



City of Seattle
Human Services Department

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 4, 2012

To: Housing, Human Services, Health, and Culture Committee

From: Dannette R. Smith, Director
Seattle Human Services Department

Subject: Safe Parking Pilot Program Update

As part of the 2012 budget process, the City Council approved Green Sheet 38-1-A-1 which added \$20,000 of General Fund to the Safe Parking Pilot Program. The Green Sheet also directed the Human Services Department (HSD) to report back to Council by September 3, 2012 on the status of the Pilot Program. This memorandum responds to that Green Sheet direction and outlines background information, program design, and current program outcomes for the Safe Parking Pilot Program.

Safe Parking Program Background

Beginning in 2011 at the request of the Ballard Homes for All Coalition and with the support of City Councilmember Mike O'Brien's office, HSD staff worked closely with Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church (ORLC) in Ballard to design the Safe Parking Pilot Program to assist people who are living in their vehicles in Seattle.

Program Launch: After several months of preparation, discussions with community members and meetings with the first Safe Parking host site, the Safe Parking Pilot Program was launched and accepted the first participant on March 16, 2012. The first Safe Parking site is located at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church (ORLC) in Ballard, and can host up to five vehicles. The second site, located at Woodland Park United Methodist Church, in the Greenwood neighborhood, welcomed its first program participant on July 27, 2012 and can host up to two vehicles. Both sites allow program participants to use their parking lot 24 hours a day and provide access to a bathroom. ORLC provides a regular meal for program participants. The program is funded by the \$20,000 allocated via Green Sheet 38-1-A-1, and an additional \$10,000 repurposed from Green Sheet 40-1-A-1 (with Council approval).

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Supportive Services: HSD is contracting with Compass Housing Alliance (CHA) to provide part-time case management services to assist program participants with accessing resources and developing a housing plan. CHA has been successful in connecting program clients with available resources, noting that many participants entered the program with little to no knowledge of available resources, shelters, and transitional housing.

The contract outcomes with CHA for the Safe Parking Pilot Program are:

- Enroll 15 households in the Pilot Program
- Four households enter either transitional or permanent housing
- Two households maintain housing stability six months after placement

Program Achievements

To date, the Safe Parking Program has achieved the following outcomes, and is exceeding contract outcomes:

- 16 Households served (12 single adults, 4 families)
- 11 Households exited:
 - Four (4) moved into transitional housing
 - One (1) moved in with friends
 - Two (2) chose to leave the program
 - Four (4) families with children received motel vouchers

Program Participant Demographics

The majority of program participants previously lived in their own apartment or in shared housing. Most participants were employed, lost their job and lost housing when unemployment funding ran out. In summary:

- 27 total program participants have been served (19 adults and 8 children)
- 75% (12) of the households served have been single adults (10 men, 2 women)
- Average Age:
 - Adults: 43 years old, with an age range from 23 to 59
 - Children: 9 years old, with an age range from 2.5 months to 15 years
- Race: 16 participants were Caucasian, 9 were Hispanic, and 2 were Alaskan Native
- Gender: 12 adults served were male, and 7 adults were female
- Average Length of Stay: Average length of stay for program participants is just over 14 days, and varies between single adult households and households with children

- Single Adult Households: average length of stay is 21 days, with a range from four to 53 days
- Households with Children: average length of stay is 2.5 days, with a range from zero to seven days. (note: the “zero day” stay occurred when the family was placed into a motel the same day as program intake)
- Participant Income Source: Four participants secured jobs either prior to program entry or while enrolled in the program. Three additional participants perform temporary work (e.g. painting, repairs). Three program participants are receiving disability benefits and are not seeking employment.
- Last Permanent Address: Although the Pilot Program was designed to serve individuals living in Seattle, specifically targeted to the Ballard area, a variety of last permanent addresses were reported. The length of time at this address and the length of time since moving from this address are unknown.

Last Permanent Address	Number of Households
Seattle	5
King County, outside Seattle	4
Washington State, outside King County	3
Outside Washington State	4
Totals	16

Program Expansion: The program currently has two sites, with seven parking spots total. Additional churches have shown interest in participating; however a third site has not been secured at this time. The original goal of the program was to expand up to five sites. To date, the vetting process within interested faith-based organizations has taken a fairly long period of time.

The Ballard Task Force on Hunger and Homelessness hired a Safe Parking Coordinator, funded through a Neighborhood Matching Fund Grant from the Department of Neighborhoods, to perform public outreach and other tasks related to the program.

Moving Forward

The Safe Parking Program is a pilot program, with case management funding secured only through December 2012. Future funding is being considered as part of the 2013-2014 budget process.