

SAFE PARKING NETWORK

Program Data 2020 - 2021

The Safe Parking Network is a temporary pilot program in Pierce County that will support families and individuals experiencing homelessness while living in their vehicle. Prior to this program there were zero sites for individuals or families living in their vehicles to safely park overnight in Pierce County.

Partnerships were formed with local Faith Based Organizations. Sites were assessed for feasibility and capacity. Four sites were set up in Pierce County between June 2020 and October 2021. During that time, 137 households living in their vehicles were served. This ranged from families with children, to couples without children, to parents with developmentally delayed adult children, to individuals and their animals.

All residents agreed to participate in services with the church or the social service community. Most followed through with this program requirement. A majority of individuals were already enrolled in programs or services with community partners. Many individuals simply needed a safe place to stabilize for a short period of time while they waited for the next step in their life. This included housing, moving to another part of the country, or waiting for an inpatient bed for treatment.

Very few issues have occurred at our sites. We had 8 police calls for service between all 4 sites. Most of these were made by one group of neighbors at one site that had ongoing problems with people trespassing onto the safe parking sites. There were no arrests made at any of our sites. We did have to terminate services with 6 households for not following the site rules.

The Safe Parking Network was funded for \$150,000 dollars, which covered all program costs. We were able to use this funding to run this program for over 16 months. In comparison to other shelter programs, this is a very cost-effective intervention.

One goal of the Safe Parking Network was to provide a safe place to sleep and stabilize while also quickly getting connected needed services and housing. Another goal of the program was to show funders safe parking is a gap in our current homeless response continuum in Pierce County.

The Safe Parking Network has shown the need for safe parking in Pierce County.

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Sites

- South Hill Baptist – Pierce County
- Eastside Assembly of Believers – Tacoma
- RISE Center – Tacoma
- Tahoma Unitarian – Tacoma

Numbers Served

- Total served – 137 households
 - South Hill Baptist – 87
 - Eastside Assembly of Believers – 24
 - RISE Center – 16
 - Tahoma Unitarian Universalist - 10

Demographics

- Individuals – 68
- Families – 14
- Couples – 44
 - Men – 90
 - Women – 63
 - Other/NA – 3

Connections to Resources

- Outreach Services - 82%
- Mental Health Services – 38%
- Drug and alcohol treatment – 18%
- Employment – 24%

Connections to Housing

- Permanent Housing – 38
- Alternative shelters – 15
- Diversion - 32
- Shared/Alternative Housing – 21
- Exited without Housing/Unknown Housing Outcome – 25
- Asked to leave/terminated – 6

Police Calls for Service

- 8 police calls for service (1 planned call to intervene on domestic violence situation that did not happen at the site).
- Only a few neighborhood complaints isolated to a few neighbors at one site for the entire duration of program.