



SAN DIEGO
HOUSING
COMMISSION

We're About People

San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC)

Agreement with Jewish Family Service to Operate a Safe Parking Program

Presentation to the SDHC Board of Commissioners
November 7, 2025

Casey Snell
Senior Vice President, Homelessness Housing Innovations
San Diego Housing Commission

Holly Nelson
Director of Administration, Homelessness Housing Innovations
San Diego Housing Commission



Safe Parking Program Introduction

- October 16, 2017: The City of San Diego first announced a Safe Parking Program as another City-funded strategy to address homelessness in San Diego.
- By June 2019, the City funded three Safe Parking Program locations—Balboa, Aero, and Mission Valley.
- Two additional locations have since been added—Rose Canyon in 2024 and H Barracks in 2025, bringing the total number of Safe Parking sites to five.



Safe Parking Program

Introduction (Continued)

- September 2024: City Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera asked SDHC to administer a contract for a new safe parking program at the former Central Elementary campus.
- San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) offered the site for a safe parking program for families experiencing homelessness with children attending schools within the district.
 - 8,308 SDUSD students (8% of total population) were experiencing homelessness in the 2023-2024 school year, according to the California Department of Education.
- There was insufficient funding available in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 to launch and sustain the proposed program.
- In its approval of the FY 2026 City budget, the City Council allocated funding for the safe parking program.
- Regional Task Force on Homelessness (RTFH) has allocated additional funds to support this project.
- October 28, 2025: SDUSD Board of Education approved a license agreement with SDHC for operation of the Safe Parking Program at a parking lot at the former Central Elementary campus.



Safe Parking Program

Program Overview

- Site: Parking lot at the vacant campus of the former Central Elementary School at 41st Street and University Avenue.
- The Safe Parking Program will provide a safe place to park overnight for a minimum of 40 families experiencing homelessness.
 - Safe, low-barrier program in City Heights
 - Alignment with Housing First principles
 - Program Operations: 6 p.m. – 7 a.m., seven days a week
 - Referrals are prioritized through the San Diego Unified School District



Proposed Safe Parking Program Site



Safe Parking Program Service Model

A housing-focused program that aims to resolve Program Clients' homelessness as quickly as possible. Related services include, but are not limited to:

- Determining diversion opportunities
- Assistance in locating permanent or other longer-term housing
- Completion of intakes and needs assessments
- Coordination with SDUSD's Homeless Liaison to coordinate services and support for the students and their families
- Coordination with and referrals to County of San Diego, State of California, and federal programs, as well as nonprofits and social service agencies, as appropriate
- Access to a classroom trailer at the program site for families to complete homework and prepare food
- Access to basic supplies, including hygiene products, basic first aid supplies, and cleaning supplies
- Hand washing stations, restrooms, and access to off-site showers



Safe Parking Program Operator Experience

- Jewish Family Service is a client-centered, impact-driven organization located in San Diego and founded in 1918.
- Serves more than 70,000 people every year by leveraging strong partnerships throughout the region to provide services including:
 - Food assistance
 - Transportation
 - Education
 - Career coaching
 - Employment
 - Advocacy
 - Counseling
 - Physical and mental wellness
 - Refugee and immigration
 - Permanent Supportive Housing
- Operates the City's five Safe Parking Programs and has the necessary expertise to operate this sixth program.



Moving Forward Together



Safe Parking Program

Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Agreement

- Operating Term : November 17, 2025, through November 16, 2026.
- SDHC is proposing to allocate \$563,350 to this program for operations.
- Remaining option year is contingent upon funds being made available for this purpose.

Funding Source	Funding By Use	November 2025- November 2026
City General Fund (GF)	Operator Agreement	\$237,500
RTFH	Operator Agreement	\$325,850
	TOTAL OPERATOR	\$563,350
City GF	SDHC Administrative Costs	\$12,500
RTFH	SDHC Administrative Costs	17,150
	TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$29,650



Safe Parking Program

Staff Recommendations

That the SDHC Board of Commissioners take the following actions:

- 1) Authorize SDHC to enter into a non-competitive, sole source agreement under Procurement Policy 9.1 with Jewish Family Service in the amount of \$563,350 for a 12-month term from November 17, 2025, through November 16, 2026, with a one-year option to renew, contingent on funds being available, for the operation of the Safe Parking Program at 4063 Polk Ave., San Diego, CA, 92105.
- 2) Authorize SDHC's President and Chief Executive Officer (President and CEO), or designee, to execute all documents and instruments that are necessary and/or appropriate to implement these approvals, in a form and format approved by General Counsel, and to take such actions necessary and/or appropriate to implement these approvals, provided that a copy of the documents, signed as to form by General Counsel, are submitted to each Housing Commissioner.
- 3) Authorize SDHC's President and CEO, or designee, to substitute funding sources and/or increase compensation by not more than 20 percent of the total agreement amount for the proposed agreement, if necessary, without further action by the SDHC Board or the Housing Authority of the City of San Diego, but only if and to the extent that funds are determined to be available for such purposes.



Safe Parking Program

Questions & Comments

