



**Meeting Agenda
Continuum of Care (CoC) Board
June 9, 2021
3:30pm-5pm**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82933938890?pwd=bUdLdDNVMi8vbEoweUhWaFRrWGIEQT09>

Meeting ID: 829 3393 8890

Passcode: 650928

1. Call to Order
2. Board Comments
3. CoC Staff Comments
4. Public Comments: Public Comment is an opportunity for the public to participate in public meetings by addressing the Ventura County Continuum of Care Board in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items. This meeting is subject to the Public comments may be submitted by using one of the following options.

Email in advance of the meeting:

If you wish to make public comment on an agenda item via email, please submit your comment via email by 4:30pm on the day prior to the Board meeting. Send emails to: venturacoc@ventura.org
Please indicate the agenda item you would like to speak on if relevant and whether you would like your message read by staff or you will be participating and would like to provide your comments during the live meeting.

During the meeting: Participants may use the chat function in zoom to indicate they would like to make a comment. Staff will call on participants during the public comment section of the meeting or during specific item following staff presentation of the item.

Continuum of Care Governance Board Business

5. Approval of Board Minutes from May 12, 2021.
6. Receive an Update on COVID19 Response from the County's Homeless Taskforce and Project Roomkey.
7. Establish a Nomination Committee of Three CoC Board Members

8. Authorize and Approve Submission of Letters of Support for County of Ventura to Apply for State Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus Relief (CDBG-CV) Funds to Support Development of Supportive Housing Developments in Oxnard and Ventura.
9. Receive a Presentation on Recommendations for Best Practices in Implementing Safe Parking for Recreational Vehicles and Authorize Staff to Share Final Recommendations with the County of Ventura Board of Supervisors and Ventura County City Leadership.
10. Receive a Presentation from Interface Children & Family Services (ICFS) on the Community Information Exchange Project.



**Meeting Minutes
Continuum of Care (CoC) Board
Wednesday, May 12, 2021
3:30pm-5pm**

Click Link to Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83260574765?pwd=Y3lsMjVoU0VOckg4Rzh1amJQekJxUT09>

Meeting ID: 832 6057 4765

Passcode: 985 633

1. **Call to Order:** CoC Board Chair, Dawn Dyer, called the meeting to order at **3:32 pm**.

Board Members: Dawn Dyer, Mara Malch, Pam Marshall, Manuel Minjares, Michael Nigh, Michael Powers, Carmen Ramirez, Susan England, Nancy Wharfield, Kevin Clerici, Emilio Ramirez, Carolyn Briggs

Absent: *Andrew Powers*

Staff: Felipe Flores, Jennifer Harkey, Tara Carruth, Christy Madden

HMIS Staff: Alicia Morales, Marcy Snider

Public Attendees: Brenda Blakely, Michelle Sood, Judy Alexandre, Ken Barrow, Susan White Wood, Meredith Hart

2. **Board Comments**

Carmen Ramirez, Ventura County Supervisor, shared that she attended a great webinar on the County's watershed protection and collaboration with homeless services. Nancy Wharfield, Chief Medical Officer, Gold Coast Health Plan, shared that [CalAIM](#), a new Medi-Cal partner program, will begin offering services such as non-medical aid with enhanced care management, beginning January 2022. The program will begin serving all Whole Person Care (WPC) clients first and this includes homeless children. Dawn Dyer, CoC Board Chair, invited everyone to attend to the Housing Trust Fund's 2nd Annual "[Everyone Deserves a Home](#)" Compassion Campaign to be held June 10, 2021 from 5:30 – 7 pm, with Dr. Tiffany Manuel, PhD, as the keynote speaker.

3. **CoC Staff Comments** – No comments by Staff.

4. **Public Comments** – No in-person or email comments submitted.

5. **Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the Governance Board held Wednesday, April 14, 2021.**

Michael Nigh, Director, Area Housing Authority of Ventura County, asked to please amend item #6 from those Meeting Minutes indicating that he had abstained from voting. Michael also moved to approve with the noted amendment. Carmen Ramirez seconded. All in favor.

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Continuum of Care Governance Board Business

- 6. Receive an Update on COVID19 Response from the County’s Homeless Taskforce and Project Roomkey**
Tara Carruth, Ventura County CoC Staff, shared with the CoC Board that Project Roomkey (PRK) continues to serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness with shelter and support services provided by partner agencies – including COVID-19 vaccinations. Tara also shared that PRK was now at capacity. Michael Powers, County Executive Officer, County of Ventura, asked Tara to further explain. She indicated that although FEMA funding is available to pay for rooms, the 3 participating properties are completely full.

- 7. Approval of Amendments to Ventura County Continuum of Care Alliance Governance Charter Including Updates on the Designated Interagency Council on Homelessness, Board Member Nomination Committee, Scope of CoC Advisory Committees and Addition of Racial Equity in CoC Scope of Work.**
In continuing this conversation from the last CoC Board meeting, Tara indicated that she was seeking the CoC Board’s approval of the amendments to the VC CoC Alliance Governance Charter. The only item not brought back at this time was the discussion of Committee membership and voting. Dawn Dyer had further inquired about drafting an MOU to strengthen the relationship with the Ventura Council of Governments (VCOG). Tara informed that she would be presenting at their meeting tomorrow and that work in this regard will begin shortly. Carmen Ramirez also offered to speak in favor of the CoC Board at that meeting and as a follow up, Tara will coordinate with Carmen. Nancy Wharfield moved to approve the amendments, Susan England, Vice President – Community Impact, United Way of Ventura County seconded. All in favor.

- 8. Receive a presentation on the Ventura County 2021 Sheltered Point-In-Time (PIT) Homeless Count Report and authorize staff to submit the final Point in Time Count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) reports to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) no later than May 14, 2021.**
Tara presented a complete and informative summary of the County’s Sheltered Point-In-Time (PIT) Homeless Count. Pam Marshall, Community Advocate, commented that Ventura County has performed admirably in providing shelter but, she expressed concern over upcoming eviction moratoriums, the lack of policing in this regard and to brace for a wave of oncoming evictions. Carmen Ramirez shared that for resources to combat evictions, very little or no lawyers are available to provide assistance. Carmen also suggested to think on ways to keep people in their homes and help defend them as much as possible. Dawn also reaffirmed Carmen’s comments and Tara commented that the governor’s upcoming budget proposal may assist with this. However, rising rent rates will always be a challenge to deal with. Dawn indicated that the PIT Homeless Count Report presentation is available on the CoC website. Emilio Ramirez, Housing Director, City of Oxnard, asked if the homeless population was new or if it had re-entered from other shelters. Tara replied that it varied and that this data breakdown/details can be later provided. Michael Powers then suggested videotaping Carmen giving advice on how to get legal assistance. Michael also posed the question on how new, upcoming funding sources could be used to combat evictions. Tara indicated that rules and regulations were being studied and that Project HomeKey is the best (quickest) option.

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Ken Barrow, public attendee with Diversity Collective, asked about performing outreach to the RV community located on Highway 33. Tara replied that this area is part of a special parking permit program organized by the County. Ken further mentioned that there is a great deal of LGBTQ individuals who are also becoming homeless, to which Tara emphasized partnering with his organization for greater outreach.

To conclude the discussion on this item, Tara asked for CoC Board approval to receive and approve the 2021 Point In Time (PIT) Sheltered Count and 2021 Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and authorize CoC Staff to formally submit to HUD by 5/14/2021. Susan England moved to approve, and Manuel Minjares, County of Ventura District 3 – Field Representative, seconded. All in favor.

Closing comments – there were none.

Dawn adjourned the meeting at **4:43 pm**.

June 9, 2021

CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Receive an update on COVID19 Response from the County's Homeless Taskforce and Project Roomkey

BACKGROUND: As the County of Ventura responds to the local emergency of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) a Homeless Taskforce has been established to respond to the needs of the homeless community and keep stakeholders informed of local actions.

DISCUSSION: County of Ventura and Ventura County Continuum of Care are leading the regional Homeless Taskforce in response to COVID-19. The following actions have been taken to address the needs of the population and keep people experiencing homelessness safe as well as preventing a surge of homeless patients in the hospital system.

- 298 persons currently sheltered in Project Roomkey including Mercy House Non-Congregate Shelter and Project Roomkey Motel Voucher program. This includes 70 rooms with 78 persons in Thousand Oaks, 125 rooms with 151 persons in Ventura and 69 persons at the Oxnard Homekey site operated in partnership with Mercy House and National Health Foundation.
- 140 persons have been permanently housed through Mainstream Vouchers, new supportive housing resources including the Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura's Willett Ranch and a variety of other programs and resources.
- FEMA funding is eligible to support non-congregate shelter through September 2021. Motel partners are willing to continue offering their facilities to support this effort through that timeframe.

Homelessness Prevention:

With the signing of the COVID-19 Tenant Relief Act (SB 91), the state's current eviction moratorium for tenants unable to pay rent due to COVID-related financial hardships, as established under AB 3088, is extended by 5 months, from January 31, 2021 until June 30, 2021.

The County and City of Oxnard have opted into the State Administered Rental Assistance Program. This resource will be made available for households with incomes at or below 80 percent of Area Median Income, with a priority on helping households at or below 50 percent of Area Median Income as well as households unemployed for the preceding 90 days at the time of application. Applications are available at www.housingiskey.com. Local partner agencies are being contracted by the State to conduct outreach and support in assisting tenants and landlords with applying for this assistance. Partners

include MICOP, United Way of Ventura County, California Rural Legal Assistance and others. The County and City of Oxnard are working to establish additional partnerships to assist tenants in the most rent burdened parts of the county to assist with completing applications.

Re-Housing Strategies: Staff continue to work with referring service providers on rehousing efforts with Project Roomkey clients. State and Federal partners continue to emphasize utilizing new funding resources to assist with this effort. The State is offering technical assistance to communities who want assistance in their re-housing efforts.

COVID-19 Vaccine: The County Health Care Agency continues to deliver vaccines to emergency shelter, transitional housing, non-congregate shelters as well as through One Stops, Backpack Medicine and other mobile events. Additional outreach is occurring at supportive and affordable housing properties through mobile and pop up clinics at housing sites.

HOME Funding through the America Rescue Plan: Ventura County jurisdictions will receive a combined allocation of nearly 9 million dollars to invest in supportive housing creation including motel conversion and supportive housing development. Program rules and details will be shared with stakeholders once they are released by HUD.

Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV): HUD Notice (PIH 2021-15) was issued on May 5, 2021 for operating requirements of an allocation of 70,000 emergency housing vouchers (EHVs) nationwide to Public Housing Authorities (PHA). This new resource is part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Eligibility for the vouchers includes persons and families experiencing homelessness, at-risk of homeless or fleeing domestic violence. HUD has established a formula for allocating these vouchers to PHA partners and will send an invitation to participate on Monday May 10. HUD includes a requirement in this notice that PHAs and CoCs enter into a MOU to collaborate on the administration of the emergency housing vouchers including making eligible referrals from coordinated entry and connecting eligible households with supportive services. The Area Housing Authority of Ventura County (62 vouchers), Oxnard Housing Authority (56 vouchers) and the Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura (43 vouchers) have accepted the invitation to provide these vouchers to the community. A MOU must be adopted before the end of July 2021 and CoC staff and stakeholders are working with our partner housing authorities to develop the MOU and determine how the vouchers should be allocated among eligible target populations.



June 9, 2021

CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Nominate Three Continuum of Care Board Members to Serve as the Nomination Committee to Assist with Filling Future Vacancies on the Continuum of Care Board.

BACKGROUND: As established in the Ventura County Continuum of Care Governance Charter, the CoC Board will appoint three members to serve on the Nominations/Selections Committee. In Section 7.02 of the Governance Charter, the responsibilities of the Nominations Committee are as follows:

1. Evaluates and recommends changes to improve the Governance Board representation structure and ensure it is operating in an optimum way to meet the mission;
2. Reviews Board Member nominations, solicitation responses and provides recommendations to the Board;
3. Reviews the governance Charter and provides recommendations to the Board and Full Membership body; and
4. Develops strategies and approaches to engage new Alliance members to expand membership of underrepresented sectors in the Region.

DISCUSSION: In the May 12, 2021 CoC Board meeting, the Board approved the updated Ventura County Continuum of Care Governance Charter and acknowledged the Nominations Committee needed to be formed to fulfill its intended duties with support from CoC Staff and the full membership of the Alliance.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Nominate three members of the CoC Board to form the Nominations Committee.

June 9, 2021

CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Authorize and Approve Submission of Letters of Support for County of Ventura to Apply for State Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus Relief (CDBG-CV) Funds to Support Development of Supportive Housing Developments in Oxnard and Ventura.

BACKGROUND: In response to the spread of COVID-19 in the State of California, Governor Newsom secured FEMA approval for “Project Roomkey”, a state-wide initiative to secure thousands of motel rooms to provide non-congregate shelter for vulnerable individuals experiencing homelessness (Target Population) to help keep people safe, flatten the curve, and preserve hospital capacity. Locally, Project Roomkey has assisted 589 vulnerable persons since March 2020 with non-congregate shelter placements. The initial program was implemented through leased motels and transitioned to a motel voucher program in July of 2020.

In 2020, the State of California passed a budget and released a Homekey Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) that included \$600 million to rapidly expand the inventory of housing available to homeless persons who were served by or were eligible for Project Roomkey. In response to this NOFA, two projects located within the county applied for and received Homekey funds:

- Oxnard Homekey Project (formerly the Vagabond Inn), a 70-room motel located at 1245 North Oxnard Boulevard in the City of Oxnard which currently operates under the Project Roomkey program and will ultimately undergo renovation and convert to 69 units of Permanent Supportive Housing for the Target Population.
- El Portal, an existing apartment building located at 1240-1280 North Ventura Avenue in the City of Ventura currently under renovation to provide 28 units of Permanent Supportive Housing, with 12 units reserved for the Target Population.

DISCUSSION On April 21, 2021, HCD released a NOFA for \$50 million in CDBG-CV2 set-aside funds. These funds, to be awarded over the counter as complete and eligible applications are received by HCD through August 31, 2021 or until funds are exhausted, are available only to projects that applied for funds under the 2020 Homekey NOFA and are intended to provide additional support to Homekey projects for acquisition, rehabilitation and off-site infrastructure necessary for projects to become habitable and fully operational. Eligible applicants for the funds include cities and counties. Both local Homekey project sponsors requested partnership with the city in which the project is located and each host city sought the County’s assistance in pursuing and accessing these funds given staff’s expertise and and/or host city’s lack of existing staff resources to pursue a timely application.

The County proposes to submit two separate applications for CDBG-CV2 funds, one for the Oxnard Homekey Project and one for El Portal. Specifics of each project is provided in Table 1.

Table 1

Oxnard Homekey Project	
Sponsor	Mercy House (owner) and Community Development Partners (developer)
Current/Interim Use	Non-congregate Shelter/Recuperative Care for persons experiencing homelessness. 49 rooms are operating as non-congregate shelter and 20 rooms are operating as recuperative care for the Target Population. One room is being used by staff to provide services.
Final Intended Use	Permanent Supportive Housing for the Target Population (estimated conversion date: December 2023)
Number of Homekey Permanent Supportive Housing Units for Target Population	69
Resident Manager's Unit	1
Requested Amount of CDBG-CV Funds	\$3,500,000
Anticipated CDBG-CV Program Income	\$0
Activities Funded with CDBG-CV	Rehabilitation
Displacement Anticipated?	No permanent relocation. Temporary relocation during rehabilitation may be required but is not anticipated. A letter from the Sponsor's relocation consultant is attached as Exhibit 2.
El Portal	
Sponsor	El Portal Ventura LP (owner and developer). Homecomings, Inc. an affiliate of the Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura, is the sole member/manager of the Managing General Partner of El Portal Ventura LP.
Current and Final Intended Use	Permanent Supportive Housing for the Target Population (estimated rehab completion date: October 2021)
Number of Homekey Permanent Supportive Housing Units for Target Population	12
Number of Permanent Supportive Housing Units (including seniors and veterans)	16
Resident Manager's Unit	1
Requested Amount of CDBG-CV Funds	\$650,000
Anticipated CDBG-CV Program Income	\$0
Activities Funded with CDBG-CV	Rehabilitation
Displacement Anticipated?	No permanent relocation. Temporary relocation during rehabilitation will be required. The Relocation Plan prepared by the Sponsor is attached as Exhibit 3.

Each project has been approved by the local jurisdiction (the city of Oxnard and the city of Ventura) and review under the California Environmental Quality Act has been completed. The CDBG-CV2 NOFA provides

an opportunity for each project sponsor to leverage funding to rehabilitate and make necessary improvements to each property.

The two Homekey Projects in our County will collectively result in 81 units of Permanent Supportive Housing for the Target Population. Staff is recommending support of these requests to facilitate the development of much needed permanent supportive housing stock in the County.

The State's application encourages collaboration with the local Continuum of Care. A draft letter of support is attached for your Board's approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approval of Letters of Support for County of Ventura's Application for California CDBG-CV Funds to Support Rehabilitation of Two Project Homekey Properties in Oxnard and Ventura.



June 9, 2021

Director Gustavo Velasquez
California Department of Housing & Community Development
2020 West El Camino Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95833

Re: Support for County of Ventura CDBG-CV Application

Please accept this letter of support for the County of Ventura's applications for CDBG-CV funds to support two Project Homekey supportive housing projects in Ventura County. The Ventura County Continuum of Care (VCCoC) appreciates the collaboration and effort provided by the County of Ventura during the COVID-19 pandemic including efforts to provide non-congregate shelter to persons experiencing homelessness. In Ventura County, our local jurisdictions and the Continuum of Care recognize that housing is the primary solution to ending homelessness and Project Homekey is providing an opportunity to bring additional supportive housing capacity to Ventura County.

The County is partnering with the cities of Oxnard and Ventura and non-profit housing developers to support the rehabilitation of two properties secured under Project Homekey. The Oxnard Homekey project is a 70-room motel currently being utilized for non-congregate shelter and planned to convert into 69 units of supportive housing. The El Portal project in Ventura is a mixed-use project with 16 supportive housing units.

The County and its partners in this effort are collaborating and coordinating with the Continuum of Care to prepare for filling these upcoming units through the VCCoC's coordinated entry system prioritizing the most vulnerable households for these units. The VCCoC is committed to ending homelessness and strongly supports the County's effort to facilitate the successful conversion and rehabilitation of these properties in Oxnard and Ventura to bring more supportive housing to our most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,
Tara L Carruth, MSW

Dawn Dyer
Dyer Sheehan
Chair of the Board

Manuel Minjares
County of Ventura District 3
Vice Chair

Carolyn Briggs
Community Advocate

Kevin Clerici
Downtown Ventura Partners
Chair of the Board

Susan Englund
United Way

Mara Malch
City of Simi Valley

Pam Marshall
Community Advocate

Drew Powers
City of Thousand Oaks

Mike Powers
County Executive Officer

Emilio Ramirez
Oxnard Housing Dept.

Michael Nigh
Area Housing Authority of
Ventura County

Carmen Ramirez
City of Oxnard

Nancy Wharfield
Gold Coast Health Plan

June 9, 2021

CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Receive a Presentation on Recommendations for Best Practices in Implementing Safe Parking for Recreational Vehicles and Authorize Staff to Share Final Recommendations with the County of Ventura Board of Supervisors and Ventura County City Leadership.

BACKGROUND: The number of persons living in vehicles in Ventura County continues to rise, as reported by local law enforcement and homeless service providers. The growing number of vehicles and lack of designated areas where people can legally park is resulting in numerous community complaints. Enforcement in some jurisdictions is resulting in people moving to areas where less enforcement is taking place but resulting in community concerns, including people living along roadways with agricultural fields. Vehicles range from RVs and box trucks to vans and cars. All jurisdictions have noted concerns but vary in impact from a few vehicles in specific areas to larger encampments.

It is difficult to fully assess the community wide need but people living in vehicles is a growing concern across the county. Areas of noted concern include:

- 80-100 persons living in RVs in the City of Oxnard with a higher concentration in South Oxnard;
- Growing number of RVs in industrial parts of Ventura and in shopping center parking lots;
- Small number of RVs in Port Hueneme that move between shopping centers;
- Number of RVs along Newbury Road in Thousand Oaks and scattered in other locations throughout the city;
- Growing number of RVs in Simi Valley;
- RVs parking along Pancho Road in Camarillo;
- VCTC Park and Rides have been impacted by people living in vehicles;
- CalTrans and Union Pacific have seen increased impact on their right of ways;
- Growing number of RVs in the unincorporated areas, including highway 33 and those adjacent to local agricultural fields

DISCUSSION: A stakeholder group was convened to evaluate current programs and resources available in Ventura County, examine programs and best practices from programs across the state and country and develop recommendations of best practices in operating safe parking programs to improve services for people living in vehicles. The County of Ventura Board of Supervisors requested input from the Continuum of Care in developing these recommendations.

The following chart lists the stakeholders who contributed to this effort:

Stakeholder	Sector Representation
Tara Carruth	CoC/County Executive Office
Chris Russell	Human Services Agency
James Boyd	Healthcare for the Homeless
Eric Tennessen	VCSO
Sandra Meyer	Salvation Army Safe Sleep/Outreach
Meredith Hart	City of Ventura
Felicia Skaggs	VCBH
Rafael Stoneman	Gold Coast Veterans/Lived Expertise/Outreach
Jason Havelka	VCSO
Jayn Walter	Help of Ojai
Jessica Petrillo	City of Oxnard
Ninna Castellano	Mercy House
Jennifer Del Toro	City of Simi Valley
Juan Cordova	VCSO/Thousand Oaks
James Mason	City of Santa Paula
Eric Starna	Port Hueneme PD
China Gerstner	CalTrans
Denise Cortes	Harbor House/Outreach
Dichele Harris	LSS
Dan Jaeger	Samaritan Center
Brian Brennan	BOS District 1 staff
Angel Garcia	BOS District 5 staff
Manuel Minjares	BOS District 3 staff
Amanda Fagan	VCTC
Lupe Valdez	Union Pacific

Existing programs and efforts:

Ventura: The City of Ventura in partnership with local churches and Salvation Army operates a small safe parking program. This program provides overnight parking only. Vehicles must be registered, insured and drivers must have valid drivers license for entry. RVs allowed in some lots on a limited basis because of size and need for dumping service, etc.

The County of Ventura is in its 5th month of a 12 month pilot for Safe RV Parking along N. Ventura Avenue. Parking is allowed along roadways in designated areas. Participants were admitted to program if willing to work on getting vehicle registered/insured and engage in case management services through One Stop on N. Ventura Ave.

Simi Valley: A pilot program was launched for 3 months in partnership with the City of Simi Valley, the Samaritan Center and a local church to provide safe parking. Vehicles had to be registered/insured before entry into the program. The program saw very low utilization and was not continued after the

first 3 months with an option to be reinstated based on community need. RVs were not admitted to this program.

Development of the below recommendations for best practices have been influenced by lessons learned from existing efforts in Ventura County and programs outside of the county. Lowering barriers to admission to a program is critical to meeting community goals of moving vehicle encampments off community roadways. Ensuring dedicated supportive service provider(s) to oversee the safe parking program and provide case management support services during daytime hours is emphasized by service providers in our community and others. Further consideration of limiting vehicles per household to vehicles needed for daily use and living. Some individuals have multiple inoperable vehicles including boats, trailers, etc. The program is not intended to be a storage facility for an excessive number of vehicles. Utilizing private lots may present barriers to insurance and other requirements that require vehicles to be insured and legal prior to admittance.

Recommended Best Practices to Include in Safe Parking Programs:

The stakeholder group evaluated existing safe parking programs in Ventura County, researched other models in California and received input from participants to develop the following recommendations for best practices in implementing Safe Parking Programs:

A designated secure location for Safe Parking is important for improving service delivery and community wide concerns of people living in vehicles. In the interim, jurisdictions could designate an area where parking is allowed by permit similar to the RV parking along N. Ventura Ave. Designated lots with staff and programming are expected to improve client outcomes.

- Promotes security and safety for persons living in vehicles and larger community;
- Onsite provision of services/oversight with extended daytime hours (e.g. 7am-7pm);
- Low barrier to access to safe parking program but accountability for adhering to community rules;
 - Allowing persons to come in with agreement to make progress on registration, insurance, vehicle maintenance, valid driver's license, etc. This is intended to help get persons off city/county roadways with low barriers to the safe parking program. Financial and service support may be needed to assist with obtaining documents, insurance and vehicle registration in a timely manner.
 - No defined time limit constraints that result in people returning to the streets but recommended frequent evaluation of progress towards individualized goals for permanent housing.
 - Clear participant expectations based on respectful behavior and active engagement with onsite service provider demonstrating ownership and investment in a personalized housing plan.
- Amenities and Services Recommended for a Comprehensive Safe Parking Program
 - Designated lots in impacted jurisdictions ideally in close proximity to service site locations

- Lot accessible 24/7 for safe parking and services
- Parking for RVs and other vehicles (cars, vans, trucks)
- Onsite 24/7 Security personnel including fencing of lot for safety of guests
- Case management/Housing Navigation services provided on site (dedicated staff for program) Flexible hours for services 7am-7pm, staffing should align with caseload sizes of no more than 1 staff to 20-25 client households
- Restrooms and showers onsite
- RV dumping service, potable water
- Flexible financial assistance to help with vehicle repairs
- Food service

RECOMMENDATIONS: Receive a Presentation on Recommendations for Best Practices in Implementing Safe Parking for Recreational Vehicles and Authorize Staff to Share Final Recommendations with the County of Ventura Board of Supervisors and Ventura County City Leadership.

Serving People Living in Vehicles in Ventura County

Recommendations for Safe Parking

Existing Situation

Growing number of persons living in RVs and other vehicles countywide

Lacking designated locations for safe parking with services that allow for RVs and large vehicles

Community concerns and impacts to adjacent neighborhoods

Regional Workgroup



Evaluation of existing need



Evaluation of existing resources



Evaluation of best practice program
models



Development of recommendations

Benefits of Safe Parking Programs

- Safe Parking programs can assist with the following community needs/concerns
 - Community concerns of impacts of people living in vehicles in business districts and neighborhoods
 - Prevent dumping of human waste and address proper disposal of trash/waste
 - Provide basic needs for persons living unsheltered
 - Provide enhanced security for entire community
 - Provide designated areas for enhanced service delivery to unsheltered persons
 - Assist with linking persons to permanent housing resources

Safe Parking Program Potential Locations

- Private parking lots (i.e. church parking lots)
- Public lots (i.e. city/county/state owned parking lots)
- Underutilized campgrounds
- Undeveloped/under-utilized parcel/lot

Recommended Program Elements for Safe Parking

Low barrier to entry

24/7 access

Onsite security

Dedicated staffing
onsite

Restrooms/showers/RV
waste dumping onsite

Low Barrier to Program Entry

Persons living in vehicles may not have vehicle registration, insurance and other requirements up to date. Allowing admission to safe parking program while providing 60-90 days to get vehicle in compliance is recommended

Program admission and participation should be contingent on working on a housing plan

Time limits on length of stay in program are not recommended but frequent monitoring and evaluation of positive progress on housing plan is recommended.

Weapons/Illegal activity/drug use prohibited onsite

Recommended Staffing Model

On-site Program Lead with staff to provide case management/housing navigation/support services with extended 7am-7pm hours

Staff to client ratio recommend 1 case manager/housing navigator staff for 20-25 households

Onsite security 24/7

Specialized support services to be delivered/offered onsite: Healthcare, Behavioral Health, Substance Use services

Referrals and linkages to other mainstream services including benefits, emergency assistance, employment services

Leverage community and volunteer supports

Additional Considerations for Amenities

- Food Service
- Flexible financial assistance to assist with vehicle repairs, vehicle registration family reconnection, etc.
- Electrical hookups for RVS
- Electricity/Wi-Fi for charging devices, providing services onsite

Including Unhoused Persons in Program Design & Implementation

- Including people who will be using the program in program design and implementation is key to success

Balancing Short and Long Term Goals

- Establishing Safe Parking is not a solution to ending homelessness
- Safe Parking functions similarly to emergency shelter without the facility
- Safe Parking programs should utilize HMIS, collect data on client needs and document progress towards housing
- Safe Parking should serve as a linkage to larger service system including shelter and housing programs
- Data will be used to inform local decision makers and focus on long term solutions (housing, habitable RV parks, etc.)

Next Steps

Receive input
from CoC
Board



Present to
Board of
Supervisors



Share with
City/County
leaders