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-pets, possessions, and partners

Each household has privacy and autonomy







Legal Protection for Faith Communities

- Federal law - Religious Land Use and Institutional Persons Act (RLUIPA)
- State law - ESHB 1754

A religious organization may host homeless people on property owned or controlled by the religious organization, and local ordinance or regulation may only take action necessary to protect public health and safety, and may not substantially burden the religious organization

Getting Started

Internal work
External partners
Neighbors
Infrastructure



Role of City

No need for additional laws!
City can be convener
City can offer advice, resources
City can meet with stakeholders
City could run program

What do you already have?

Parking lot
Local knowledge
Caring community members
Untapped resources
In kind items
Expertise and talent



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, electricity





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

Decisions to Make

Demographics
Kind of vehicle
Intake procedure/qualification
Time limit
Participation requirement



Food

What other resources are nearby?
Electricity, storage
Individual vs community
Part of program or bonus?

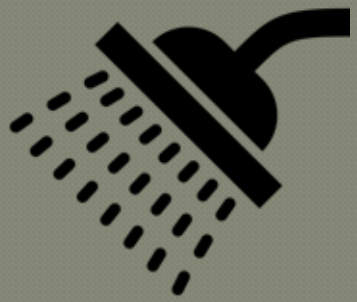
Toilets-Showers-Laundry

Each portable toilet/week serves about 7 cars and costs about $125-$150 per month.
*might be more if other resources are closed

Identify where they can shower and do laundry-in and out of stay-home-orders







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



Questions?

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

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