



CITY OF
Fremont
Human Services Department
Safe Parking Host Site Program
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Updated February 8, 2022

The Safe Parking Host Site Program (Safe Parking) will provide an overnight location for individuals living in their vehicle. Individuals participating in the Program will rotate on a monthly basis to “host sites”, which are currently faith-based organizations located throughout the City, which have obtained a Safe Parking Host Site Permit from the City of Fremont. Each host site will provide hospitality and opportunities to foster community for program participants; volunteers are vital to support this community and manage the site operations.

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General Contact and Questions regarding Referrals, Host Site Permits, and Donations:

Safe Parking Program Coordinator

510-574-2222

safeparking@fremont.gov

Website: www.fremont.gov/safeparking



SECTION 1: PROGRAM HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Safe Parking is one tool to address the homelessness crisis in our region, by creating a hospitable, safe, and respectful space for community members to transition from living in their vehicle into housing.

In 2018 Fremont joined many Bay Area municipalities in declaring a Shelter Crisis, which provides a framework to develop creative shelter and interim housing programs, including our Housing Navigation Center.

Current data available from the 2019 Point in Time Count, shows us that Fremont had a 72% increase in unsheltered homelessness since 2017. Which includes people living outside or in conditions not meant for human habitation. Based on 2019 data, 50% of the City of Fremont's unsheltered community members are living in vehicles, which has likely increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [2019 Point in Time Count Report for Fremont.](#)

Fremont City Council prioritized a Safe Parking Program in February 2020, City Staff came back to the City Council with the program options in early 2021.

On June 15, 2021, [City Council adopted a Safe Parking Ordinance](#), Chapter [18.190.475](#). This ordinance allows the establishment and operation of safe parking sites at existing [assembly uses](#), quasi-public facilities, and public facilities. Safe parking is permitted as an [ancillary use](#) to the permitted primary assembly, quasi-public, or public use of the property. Generally, faith-based sites qualify under the assembly use designation and can apply to obtain a permit.

On July 20, 2021, [Fremont City Council approved the program design elements](#) including participant referral prioritization, screening & criteria, program agreement, and program rules.

Throughout the summer and fall of 2021 City staff from multiple departments worked with interested faith-based organizations to explain the program and assist with host site permit applications.

Safe Parking launched on January 31, 2021.

Q1. How long will Safe Parking last?

The Safe Parking Host Site program is a program to provide safe overnight parking. Host Sites' permits are valid for one year from the time they are granted. However, a site does not have to host for an entire 12 months and can determine how often they host vehicles.

At this time, there are 4 host sites prepared to participate in the rotational program. Assessments will be done on a monthly basis to determine viability of the program.

Q2. Who is hosting the program?

The current program is a collaboration between the City of Fremont and various faith-based organizations. These organizations have agreed to "host" the program participants in their respective parking lots on a rotational basis. The rotational aspect of this program means that the organization, volunteers, and participants will be at a different host site every month. In other programs across the nation, this model has been shown to provide stability for participants.

SECTION 2: PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Q5. How can I get help?

Registration is required to participate. Referrals are accepted from a number of agencies and service partners. Those interested in the program must demonstrate a willingness and motivation to act upon resources and information that supports a pathway toward housing. Access to social services is a critical aspect of the program and an individual or families' success.

The following agencies can submit referrals for Safe Parking:

- City of Fremont – 510-574-2222, safeparking@fremont.gov
- BACS South County Wellness Center –
Drop in Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm
40963 Grimmer Blvd, Fremont CA 94538

Call - 510-657-7425

- ABODE Housing Resource Center –
Drop in Monday and Tuesday, 9:00am – 1:00pm
4075 Papazian Way, Fremont 94538
Call – 510-330-5822
or various HOPE outreach locations
- BACH – Street Health Team
- Host Site Referral (various sites)
- Compassion Network – hours of operation vary
39155 Liberty St, Suite H840
Call – 510-796-7378
- Self-referral**

** Self-referral note: Those interested in learning about the program may contact the City for more information, however, referrals that are accompanied by a request from an assigned service provider will be prioritized. If an individual or family does not have a service provider, they will be provided resource information.

Q6. What are the criteria to enter the program?

To be admitted to the program, a participant must meet the following requirements:

1. Affiliated with Fremont, Newark or Union City
 - a. Previous housing, enrollment in school, employment, family ties, or physical or mental health service provider is located in the Tri-City area
2. Vehicle is operational and owner occupied
3. Participant has a valid California license

4. Current vehicle registration and insurance – within 45 days of entering into the program
5. No 290 sex offender registration

Q7. Is there any support to help meet criteria for the program?

The City of Fremont has developed the Vehicle Assistance Fund (VAF). This fund was created to support participants of the Safe Parking who may need assistance in paying license or registration fees or reasonable repairs for their vehicle.

Q8. Does this program cost money?

There is no cost to participate in the program.

Q9. Are there program rules?

Participants are required to sign and agree to program rules. Upon acceptance to the program, participants will also sign a liability waiver and participant agreement, which details expectations for participating in the program. Violations of the rules may result in warnings, or depending on the violation, result in the participant’s removal from the program.

Threatening, dangerous, or criminal behavior is prohibited and will result in immediate removal from the site and program.

Q10. What utility services are available?

Each site is required to have: one standard portable lavatory, one ADA-accessible portable lavatory, handwashing station, dumpsters, and potable water.

Fire extinguishers are posted every 75 ft, as required by the ordinance. Each participant will receive a smaller portable fire extinguisher for their vehicle.

Mobile laundry and shower services may be present onsite, depending on the service capacity of the CleanStart program.

Q11. Are pets allowed?

Pets are permitted. Pet care and maintenance are the sole responsibility of their owner.

SECTION 3: HOST SITE INFORMATION

Q12. How are host sites chosen for the program?

Organizations with site control of parking lots, that are public, quasi-public, or have an existing assembly use permits, are highly encouraged to apply to become a host site.

Organizations interested in becoming a host site are responsible for submitting a completed [permit application](#). Organizations interested in becoming a host site may [email](#) the Program Coordinator.

Q13. Who is managing the program?

The Safe Parking Host Site Program is a collaboration between the City of Fremont and faith-based organizations that have obtained a Safe Parking Host Site permit and agree to the conditions of participation in the rotational model.

The City of Fremont will provide programmatic coordination, liability insurance, sanitation materials, and participant screening. Host Site organizations will provide the space, coordinate need for their specific site, and arrange hospitality services.

The City of Fremont has contracted with Compassion Network to provide volunteer recruitment, training, and coordination.

Q14. Where is it located and what are the hours of operation?

The location rotates on a calendar monthly basis (ex. February), depending on how many host sites are participating. Host sites are permitted to host vehicles between 10-24 hours a day, however most sites will opt for overnight hours only. The weekly schedule and rotation of sites will be provided to program participants and volunteers.

The rotational aspect of the program has been adopted from other jurisdictions with safe parking programs. This model has been shown to create a safe environment for participants as well as host site organizations.

Q15. Can I donate to the program?

All monetary donations can be made through the City of Fremont's Human Services Department: www.fremont.gov/hsdonate. For other donations, please [email](#) the Program Coordinator.

Q16. What are the host sites responsible for?

Host sites are responsible for providing the physical location of the program. The host site will also provide identify a coordinator who will be available, on call for any program needs. The coordinator is also responsible for ensuring volunteer coverage and maintaining the cleanliness of the site.

Host site will coordinate fellowship opportunities such as meal and clothing distributions, and special activities.

SECTION 4: VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Q17. What will volunteers do when the Host Site opens and closes?

There are multiple types of volunteer opportunities. Volunteers may engage in daily operations by welcoming participants on site, providing any supplies they may need, and confirming that vehicles leave the site when required. Volunteers will also work with the host site coordinator to provide fellowship activities and services.

Volunteers report to the host site coordinator or program manager if there are any concerns.

Parties interested in volunteering may contact City Serve's Compassion Network at: specialprojects@cityserve.org.