

Safe Parking Program Proposed Encinitas Lot FAQ



Program Overview, Hours and Location:

#1 Q: What is the Jewish Family Service “Safe Parking Program”?

A: The Safe Parking Program helps individuals and families who are living in their vehicles by providing a safe and secure place to sleep seven days a week. Lots are secured through controlled entry during certain hours granted only to program participants and security staff. The program provides vital resources and tools, dignified support, and a welcoming environment to help individuals and families stabilize their lives and transition back into housing. We provide participants with basic needs: access to bathrooms, handwashing stations, hygiene supplies, and meals/food. The program is more than just a safe place to park; participants meet regularly with case managers to develop an action plan with an emphasis on finding stable housing solutions, which could include additional supports like benefits assistance, career coaching, financial literacy, parenting classes, and children’s services.

The Encinitas Safe Parking Lot accommodates no more than 25 vehicles and includes on-site services through case managers and an overnight security guard present at all hours of program operation. The Safe Parking Program operates daily from 6:00 p.m. through 7:00 a.m. Security is present during the operating hours of the program. Staff are required to be on-site between the hours of 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and be available outside of these hours, as needed. Participants are vetted off-site prior to being allowed entry into the program.

#2 Q: Who are the people in the Safe Parking Program?

A: The people we assist are often experiencing homelessness for the first time, including: veterans, older adults (over the age of 55), college students, and families with young children. Most people in the Safe Parking Program have a source of income, have a job or are looking for work, and just need a little assistance to get themselves and their family back on their feet and into a home. The program is designed to interrupt the downward spiral of homelessness for individuals and families who are working hard to return to living in a place of their own. The majority of our clients struggle with housing affordability, often due to the loss of a job, medical hardship, reduction in work hours, or any other unexpected financial challenge.

Examples of the people who have benefited from Safe Parking Program lots, like the one proposed, include:

- Community college students trying to make ends meet, while prioritizing their education.
- Families who have fallen on hard times due to an unanticipated medical bill and need to get connected to resources.
- Recently transitioned veterans who are struggling to navigate their next steps and find a new job.

#3 Q: Will a Safe Parking lot in Encinitas bring more homeless people to this area?

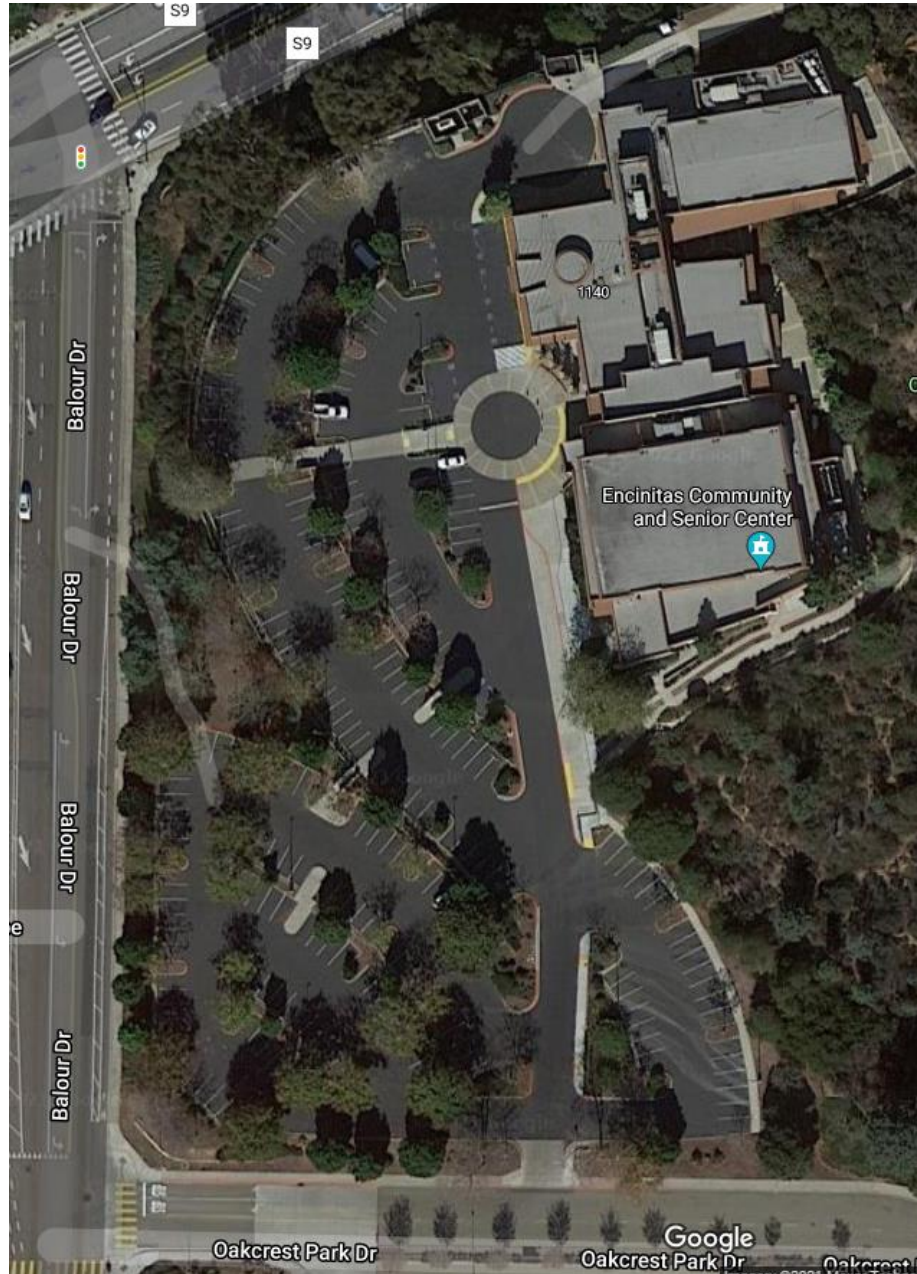
A: Through our current work, we know that families and individuals in the Safe Parking Program do not have the income to support a long daily commute. This means people stay near their places of employment and school. There is no data, evidence, or reason to believe that a Safe Parking lot will increase the homeless population in Encinitas. In fact, we expect to alleviate the homeless population in the area, serving existing Encinitas individuals and families who currently live in their car or in other situations without permanent housing.

With only 25 available spaces, the Encinitas lot will prioritize and focus on vulnerable families, veterans, older adults, and college students who are currently living in their vehicles within Encinitas and North County. JFS case managers will work with staff at the City of Encinitas, the Sheriff’s Department, Community Resource Center, Mira Costa College, Encinitas Union and San Dieguito School Districts, as well as members of the community, to connect with those constituents currently living in vehicles.

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#4 Q: Where will the Encinitas lot be located?

A: The proposed location is the Encinitas Community and Senior Center at 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive. The 25-space lot area will be situated at the southwest corner of the Encinitas Community and Senior Center parking lot.



#5 Q: How many cars will the Safe Parking Program lot proposed in Encinitas serve?

A: A *maximum* of 25 vehicles/households will be served at any one time in the Safe Parking lot proposed in Encinitas. When participants exit the program, we enroll a new eligible, vetted individual/household into the open space. No RVs, Motorcycles, or camper style vehicles will be allowed. Each vehicle must have enough seatbelts to safely transport all people who will be sleeping in the vehicle. In the last year, in other lots, there was an average of two people per vehicle.

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#6 Q: Why does Encinitas need a Safe Parking Program lot?

A: The 2019 San Diego Regional Task Force on the Homeless Point-in-Time Count identified 776 individuals experiencing homelessness in North County. The actual numbers are suspected to be much higher.

On October 17, 2018, following the lead of the State and the City of San Diego as well as others, a *Shelter Crisis* was declared by the City of Encinitas. Subsequently, on November 20, 2019, the City Council approved the drafting of agreements and negotiation of terms to establish a Safe Parking Lot in Encinitas. These agreements and a final program plan were presented to the City Council in open session at the January 22, 2020 City Council meeting.

In May of 2021 Jewish Family Service was awarded an extension with HHAP funding by the RTFH. The City Council voted 5-0 in favor of the extension and allowing the partnership between Jewish Family Service and The Leichtag Foundation to continue while the City of Encinitas seeks an alternate site for the Safe Parking Program.

#7 Q: Why is Jewish Family Service operating this safe parking lot?

A: JFS is an experienced Safe Parking Program provider and currently operates three safe parking lots within the City of San Diego. In June of 2021, Jewish Family Service received a \$254,625 grant extension through the California Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) to continue to operate the Safe Parking Program in North County.

#8 Q: Is there a budget or breakdown for the \$254,625 grant?

A: Yes, below is a budget for the first year of the program development and actual operation projected at June 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

Expenses – June 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022	JFS - HHAP
Direct Service Staff, Case Managers, and Program Supervisor	\$85,000
Program Development and Administrative staff	\$35,000
Benefits	\$40,000
Personnel Subtotal	\$160,000
Program Operations, includes (cleaning, office supplies, and operational costs)	\$48,894
Insurance	\$3,500
Telephone, Fax, Internet	\$7,500
Program Delivery Supplies	\$2,000
Client Financial Assistance – Client Flex Funds (Security Deposits & Rent)	\$20,000
Operating Expenses	\$81,894
Indirect Costs (Maximum of 5%)	\$12,731
Total	\$ 254,625

#9 Q: Is the City of Encinitas or the Encinitas Community and Senior Center paying for this program?

A: No. The Safe Parking Program lot will operate at **no cost** to the City of Encinitas, the Encinitas Community and Senior Center, Encinitas residents, or program participants. HHAP funding was awarded to Jewish Family Service, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Through this State funding and additional private philanthropy, JFS will cover all expenses to operate the program.

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Program Enrollment and Services:

#10 Q: How are participants screened for enrollment into the Safe Parking Program?

A: Individuals and families living in their vehicles call our Safe Parking Program phone line (858-637-3373) or inquire via the [JFS website](https://jfsd.org) (jfsd.org) to learn about the program. JFS case managers meet with clients individually offsite and screen for eligibility in advance of any entry to the lot, informing those interested that they must have a working vehicle, must follow the [Program Guidelines](#), and will be required to meet regularly with a case manager and housing specialist to create a plan to achieve more permanent housing. All adults are run through the Megan's Law database and the National Sex Offender Registry. Once deemed eligible, participants are scheduled to meet with a case manager in person to complete the official intake paperwork, provide picture IDs, and sign the Safe Parking Program Guidelines. Participants must go through this assessment before being allowed entry to the lot.

#11 Q: Are there restrictions on drug and alcohol use?

A: Drug and alcohol use is not permitted in the Safe Parking Program. While HHAP funding prohibits drug testing, Safe Parking case managers and security closely monitor participants' behavior and the physical lot for any signs of alcohol or drug use. Illegal drug use will result in immediate disqualification from the program and a call by the onsite security to the Sheriff.

#12 Q: What happens if someone who is not enrolled in Safe Parking shows up and wants to park?

A: Trained security personnel will always manage entry to ensure only pre-enrolled Safe Parking participants enter the lot only during the allowed entry hours. Security will be on-site during operating hours for the entire length of the program at the Encinitas Community and Senior Center. For anyone expressing interest in enrollment, security will direct them to call our Safe Parking Program phone line so that they can speak to a case manager who will assess their eligibility for future enrollment. Anyone who is turned away will be advised they may not park in the adjacent residential neighborhoods.

#13 Q: Is there a time limit for participants in the program?

A: The goal of the program is to help participants find housing that they can manage within their income. There are no minimum or maximum time limits to enrollment. Case managers review attendance regularly to ensure active individuals/households maintain their space in the program, while reopening spaces of anyone not actively utilizing services. Participants who are continuing to meet with JFS case managers are welcome to stay in the Safe Parking Program, which provides a safe environment as they make progress on their plan to achieve more stable housing.

#14 Q: Do participants pay to park?

A: No, there is no fee to park nightly. Safe Parking is a *free* service for eligible, enrolled participants who agree to actively seek more stable housing.

Safety & Security:

#15 Q: How can you ensure community safety?

A: There will be onsite security guards during all program hours from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. for the duration of the program under this grant. Security will manage entry of pre-enrolled participants, closely monitor the lot overnight, and ensure everyone exits in the morning. While participants may leave at any time, no entry or re-entry will be permitted after 9:30 p.m. Additionally, we are working closely with law enforcement on all aspects of the program. The Sheriff is committed to working with onsite security and program operators to ensure community safety.

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#16 Q: Who maintains insurance and liability for the proposed site?

A: Jewish Family Service agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the City of Encinitas, the Encinitas Community and Senior Center and all subsidiaries from and against claims, demands, losses, defense costs, or liability of any kind connected to the Safe Parking Program, including, but not limited to, their use of the property and operation of the program.

#17 Q: Where do Safe Parking participants go during the day?

A: During the day, many participants work or attend school. Others will be connecting with additional local organizations to which they have been referred by our case managers and housing specialists. All participants will leave the Safe Parking lot by 7:00 a.m. and will be advised they may not park in the adjacent residential neighborhoods during the day.

Program Review:

#18 Q: What are the current outcomes of the Safe Parking Program?

A: In JFS's current North County Safe Parking Program, we have verified that 63% of clients moved into housing. Many of the remainder move on to similar circumstances, although we are not informed directly, so we are unable to track and verify for data reporting purposes. Over 99% of people exited the current North County Safe Parking Programs without incident. In the past year, less than 1% were exited from the program by our staff for poor behavior or not following Program Guidelines.

#19 Q: What data and information will be tracked?

A: JFS will report the following measures to the City on a monthly basis. After the first three months, JFS will report the results to City Council.

1. Zip code of enrolled participants (the number/% of Encinitas residents, the number/% of North County residents, #/% other)
2. Demographics of enrolled participants (including first time homeless, college students, veterans, families with children, and older adults as prioritized demographics)
3. #/% of exits that are involuntary (track reasons why participants were exited and average number of days in the program)
4. #/% of exits that are voluntary (track reasons why participants exited the program and average number of days in the program) with a goal of at least 30% of enrolled participants will exit to more stable housing (e.g., apartment/home, reunification with family, permanent supportive housing, veteran housing, roommate)

The City, with the assistance of the San Diego Sheriff's Department, will track the geographic area roughly bound within one mile of the Community and Senior Center on a monthly basis:

1. Calls for service (total number and number that generate a criminal case)
2. Crimes (type and number)

#20 Q: How long will the program run?

A: HHAP funding is available through June 30, 2022.