

Magnolia Safe Parking - *Frequently Asked Questions*

What is a Safe Parking Program?

The Safe Parking program is designed to provide support for people experiencing homelessness who have a running vehicle. The secure parking lot is a safe place to park and stay overnight. It includes hygiene facilities and onsite security. Drugs and alcohol are prohibited onsite.

What will be the operating hours of this program?

The Safe Parking lot opens nightly at 5:30 pm and must be empty the following morning by 7:00 am. Those enrolled can return when the lot opens again and can remain in the program as long as needed, until a more permanent housing solution is secured.

Who will operate this site?

HHSA -Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities has contracted with Dreams for Change, a local homeless service provider.

What Services are provided?

Participants in the program will receive two hot meals, and will have access to restrooms, hygiene facilities, 24/7 security, as well as a YMCA membership so they can utilize YMCA facilities during the day. Our partner, Dreams for Change, has well-established expertise in the operation of the Safe Parking program. Their onsite case managers will assist customers with housing navigation and connect them to resources to help them transition to a more permanent housing solution.

How many individuals will be served?

This location has 17 spaces that can accommodate individuals and families.

Will there be any RVs on the location?

This location is only for cars and will not take RVs or tents. However, the County is looking at other potential locations that will accommodate larger vehicles. Vehicles must be operable to participate in the program. There is funding built into the contract to assist with some vehicle repairs.

Is there a time limit for receiving services?

There is no time limit for these services. All individuals are handled on a case-by-case basis. Case managers will continue to assist in finding permanent housing or shelter as long as the individual(s) are actively participating in the program.

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Do the individuals leave every morning? If so, can they return?

Yes, individuals are required to leave at 7am each morning. They can return in the evening at 5:30pm. This allows businesses in the area to resume normal operations during regular business hours. The only exception is during major holidays. Once an individual is actively enrolled in the program, they do not need a new referral each day.

Will grills or open flame cooking be allowed onsite?

No, there will be no meal preparation or open flame cooking allowed onsite at the Magnolia Safe Parking lot. Daily meals will be pre-packaged and delivered to the site.

Are there other sites similar to this one in the County?

Yes, there are several other sites in the City of San Diego and in Encinitas that operate similar to this model.

Are there any 24-hour Safe Parking programs?

The City of San Diego recently announced the expansion of one of their programs to 24 hours. The County is exploring similar options at another location in East County.

How does someone get into the program? Are there referrals?

The Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities (HSEC) East County outreach teams work directly with individuals experiencing homelessness and provide referrals to Dreams for Change. If you come in contact with someone who is in need of a referral, please contact us at 619-980-4168 or HSEC-OHS.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Will this Safe Parking take first come, first serve?

No, this Safe Parking lot is by referral only from the County's HSEC outreach team and facilitated by Dreams for Change.

Are Showers included in the Hygiene Facilities?

No, however participants will receive YMCA membership that will include the use of showers at those facilities.

What about persons that are homeless in the nearby area (culvert or DMV).

HSEC has engaged a number of partners (similar to the Magnolia encampment response) and is working to resolve both situations. HSEC teams will continue face-to-face engagement with individuals experiencing homelessness to link them to most appropriate

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housing and resources. If you notice an encampment forming, please contact us at 619-980-4168 or at HSEC-OHS.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov.

What emergency housing options are available to those who do not have vehicles?

HSEC outreach teams assess individuals based on their unique situation and needs to connect them with a variety of housing resources (shelter, vouchers, treatment, assisted living facilities, reunification with family and friends, or support securing their own housing).

What emergency housing options do HSEC outreach teams utilize for shelter?

HSEC Outreach teams utilize the Regional Housing Assistance Program (RHAP) which is contracted to Equus. These are hotel vouchers. Once an individual receives a hotel voucher, Equus and HSEC case managers focus on transitioning them into a more permanent housing solution.

What other sites are you looking at for similar programs?

We are working closely with our Board offices and Department of General Services to identify and assess various sites in East County for additional safe parking and sleeping cabins. These sites are in the early stages of assessment.

How is this program being funded?

Funds have been set aside from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to pay for this program.

How can members of the community support this effort?

Anyone wishing to volunteer or make any in-kind donations can reach out to Dreams for Change at dreamsforchange.org, or contact Kelly@dreamsforchange.org.