

Safe Parking

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Safe Parking Basics

- What is it?
- Who uses it?
- Where can it be?
- Why is it important?

Super Powers of Safe Parking

3 P'S

AND MORE!



Getting Started

Internal work
External partners
Neighbors
Infrastructure



What do you already have?

Parking lot

Caring community members

Untapped resources

In kind items

Expertise and talents



Challenges

Perception of danger

Ordinances

Insurance

Cost

Volunteer capacity

Location

Clarity of mission

Finding participants

What is the need?

What are the current services in your community?

What are the unmet needs?

Ask the experts – people living in vehicles in your community

Ask city staff, police, nonprofits

Visit an existing program

Things to consider

What are the hidden barriers are you creating?

What will be the reception?

What are the dangers to participants?

Start small!

Immediate Neighbors

Engage as partners

Provide contact information and opportunity to learn and give input

Enlist as volunteers

Basics

Designated spaces

Access to running water

Toilets

Garbage service

Leadership, rules and safety plan



Beyond the basics

What are the needs, what can you provide?

Smoking area, dog run, playground, kitchen, wifi



Partnering

Provide information to guests

Invite agencies to meet your guests

Outsource pieces of program – intake, case management

Creative ties – gyms, hair salon, tax prep



Questions you have to decide on

Demographics

Kind of vehicle

Intake procedure/qualification

Time limit

Participation requirement



Toilets and Showers

Each portable toilet serves about 7 cars and costs about \$125-\$150 per month.

Identify where they can shower and do laundry



Guest Intake

Hospitality is key

Trauma informed care

Folks are often overwhelmed



Honored Guest of Lake Washington United
Methodist Church

Safe Parking Permit

(Place this permit facing outward on the window that faces the street)

Building Community

Trust is built by delivering what you promised and listening

Intentional Proximity builds relationship

Tap the strength of all members of community

Shared meals

Respectful volunteering



Partnering organically



1. Being approachable and when questioned, be honest and open about the goal. If you get an offer of help, take them up on their offer, even if it is “just” carrying a tool for you.
2. Boundaries - know that you will receive hints about needed money, broken cars, what your house is like, etc. Be sympathetic but don't get into the loan or home visitation business.
3. Be thankful for any help and figure out how to thank the guest - even ceding some control on a project, offering up a small gift of thanks, bringing lunch, etc.
4. Be enthusiastic. Know that you will spend some part of your planned work time, listening to someone who needs to speak something. You don't have to solve their problems, but listening is good, and when you need to move on, do so.
5. Be open to ideas from unexpected places. Many of the ladies have shared their gardening expertise (and lots of Internet research) with me.
6. Don't be afraid to say “No”, but also don't be afraid to say “Yes”.

Questions?

Please contact Karina if you have further questions or need more information. Thank you for attending!

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<http://www.lakewaumc.org/do/community-involvement/safe-parking-program/>