



COLORADO **SAFE PARKING INITIATIVE**

Benefits of Safe Parking

Providing a safe, legal place to sleep provides stability on the path toward more permanent housing. Colorado Safe Parking Initiative is a citizen-led initiative to establish safe, legal parking locations for individuals and families experiencing homelessness who are living in vehicles in Colorado communities.

Programs improve outcomes for people experiencing homelessness:

- ▶ Increases safety, security and day-to-day stability
- ▶ Increases access to and utilization of services among an underserved population
- ▶ Increases employment and/or education opportunities
- ▶ Fosters a community of support among safe parking guests
- ▶ Provides improved rest, which can lead to better outcomes in areas such as physical and mental health and employment
- ▶ Prevents people from falling further into homelessness
- ▶ Provides a path to housing via housing navigation and coordinated entry

Services delivered via safe parking can include a wide range:

- ▶ Employment coaching and training
- ▶ Housing navigation and resource connection
- ▶ Clean drinking water, restrooms, showers and laundry
- ▶ Power and computer access
- ▶ Security and storage
- ▶ Mobile health and mental health care
- ▶ Pet care

Providing safe parking also benefits the community:

- ▶ Judicious use of taxpayer dollars
- ▶ Less disturbance of residents by unauthorized parking and vehicle loitering
- ▶ Reduced crime against people experiencing vehicular homelessness; safe parking guests also serve as protective members of the community
- ▶ Fewer issues with litter and human waste
- ▶ Reduction in road congestion from long-term vehicle parking
- ▶ Reduced systems costs associated with homelessness (e.g. police, health, waste)
- ▶ More public health, employment, and other intervention opportunities
- ▶ More comprehensive data on an underserved and undercounted population
- ▶ Funding opportunities via Emergency Solutions Grant or Community Development Block Grant funds