

Meeting the Urgent Crisis of Unsheltered Vehicular Homelessness

Matthew Tecle, Executive Director
February 27, 2025



Matthew Tecle

Executive Director, Safe Parking LA

Matthew Tecle leads Safe Parking LA with over 15 years of experience in the nonprofit and public sectors.

Before joining Safe Parking LA in June 2024, Matthew served as the Associate Director for City/County Coordination at the Department of Health Services Housing for Health. Matthew also led the Department of Public Health's first People Experiencing Homelessness Vaccination Unit.

Matthew holds a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of California Santa Cruz and a Master of Public Policy with a certificate in Philanthropy and Nonprofit Management from the University of Southern California.





About Safe Parking LA

Safe Parking LA employs underutilized parking lots to support the specific needs of Angelenos whose only source of shelter is their vehicle.

In addition to a safe parking spot overnight, we offer services to help stabilize clients sheltering in their vehicles, support their health and wellness, and open doors to housing.

Founded in 2017, Safe Parking LA has evolved to become the largest safe parking program in Los Angeles and the only provider of safe lots exclusively focused on vehicular homelessness. SPLA has permitted 2,500 vehicles since then.



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

For all individuals and families living in their vehicles to have an expedited path to housing through a system that opens doors.



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“Safe Parking LA helped me get back a sense of dignity and what was lost.”

-David, former participant

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Our Program

Services Provided

Our services are designed to meet the needs of our community, facilitate safety and stability, and provide an actionable roadmap for participants to return to permanent housing.



Community Warmline and Intake

With a warm welcome, we help clients assess their situation; explore resources; and enroll in the program.



Safe Parking Lot Operations

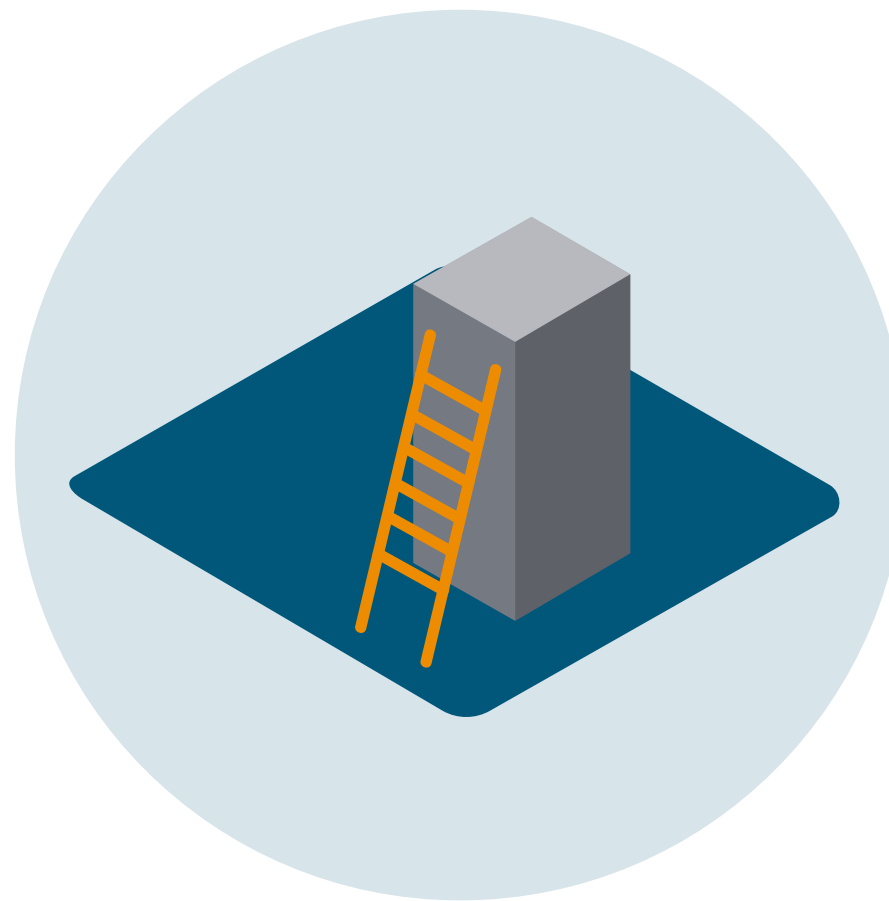
Our safe lots offer security and basic sanitation. Clients have access to mobile showers, laundry, and donated items and food when available.

Our Program



Case Management Resource Coordination

Our Case Managers offer housing-focused care to each of their clients by developing a housing stabilization plan; coordinating care; and advocating for a pathway to housing.



Emergency Funds and Financial Assistance

We aim to remove barriers by providing participants with temporary financial assistance for vehicle maintenance, credit repair, and rental deposits.



Referrals and linkages to housing

The ultimate objective is for participants to secure a permanent residence by utilizing 90 days of support for housing retention.



Service Areas

1. Downtown Los Angeles - Figueroa
2. Hollywood – NOT IN SERVICE
3. LAX – La Cienega
4. National
5. Reseda
6. Veterans Affairs West LA
7. West Los Angeles - Iowa

7

nights/week

365

days/year



41,653 Safe Nights

spent in our program

431 Unique Participants

parked safely overnight and got connected to case management services

390 Financial Awards

distributed to participants to help with hardships

\$177,040 Total Amount

awarded in financial assistance and gift cards

174 Participants

transitioned into a positive housing outcome

47% Placement Rate

achieved for participants who exited the program

We Need Your Help!

LAHSA's 2024 Point in Time Count found over 23,000 people are experiencing vehicular homelessness in LA County. Programs such as safe parking provide safe, legal, and preventative services to keep people from further deepening within their crisis.

Innovative programs such as safe parking provide a much needed entry point for those experiencing vehicular homelessness who have very specific needs that are unique to this population.



Contact



Matthew Tecle

Executive Director

matthewt@safeparkingla.org

Community Warmline

[\(323\) 210-3375](tel:(323)210-3375)

intakes@safeparkingla.org