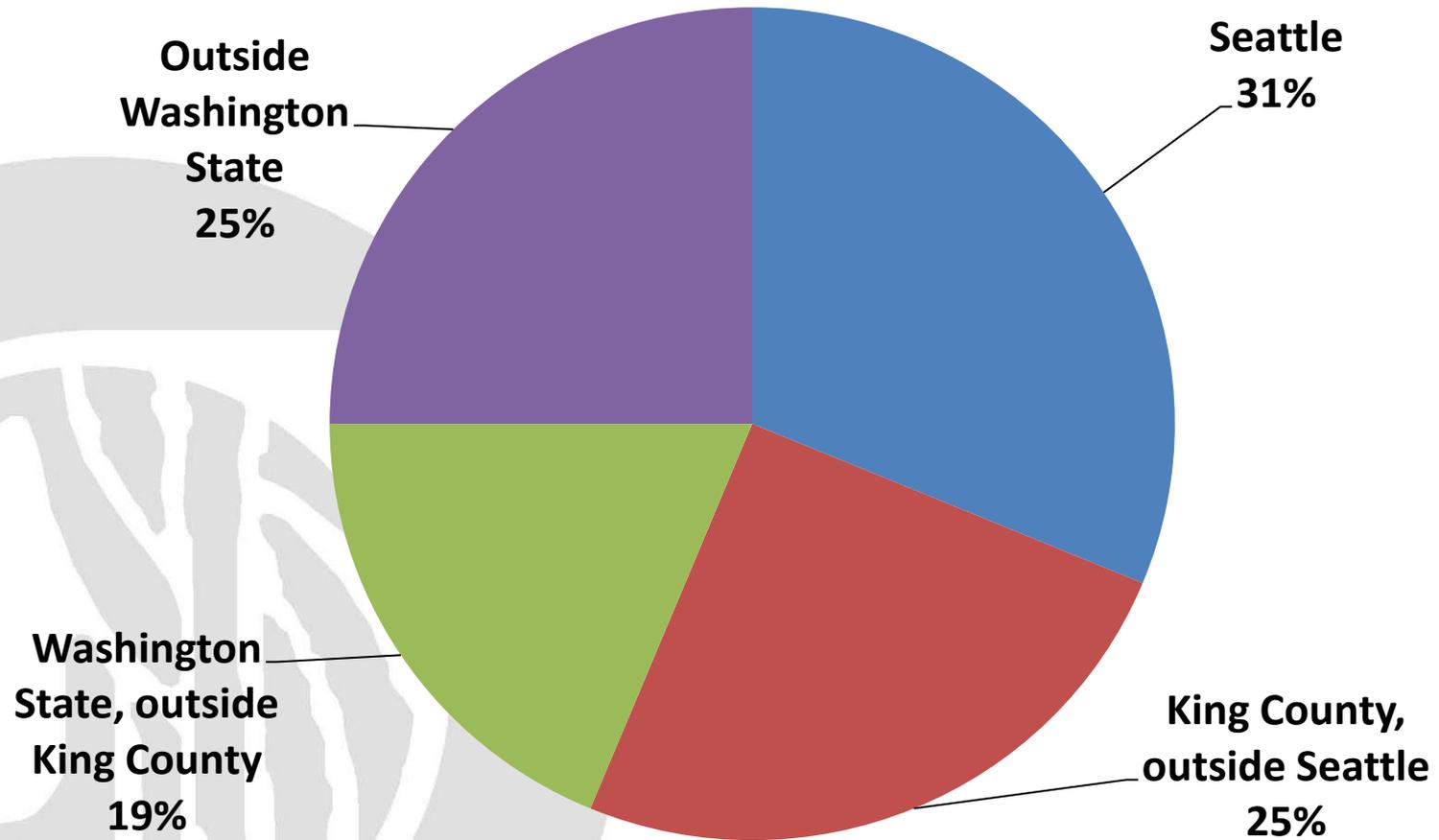
- 19 households served by the SPP.
- Average length of stay for those exiting the program: 1.5 months.
  - Average stay for families has greatly increased due to severely limited emergency assistance resources.
- Participant Race:
  - 59% Caucasian
  - 33% Hispanic
  - 7% Alaskan Native
- Majority of program participants previously lived in their own apartment or shared housing; and were employed, lost their job and lost housing when unemployment funding ran out.

# Participant Demographics

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- Participant Income:
  - For those who are currently enrolled:
    - 3 looking for work; 1 irregular work.
    - 1 cannot work, but is not receiving disability benefits.
  - For those who have exited:
    - 5 employed; 4 looking for work.
    - 5 on SSI / SSDI / Veterans benefits.
- Although SPP was designed to serve Ballard area residents, a variety of last permanent addresses have been reported.

## Last Permanent Address Reported for Households Served in the Safe Parking Program



# SPP Participant Stories

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- “Jack” – found employment and permanent housing while in the Safe Parking Program.
- “Karen and Dan” – three children, and one grandchild who was ill. Family was quickly triaged to a motel and connected with services at the YWCA.
- “Travis” – single male living in his car; nervous about next steps and fearful of transitional housing.

# Participant Challenges

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- Limited knowledge of available resources; many do not understand the difference between emergency shelter and transitional housing.
- Securing and maintaining employment while living in a vehicle.
- Severely limited immediate resources to assist families with children.
- Waitlists are long for transitional housing for single adults. This is tiresome and frustrating for people who are ready to get out of their cars.
- Lack of funds to assist participants with immediate needs.

# Safe Parking Program Expansion

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- The goal of the Safe Parking Program was to expand to 5 sites.
  - Currently in conversation with a 3<sup>rd</sup> site.
- Vetting process with interested faith-based organizations has taken time.
- The Ballard Task Force on Hunger and Homelessness hired a Safe Parking Coordinator, funded through a one-time Neighborhood Matching Fund Grant from the Department of Neighborhoods, to perform public outreach and other tasks related to the program.
- Additional program expansion is contingent on continued funding.

# Questions and Comments

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