



SafeParkingLA

IMPACT REPORT 2022



MISSION

Safe Parking LA provides safe overnight parking to facilitate stability and housing in Los Angeles County for individuals living in their vehicles, and advocates for fair and equitable treatment and resources for the unhoused.

VISION

Individuals and families living in their vehicles will have an expedited path to housing through a system that opens doors.

VALUES

- ✓ We strive for **CONNECTION** with others.
- ✓ We support individual **CHOICE**.
- ✓ We treat people with **DIGNITY, RESPECT, AND COMPASSION**.
- ✓ We act with **URGENCY** to make an impact.

ADDRESSING A GAP IN HOMELESS SERVICES

By employing underutilized parking lots, Safe Parking LA fills a gap in homeless services and addresses the unique problems faced by adults and families whose only source of shelter is their vehicle. Our programs provide safety through secure overnight parking, basic dignity by restoring much-needed access to restrooms and running water, and empowerment through strengths-based case management to facilitate pathways to stable housing.





WHO WE SERVE AND WHY

By Silvia M. Gutierrez, EML, Executive Director

In my two years as Executive Director of Safe Parking LA, vehicular homelessness has continued to rise due to high costs and the lack of affordable housing. More and more Angelenos are one emergency away from losing their homes. **According to the 2022 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, almost 20,000 people – representing 40% of the unsheltered population – live in their vehicles.**

Homelessness can happen to anyone due to a health diagnosis, job loss, natural disaster, or domestic violence. **People who come to Safe Parking LA for services often have jobs or income but cannot afford their homes and other expenses.** From an outside perspective, they may not appear to be struggling, but they are homeless because of circumstances that are many times out of their control.

Our program participants are young families like Maria, Edwin, and their baby, who could not secure a place in a shelter after losing their home. Their family sought refuge in our safe parking program, where they stayed for a month while we worked to connect them to housing that kept them all together.

They are also people like Barbara, who, at age 60, enrolled with Safe Parking LA after the Woolsey Fire destroyed her home. She never imagined that a natural disaster would lead to her experiencing homelessness. With our support, she was able to increase her income, save money, and find a room to rent.

I share their stories with you because **I believe a critical step in solving homelessness is understanding that its victims are often regular people who fall on hard times.** They lost a fundamental source of safety and stability – their homes – and come to us in moments of crisis. The face of homelessness is young, old, single, families, and Veterans.

As more households struggle financially in our current economy, Safe Parking LA has emerged as a vital lifeline addressing the unique needs of people experiencing vehicular homelessness. We hope that one day, our services won't be needed. Until such a time comes, we remain dedicated to providing safety, dignity, and a path back to stable housing for some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Silvia M. Gutierrez



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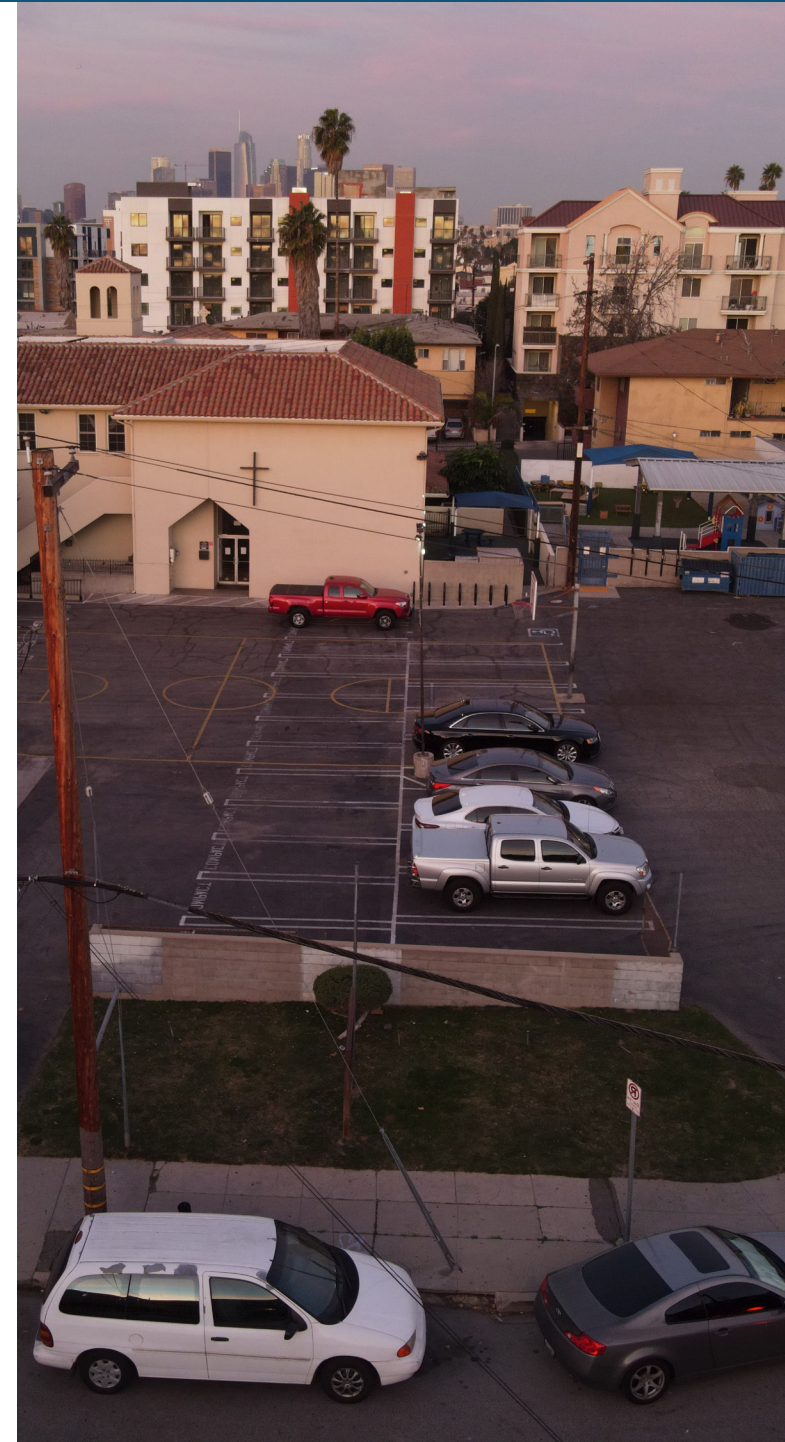
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Jeanene and TJ

By the time I realized what was going on, it was too late. We were evicted and my 18-year-old son and I were homeless.

We had been totally blindsided. Instead of using the money I made to pay rent, my roommate of many years started taking it for himself and hiding the eviction notices. The rent money was gone – and suddenly, we had nothing.

The shelters were full, so we slept in the car – me in the backseat and my son in the front – and showered at the gym. Throughout all of this, I held down my full-time job in healthcare. No one at work knew I was homeless.

I was scared to close my eyes at night, because I was worried someone would rob us or the police would tell us to leave. I knew there had to be a solution, so I searched the internet. I found an organization called Safe Parking LA, which arranges for people who sleep in their cars to park safely in their program. Within days, we took refuge in their Reseda program.

It was the first time I actually slept in a long time. From day one, the security guard made us feel welcome, like we had a kind protector. After fearing for our lives for so long, we were finally safe.

From that point, good things kept happening. Determined to turn our lives around, I picked up a couple more jobs, driving for Postmates and Uber on the weekends. With the help of Safe Parking LA, I finally saved up enough to get us an apartment, where my son and I still live today.



Our 5 Steps to Housing

1

Client Intake

A Warm Welcome.

We help clients assess their situation, explore resources to prevent homelessness, and enroll in the program.



2

Lot Operations

Supporting Dignity.

Our safe lots offer security and basic sanitation. Clients have access to mobile showers, laundry, and donated items and food.



5

Housing Stabilization

A Permanent Home.
We help clients find and keep a home through 90 days of housing retention support.



3

Case Management

Housing Focused Care.

Our case managers work with clients to goal plan, coordinate care, and advocate for a quick return to housing.

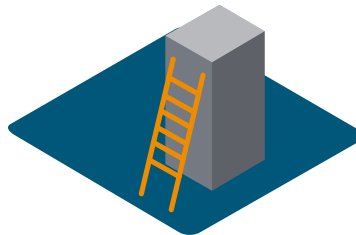


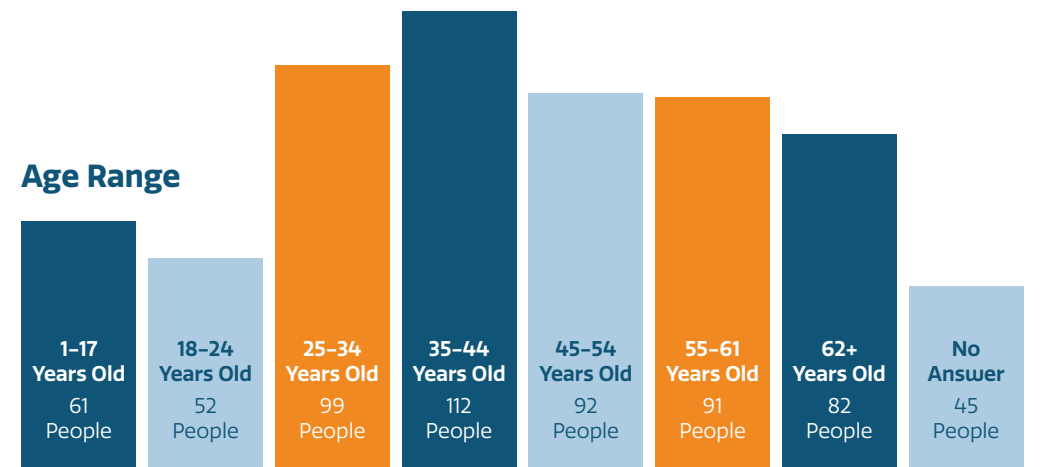
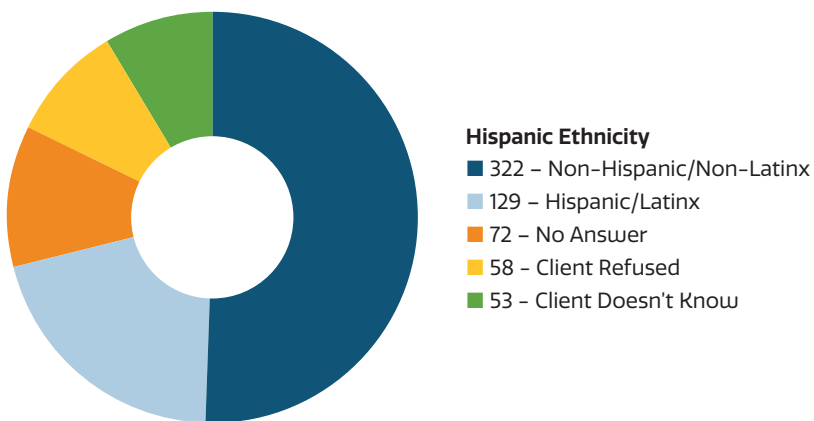
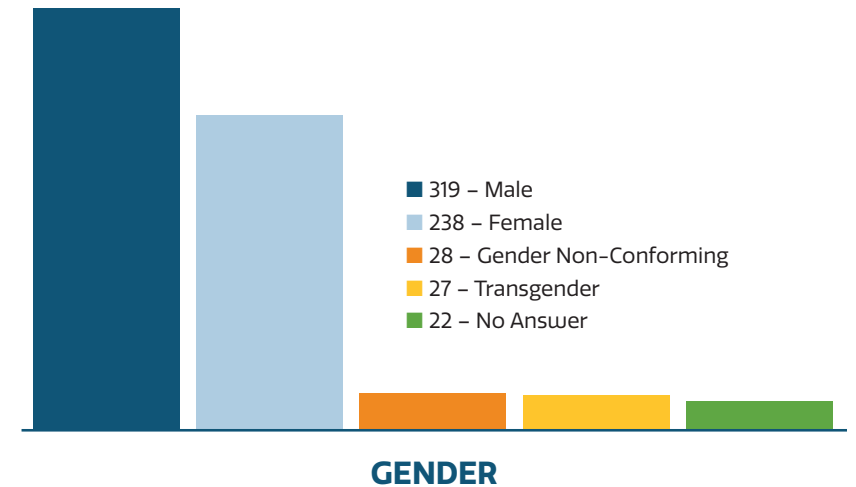
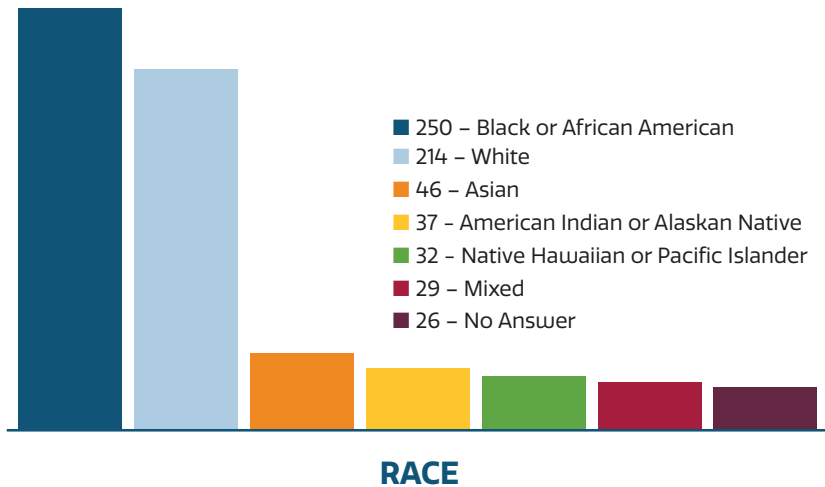
4

Financial Assistance

Removing Barriers.

Temporary financial assistance is available for vehicle maintenance, credit repair, and rental deposits.





**YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS:**

With the support of the community, Safe Parking LA served 61% more people and increased housing placements by 47% from the previous fiscal year.

**634**

Clients who parked safely overnight and got connected to case management services

**26,193**

Safe nights spent in our program

**160**

Clients who transitioned into housing

**69,144**

People who are homeless in Los Angeles today

**Nearly 40%**

of unsheltered homeless Angelenos live in their vehicles

**4.1%**

Rise in homelessness in LA County since 2020

Removing Barriers

We bring stability to clients through financial assistance.

588

Financial assistance awards to clients

194

Clients who received financial assistance awards

\$140,288

Total amount awarded

\$239

Average award

QUICK FACT

More than 34% of our clients are retirement age, 55+ years old.

Client Spotlight: Joseph

Joseph lost his apartment when his roommate moved out and couldn't cover rent on his own. He learned about safe parking through the library and enrolled with Safe Parking LA in July 2020.

"The services provided to me were fantastic. I wasn't living on the street – I was living in my car in a safe environment, provided with bathrooms and security guard. It enabled me to go to work, go to the gym, and come back into another safe environment at night. I was assisted on many levels. The case manager took care of me – she was personable, hands-on, communicative, expeditious. And within a year, she got me into housing and connected with funding, EBT, food. I got back into the flow of living again after about two years of living in my car.

I have Safe Parking LA to thank for all of this. I am back to normal. I have a job. I have a house. I eat healthy. I wake up in the morning and feel good about myself and about everything."





Thank you for your commitment! Together, we will continue to support people experiencing vehicular homelessness in their journey to becoming housed.

FUNDERS

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TRIBUTES

The following contributions were made to Safe Parking LA in tribute to friends & loved ones:

In honor of Stephen E. Breuer
Gary S. Cohn

In honor of Pat & Ira Cohen
Marnie Bodek & Ed Moss
Susan & Alan Greenberg
Steven Z. Heckler

In honor of Gary S. Cohn
Michael & Ronni Kopulsky

In honor of Nancy Hammerman
Marnie Bodek & Ed Moss
Peter Cowen
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In honor of Jordan Alexander Hannah
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In honor of Amelia Mu'mina Marie
Leslie Rennie-Hill

In honor of Robert Merchant
Clifton Merchant

In honor of Robert Norris
Monica Higgins
Kathy Norris

In memory of Bob Raban
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In memory of Randa Sue Sale
Patricia Glaser
Carolyn & Ronald J. Greitzer
Dana & Paul Kiesel
JES Charitable Account

In honor of Scott Sale
Paul Isaac

In memory of Joe Skyward
Chris Pellegrino

In honor of Paula Van Ness
Susan O'Brien
Steve Rabin & Jonathan Winslow

You have helped people experiencing homelessness make enormous, positive changes in their lives. The impact of your generosity will be felt for years to come.

We apologize for misspellings or omissions. Contact Carmela Carreño at carmelac@safeparkingla.org with changes.



To learn more about Safe Parking LA visit our website.

For more information about how to get involved with Safe Parking LA through partnership, volunteering, or donation, or to inquire about starting a safe parking program, contact:

Silvia Gutierrez, EML
Executive Director
silviag@safeparkingla.org

Andrew Morales
Deputy Executive Director
andrewm@safeparkingla.org

Aurea Baltazar, BSW
Director of Programs
aureab@safeparkingla.org

Carmela Carreño
Development Manager
carmelac@safeparkingla.org

Safe Parking LA
961 S. Mariposa Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90006
info@safeparkingla.org | (323) 210-3375
www.safeparkingla.org