

JFS North County Safe Parking Program Proposal
Presented to Encinitas City Council
October 24, 2019

Background & Need

According to the 2018 San Diego Regional Task Force on the Homeless Point in Time Count, 8,576 individuals are homeless in San Diego County. Of the North County region, the count identified 1,975 homeless individuals of which 354 are living out of their vehicles. The causes of homelessness are complex and vary from person to person. In San Diego county, the severe affordable housing crisis is often the root cause of homelessness. One in two San Diegans cannot find housing they can afford. Without a strong financial footing, many low-income San Diegans are one paycheck or crisis away from homelessness.

To address the increasing need, the City of Encinitas has declared a shelter crisis along with several other North County cities as well as the City of San Diego, to allow for immediate action to address the rising number of homeless individuals, including older adults and families, who find themselves unable to afford housing in the region.

Without a safe, reliable place to sleep at night, people living in their cars are more likely to rely on public resources and receive costly citations, resulting in increased financial stress and further perpetuating the cycle of homelessness. Support for this Program will make a profound difference in the lives of individuals and families who seek to find permanent homes in which to build brighter futures.

About the Safe Parking Program

The *JFS Safe Parking Program* provides more than just a dependable place to park each night. Safe Parking Program clients also benefit from a comprehensive suite of services, including case management, housing navigation, financial assistance, financial asset building strategies and more – all with the goal of getting individuals and families back on their feet. The program's holistic, person/family-centered approach offers an individualized service plan to mitigate and reverse the downward spiral of homelessness.

Currently, JFS operates three Safe Parking Program locations in the City of San Diego, seven nights a week. JFS has received California HEAP (Homeless Emergency Aid Program) funding through the San Diego Regional Taskforce on the Homeless to replicate the success of this proven model in the North County region of San Diego.



Loretta became homeless after leaving an abusive marriage. Thanks to the JFS Safe Parking Program, she was able to find an apartment of her own.

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Request for City of Encinitas:

JFS respectfully requests permission from the City of Encinitas to operate the Safe Parking Program on the Leichtag Foundation property located at 441 Saxony Road to provide space for 25 households living in their cars with a safe, overnight place to sleep every night. JFS would welcome a conversation with the appropriate individuals to identify the best arrangement for the implementation of this request.

Proposed North County Safe Parking Program

With HEAP funding provided by the San Diego Regional Task Force for the Homeless (SDRTFH), Jewish Family Service of San Diego proposes to launch a Safe Parking Program in Encinitas, prioritizing vulnerable families, college students, and older adults currently living in vehicles in the North County region. A dedicated team of 4 staff will provide daily onsite support along with engagement of community partners and volunteers.

The Leichtag Foundation located at 441 Saxony Road, Encinitas has generously offered to lease space to the City of Encinitas to allow Jewish Family Service of San Diego to operate the Safe Parking Program. The hours of operation will be 5:30pm until 7am, Monday through Sunday. The location will be open 365 days a year. The drafted space agreement includes, but is not limited to:

- 25 parking spaces 7 days a week, 365 days a year
- Space for portable toilets and community gathering space (indoors or outdoors)
- Security gate access for guests to enter and exit the premises
- Provide a space welcoming of all people and will not proselytize to or discriminate against anyone based on race, color, religion, beliefs, culture, language, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Timeline

This is a time-sensitive request based on the HEAP funding awarded to JFS beginning July 1, 2019. If we are unable to launch a physical Safe Parking Program lot by the end of the 2019 calendar year, HEAP funding could be returned to the State and risk future State support in the North County region.

Based on our experience with the three current JFS Safe Parking Program lots, the City of San Diego was able to move quickly to approve Safe Parking use. Like the City of San Diego, the City of Encinitas has also declared a [Shelter Crisis](#) which we believe could assist you in expediting approval.

Through outreach with our community partners, JFS has already gathered an interest list of individuals and families currently living in their vehicles in the North County region and we anticipate the twenty-five spaces will be filled quickly. We have already hired JFS program staff to support the North County Safe Parking Program and are prepared to start immediately upon approval.

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Partnerships:

In addition to City of Encinitas and Leichtag Foundation, JFS will partner with the following organizations, and coalitions.

- Interfaith Community Services
- Community Resource Center
- Alliance for Regional Solutions, Bridge to Housing Network
- MAAC Project Head Start
- North County Food Bank
- Neighborhood Health Care
- Salvation Army
- 2-1-1

Program Budget and Outcomes

The cost to fully operating the North County Safe Parking Program is \$309,000. JFS has secured \$256,639 in California HEAP funding to launch the new project site. Key program outcomes include:

- Greater than 30% of individuals will exit to permanent housing
- Fewer than 20% of individuals will have been exited for a negative reason (involuntary exit, prohibited activity)
- 100% of clients with other needs are connected to additional resources.
- The median length of stay for individuals and families will be 120 days or less
- A minimum of 120 unduplicated individuals will be served annually; representing at least 45 unduplicated households

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Your support of the *JFS Safe Parking Program* in North County will make a profound difference in the lives of individuals and families in need of permanent homes in which to build brighter futures.