

Safe Parking Program for Homeless Walnut Creek Homeless Task Force

Submitted by Donna Colombo
Trinity Center Exec. Dir.

Program Description

The Safe Parking Program operated Trinity Center will provide a safe parking environment as well as supportive services for people who are living in their vehicles.

A vehicle allows people to access resources, look for employment (or get to and from a job) and/or get to and from school.

The loss of a vehicle can be one of the final steps to chronic homelessness. A goal of the Safe Parking Program is stopping the downward spiral of homelessness by bringing stability to individuals who are living in their vehicles.

Trinity Center will plan, coordinate, manage, and operate a Safe Parking Program at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Walnut Creek.

Guardian Security will supervise the program from 9:15 pm to 6:15 am, seven days a week. Alternative accommodations may need to be made during major religious holidays. Members may arrive by 9:15 pm and must leave the parking area by 6:00 am. Restrooms will be available in the lower level of Mullen Commons.

Trinity Center will screen and enroll applicants and provide Guardian Security and St. John Vianney with enrollment names, vehicle make, model and license number. Screening process includes background checks for history of violent crime, sexual assault, open warrants.

In addition to the overnight shelter, participants have access to day services for showers, food, and other services at Trinity Center.

SPP Availability

8-10 cars per night; 1-2 persons per vehicle unless otherwise authorized.

Timeline:

The target start date for the St. John Vianney, Walnut Creek location is summer 2019*. The program will run year-round with a 5-month pilot and subsequent evaluation.

Incidents:

Trinity Center will report to the Walnut Creek Police Department all incidences of observed or alleged criminal activity occurring during program hours.

Termination:

St. John Vianney and/or the Walnut Creek Police Department, upon five (5) days written notification to Trinity Center, may terminate this agreement should any of the following occur:

- Battery, assault, physical attack, or other violence perpetrated by a program participant

Special Use Permit (SUP):

Trinity Center acknowledges that a Special Use Permit is required to operate the program. *the start date for the program is pending review by the Walnut Creek Planning Commission.

Insurance

Trinity Center will procure and maintain the following insurance:

- General Liability: \$2,000,000
- Automobile Liability: \$1,000,000
- Worker's Compensation and Employers Liability: \$1,000,000 per accident

Trinity Center will provide certificates of insurance to St. John Vianney and the Catholic Diocese of Oakland, CA.

Safe Parking Program Benefits to Community:

- A safe monitored place where uninterrupted, overnight sleeping in vehicles is permitted
- Provision of case management connecting homeless to services, shelter programs, and Housing Navigation through CARE Centers and CORE teams
- Access to restroom and shower facilities
- Access to breakfast, lunch, and food pantry programs
- Reduced number of police calls for parking violations and towing by assisting participants with a legal space to park and with one-time funds for auto registration, insurance, and CDL fees
- Assist participants with homeless court applications to clear parking tickets

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the Safe Parking Program, individuals (initially) must:

- Agree to abide by the rules of the Safe Parking Program (no weapons, drugs or alcohol allowed on site)
- Be present from 9:15 pm to 6:00 am every day (or communicate with the staff when they've found alternative places to sleep)
- Work with CARE Center staff to develop a plan for more permanent shelter and meet regularly to evaluate progress toward their housing goals

- Respect quiet-time, church property, neighborhood property, other clients, staff and volunteers
- Participants cannot have a criminal conviction of a violent crime, sex offence or crime against a child
- Sign the Safe Parking Program Member Agreement.

Serving Those in Need:

The SPP is a temporary program as participants work toward a sustainable housing situation. Clients receive help with completing applications for housing that is affordable, suggestions for short and long-term housing options, counseling on safety-net programs and enrollment in benefit programs, assistance with Homeless Court issues, and ensured access to healthcare.

Budget for 12 months: \$118,680

	Hourly Rate	Hours/week	Monthly Cost	Annual Cost
Facility Support	NA		200	2,400
Security Guard*	30	70	8,400	96,600
Security Holiday Rate*	42			4,200
Administrative costs (15%)			1,290	15,480
Vehicle Registration, Ins**				5,000
TOTAL cost			9,890	118,680
Five month startup			49,450	

- *10 holidays
- *Actual security costs pending contract
- **One-time funds

Sources of Funding:

Grant Proposals:

- City of Walnut Creek (startup funds)
- Local Churches
- Community Foundations
- Crowdrise or GoFundMe

Program Oversight:

- Donna Colombo, Trinity Center Walnut Creek

As a program of Trinity Center HMIS data entry, VI-SPDAT (housing assessment), case management and day services for adults would be provided by Center staff.

Insurance and Use fees are included in the Administrative costs.

Measuring Impact

The Safe Parking Program measures impact by documenting and evaluating:

- A) the number of persons and families hosted and fed
- B) the number of clients benefitting from newly accessed homeless services
- C) the number of client persons and families accessing transitional or sustainable housing