



Our Year of

WORKING TOGETHER TO END HOMELESSNESS

Questions and Answers, May 20, 2022
From the Street to Interim Housing

- 1. Question:** Of those who have returned to stable housing, do we know the number who remain housed in one year?

Answer: The County tracks "Returns to Homelessness" on a system level, but that is only for those who do not remain housed and return to request services. Specific programs may have some qualitative data on those who remain housed, but residents often do not remain in contact once housed.

- 2. Question:** What is the future for safe parking in Redwood City?

Answer: The Redwood City Safe Parking Program was designed to provide an alternative for unsheltered residents that were living on the streets in recreational vehicles (RV) at the time that the City was prohibiting overnight RV parking on the street. The program is on track to sunset as they transition program participants to permanent housing. Redwood City is next working on enhancing homeless outreach to connect unsheltered residents to services and resources including a Coordinated, Multi-Agency Homeless Outreach Strategy.

- 3. Question:** Are accessory dwelling units (ADUs) a possible solution for the County?

Answer: Yes! You can find resources online at the San Mateo County Second Unit Resources Center [here](#). The County Planning and Building Regulations can be found [here](#).

- 4. Question:** Was the Redwood City Safe Parking Program a pilot and will it be discontinued? What's next?

Answer: The Redwood City Safe Parking Program was designed to provide an alternative for unsheltered residents that were living on the streets in recreational vehicles (RV) at the time that the City was prohibiting overnight RV parking on the street. The program is on track to sunset as they transition program participants to permanent housing. Redwood City is next working on enhancing homeless outreach to connect unsheltered residents to services and resources including a Coordinated, Multi-Agency Homeless Outreach Strategy.

- 5. Question:** How do we bring this innovative program to more cities and locations in San Mateo County?

Answer: City leadership should contact The City of Redwood City and ask for information and tools to initiate a Safe Parking Program. More information about the parking program can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

6. Question: Do the Redwood City homeless statistics include North Fair Oaks?

Answer: No, not on the 2019 Unsheltered Count by City where Redwood City had a total of 221. Please refer to Geographic Information on Page 15 of the 2019 San Mateo County One Day Homeless Count and Survey report [here](#).

North Fair Oaks is part of the South County Unincorporated Area, along with Emerald Lake and West Menlo Park, which reported a total count of 7 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Read more about the 2019 One Day Homeless Count [here](#).

7. Question: The current policy seems to require people to get behind in rent before they can get rental assistance. Why can't we become a bit more proactive? If they must miss rental payments before assistance, this hurts their chances of getting a new place if they lose their current one.

Answer: Different programs have different policies. The State Housing is Key program covered rent owed and prospective rent up to March 31, 2022. There are some homeless prevention programs that serve those who are imminently homeless, meaning they may be losing their housing within 3 days. Clients should bring their current situation to a Core Service Agency to discuss the different programs they may be eligible for.

8. Question: Does the city provide the RVs on the Safe Parking site?

Answer: No, many of the participants in the Safe Parking program were already living in their RVs and parking on City Streets. More information about the parking program can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

9. Question: How do we address the issue of limited truly affordable housing supply/vouchers?

Answer: Please advocate in local cities for more ELI (Extremely Low Income) units whenever "affordable housing" is being considered.

10. Question: At Haven House, are the Children's Case Managers are different from their parent's Case Managers?

Answer: Yes, there are two staff who work with the parents and two who work with the children.

11. Question: What changes need to happen with mental health/substance use systems in San Mateo County, CA State, Feds to help resolve this large contributor to the homeless population.

Answer: From a city's point of view - more mental health clinicians in our communities. San Mateo County has open beds for substance use treatment. If you, a friend or a loved one needs substance use or mental health treatment, please call the Access Team at 800-686-0101.

12. Question: I am pleased to hear about faith-based partnerships, but I am hesitant to refer my clients who are part of faiths which are less represented. Do these faith-based organizations preach their own faith to those who they serve?

Answer: Each faith-based organization and congregation will have their own practices.

13. Question: How do we get people real help whose, for example, Schizophrenia, causes symptoms that keep them from being willing to get help when they are delusional/paranoid?

Answer: Please contact the County's Behavioral Health and Recovery Services:

<https://www.smchealth.org/new-client-information-english>

Resources Shared:

- Link to MidPen's Housing Element Guide: <https://www.midpen-housing.org/housing-element-best-practices/>
- A report referenced on Project Homekey: <https://turnercenter.berkeley.edu/research-and-policy/homekey-1-0-lessons-learned/>
- Human Services Agency Center on Homelessness: <https://www.smcgov.org/hsa/center-homelessness>
- See the following link for a list of Core Service Agencies by geography: <https://www.smcgov.org/hsa/core-service-agencies-emergency-safety-net-assistance>