



Anchorage
Health
Department

Sanctioned Camp Research

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Presenter

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Overview

- National Guidance
 - U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
 - National League of Cities
- Sanctioned Camp Types
 - Dignity Village
 - Urban Alchemy
 - Mesilla Valley Community of Hope
 - Safe Parking Areas
 - Pallet Homes
- Resources

National Guidance

Overview

Although organizations and government entities take a wide variety of positions on ‘sanctioned encampments’, allowing individuals experiencing homelessness to camp legally in a city-approved location is common practice across the U.S.

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

When *responding to encampments*, consider these principles:

1. Establish a Cross-Agency, Multi-Sector Response
2. Engage encampment residents to develop solutions
3. Conduct coordinated outreach
4. Address basic needs and provide storage

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

Before creating sanctioned camps, be aware that they:

1. By themselves are not a long-term solution
2. Can be costly in money, staff time, and effort
3. Can prove difficult to manage and maintain
4. They can be difficult to close once they open

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

Suggestions:

1. Continue exploring ways to create more effective indoor shelter or crisis housing options
2. Plan and budget for how campers will exit homelessness to permanent housing
3. Aim high to provide a high-quality environment
4. Assess outcomes, impact, and cost-effectiveness

National League of Cities

Response to encampments:

CLEARANCE WITH LITTLE-TO-NO SUPPORT

Provide little-to-no notice of a sweep or clearing of an encampment, and no referrals to services or housing

1

CLEARANCE WITH SOME SUPPORT

Provide ample notice of a sweep, and referral to housing or services

2

TACIT ACCEPTANCE

Allow encampments to exist regardless of law or ordinances explicitly authorizing or prohibiting their existence, and provide basic infrastructure such as portable toilets and showers

3

FORMAL SANCTIONING

Permit an encampment by law or ordinance on public or privately owned property, and provide infrastructure and public services such as laundry, potable water, lockers for the storage of belongings, and meal services

4

National League of Cities

“Sanctioning encampments is not an alternative to providing services and permanent housing, but can ameliorate the conditions of living on the streets.”

National League of Cities

Recommendations:

- End the criminalization of homelessness
- Develop constructive encampment policies
- Leverage a wide range of partners to serve individuals living in encampments

Sanctioned Camp Models

Dignity Village (Portland)



Dignity Village (Portland)



Dignity Village (Portland)

- Operating since 2000
- Capacity is 60 residents
- Started as a grassroots movement, became 'sanctioned' by the local government
- Contract with the City of Portland
- Must show proof of COVID-19 vaccination, agree to rules
- Extensive list of rules/responsibilities for clients

City funded? **No**

Urban Alchemy (San Francisco-based)

Safe Sleeping Villages



Urban Alchemy (San Francisco-based)

Overview

- Villages operate like low-barrier homeless shelters, but outdoors
- Provider on-site 24/7
- Low barrier, but with basic rules

City funded? **Yes**

Urban Alchemy (San Francisco-based)

Details

- Capacity is 75-100 people (usually 50-100 tents)
- Every tent gets a 12'x12' space with a palette
- 6 feet between tents, set up in rows with tent doors facing the same direction
- Outdoor area (picnic tables etc.), office trailer, shower and restroom trailer

Urban Alchemy (San Francisco-based)

Details (continued)

- 1:15 restroom to person ratio
- Fenced to protect campers
- Every tent gets a 12'x12' space with a palette
- 2-3 meals/day, delivered and reheated
- 'Wellness Checks'
 - General check every 2 hours
 - Check every 30 minutes for people using opioids

Mesilla Valley Community of Hope (Las Cruces, NM)



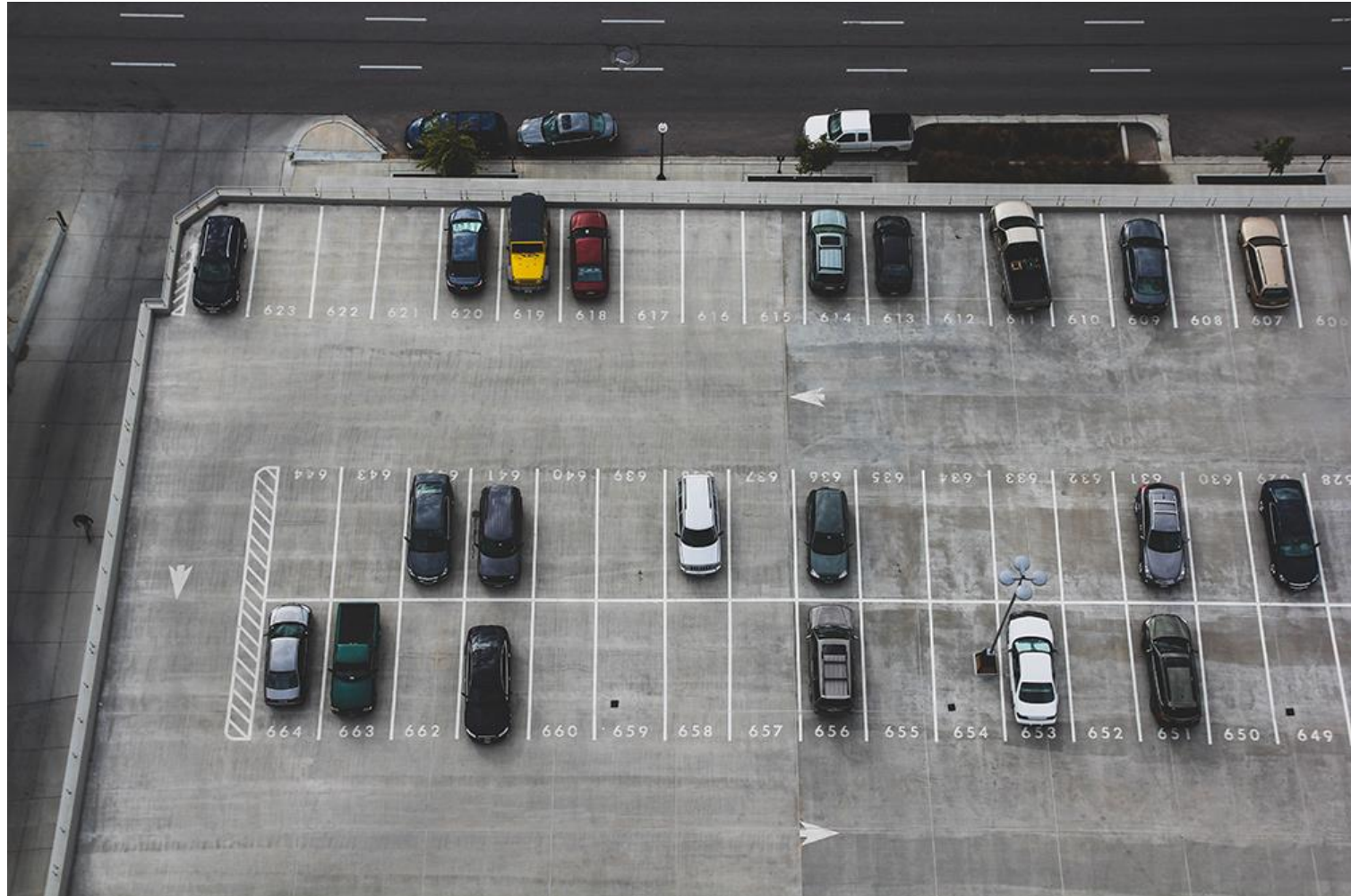
Mesilla Valley Community of Hope (Las Cruces, NM)

- Capacity is about 50 people
- Bathrooms, laundry facilities, and a kitchen on-site
- Several 3-sided structures protect from the cold and wind
- Located on a campus that has services such as:
 - Internet, intensive case management, library and resource room, homeless legal clinic, etc.

City funded? **No**

Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

Safe Parking Program



Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

- Target population: individuals experiencing homelessness who have vehicles
- Safe parking program provides basic services including:
 - Access to a safe parking lot with onsite security and restrooms
 - Referrals to community resources
 - Access to case management

City funded? **Yes**

Pallet Shelters



Pallet Shelters / Tiny Home



 Pallet Shelter Tour

Pallet Shelters

- Each shelter can be assembled in under one hour
- 10+ year lifespan for each unit
 - Can withstand 25-50 lbs/square foot of snow load
 - Can accommodate temperatures as low as -40 degrees F
- Shelters can be moved or stored in panelized form
- No foundation required, as long as ground is relatively level
- Require hookup to power grid, generator, or solar panels

Pallet Shelters

Image from Pallet's website



Pallet Shelters—Products



Shelter 64

Durable and insulated sleeping cabin for up to two beds.



Community Room

Access meals and services.



Services Office

Desk space with shelving for supplies.



Bathroom

Showers, toilets, and sinks for your community.



Shelter 100

House up to four beds.



Resources

Sanctioned Encampment Initial Planning Checklist



INITIAL PLANNING AND SET-UP CHECKLIST



FOOD HANDLING AND MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST



HEALTH AND HYGIENE CHECKLIST

Sanctioned Encampment Initial Planning Checklist



INITIAL PLANNING AND SET-UP CHECKLIST

Design and Planning

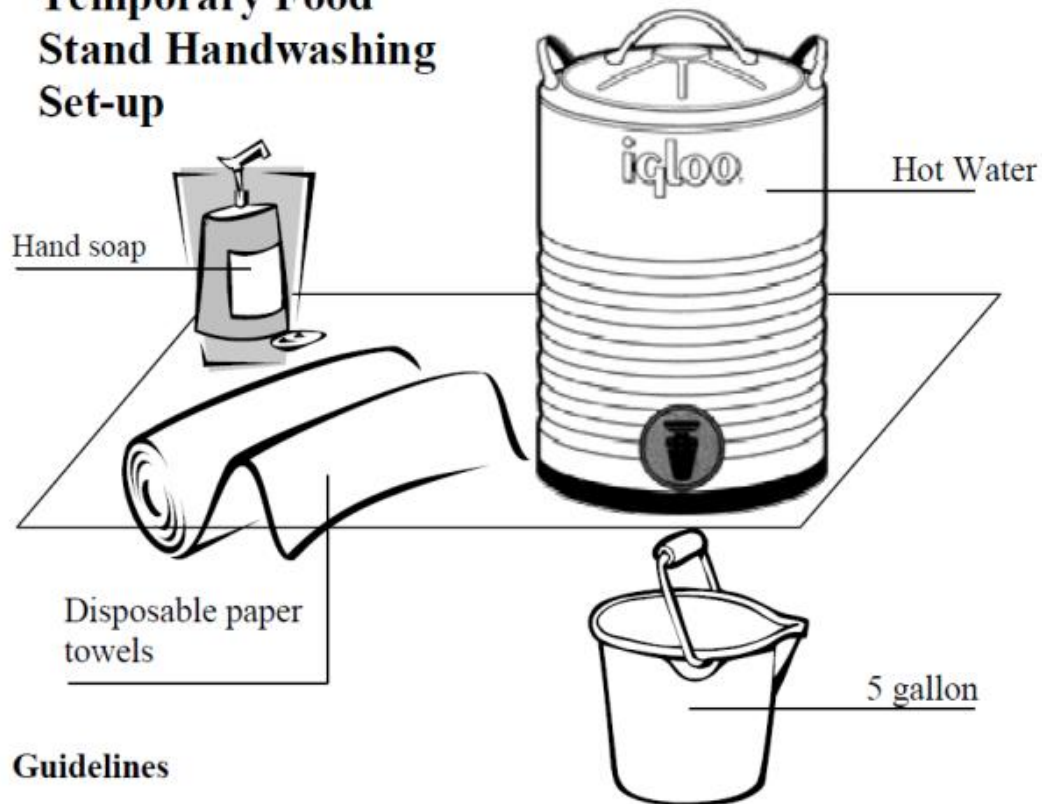
	1 area containing all food storage and food prep tent
	1 area providing privacy where patients and health service providers can meet
	Secured area for potable water storage and heating, showers, laundry
	Secured area for dry supplies storage: blankets, clothing, food and First Aid
	Vegetation cleared inside and at least 10 feet surrounding camp
	Sleeping structures/tiny houses on pallets raised on cinder block "posts" (see platform
	Designated area for walking dogs with a supply of pet waste bags and garbage can
	Designated sharps storage area that can be locked to prevent theft
	Sleeping structures/houses should have closures that can keep pets inside the sleeping
	3-4 foot wide aisles, all sleeping structures accessible by emergency services, ADA accessibility
	Covered storage areas for fuel canisters and tanks

Sanctioned Encampment Initial Planning Checklist

Supplies needed:

- 5 gallon or larger gravity flow, insulated container
- Warm water
- Bucket for catching waste water
- Soap
- Paper towels
- Hand Sanitizer

Temporary Food Stand Handwashing Set-up

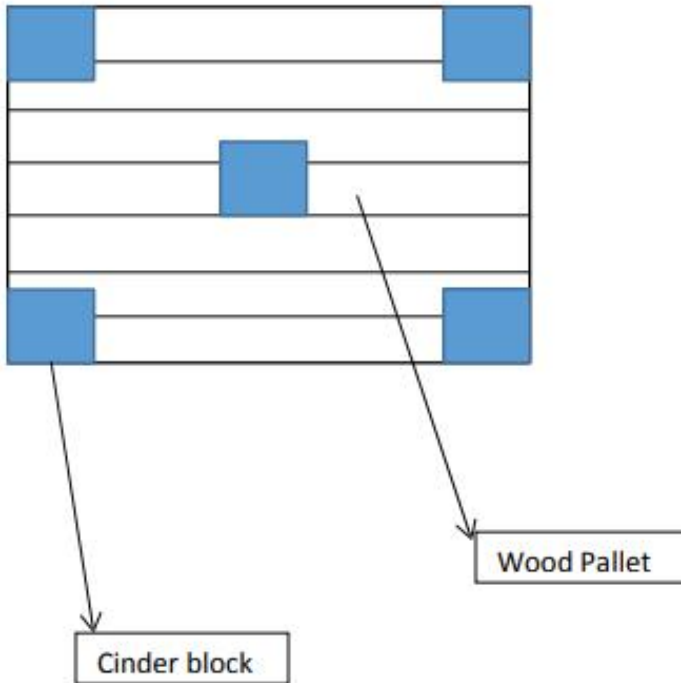


Guidelines

Sanctioned Encampment Initial Planning Checklist

Appendix C: Platform Design and Diagram for Sleeping Structures

Sleeping structures and housing units should be placed on cinder blocks with pallets to support the unit and keep residents off the ground.



Press Release from Seattle

- Provides clear details about the city's Encampment Ordinance
- FAQ page answers common questions about timeline, public safety, etc.

Press Release from Seattle

Mayor Murray's Encampment Ordinance

Mayor Murray's Operating Principles of Public Lands Encampment Ordinance:

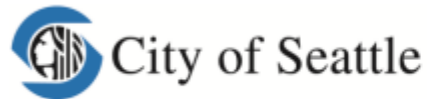
1. Aim to expand options for encampments
2. Minimize neighborhood impacts
3. Retain best practices related to ending homelessness

Topic	Mayor's Proposed Ordinance
Operator	City or private party with prior experience managing shelters, low-income housing, or homeless encampments
Location	City-owned or private property* in non-residential zones (Industrial, Downtown, Seattle Mixed, Commercial 1, Commercial 2, Neighborhood Commercial 2, Neighborhood Commercial 3) <i>*Not allowed on unopened right-of-way or parks</i>
Location near transit	Within one-half mile of transit stop
Operations plan	Written encampment operations plan required from the encampment operator addressing provision of human services, site management and maintenance, and security. Plan requirements are listed in and adopted by DPD Director's Rule , in consultation with HSD, including human service requirements.
Permit type/Notice & Community outreach requirements	"Type I" Master Use Permit with no notice or opportunity to appeal to the City Hearing Examiner. Outreach requirements, including a Community Advisory Committee and methods for handling community complaints, operations standards for encampment, and notification process for transition from one site to another to be established by HSD and DPD joint Director's Rule.
Duration of stay	Maximum of 1 year with 12 month interval before return to same site allowed – option for conditional renew for 12 additional months.
Maximum number of occupants	100
Dispersion between encampments	One mile minimum between sites including dispersion from encampments on religious property (encampments on religious property and encampments of fewer than ten persons are exempt)
Number of encampments allowed	No more than three encampments with up to a maximum of 300 inhabitants at any one time.

Press Release from Seattle

Lot size	5,000 square feet or larger and minimum of 100 square feet per encampment occupant
Buffers/Screening	Encampment site lot line must be 25 feet from residentially-zoned lot. Lot may be closer than 25 feet as long as all encampment facilities and activities are at least 25 feet from a residentially zoned lot and is screened along all boundaries except on a public street.
Parking	1 space for each vehicle used as shelter and 1 space for every two staff on-site at peak staffing times
Health and safety standards	Observe requirements of Public Health Department, same as SMC Section 23.42.054 standards for sites owned or operated by religious organizations
Inspections	Officials of Public Health Dept, Fire Dept. and DPD to be allowed to inspect outdoor and plainly visible areas with no prior notice.
Service Requirements	Human service providers contracted by City (social workers, etc.) to be allowed access to site to provide outreach services
Sunset Provision for Code Provision	Five years
Insurance	Operator to maintain liability insurance for encampment on City-owned property; indemnification agreement between operator and City for liability/loss
HMIS data collection	Recital states: WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Mayor and the City Council that any encampment operator seeking City funding for operations or a lease agreement for use of any designated City-owned properties to site an encampment would be required to participate in the City's Homelessness Management Information System as managed by the Human Services Department;

Press Release from Seattle



What oversight will be provided at the encampment sites?

The encampment operators are responsible for safety and security within the camp. Residents are screened for acceptance and must follow camp rules in order to stay. Banned residents will not be allowed to return to camp or to camp in proximity to the City-owned sites. Staff from the City's Human Services Department will make regular site visits to any City-owned encampment. Additionally, the case management provided will be on-site regularly along with public health, mobile medical outreach and food and meal providers.

What if neighbors have a concern or question related to an encampment, who do they contact?

The operator will meet with the community at least once before applying for a transitional encampment permit. In addition, they are required to establish an on-going Community Advisory Committee who can provide input on encampment operations.

Neighbors can also contact the Human Services Department: Kim von Henkle, 206-615-1573 or Kim.vonhenkle@seattle.gov

How will public safety be addressed?

Seattle Police Department will be made aware of each encampment location and will provide community policing support to the encampment residents and the neighborhood as a whole. SHARE and Nickelsville regularly participate in community meetings in an effort to support public safety.

How can I support the encampment in my area?

Operation Sack Lunch (206) 922-2015 is a great organization that delivers meals to encampments as part of their mission. Supporting OSL is perfect way to support the nutritional needs of campers. The encampments will have ongoing needs for supplies such as water, propane, bedding, tents, storage containers, and nonperishable snack foods.

Additional Resources

1. *COVID-19 Safe Sleep Program: Manual and Guidance for Site Operators* (City and County of San Francisco)

(See PDF attachment)

2. *Understanding Encampments of People Experiencing Homelessness and Community Responses* (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research)

<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/Understanding-Encampments.pdf>

3. *Infectious Disease Toolkit for Continuums of Care: Preventing and Managing the Spread of Infectious Disease within Encampments* (from HUD Exchange)

<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Infectious-Disease-Toolkit-for-CoCs-Preventing-and-Managing-the-Spread-of-Infectious-Disease-for-People-Experiencing-Homelessness.pdf>

4. *Sanctioned Homeless Encampment Request for Proposals* (Athens-Clarke County, GA)

<https://www.accgov.com/DocumentCenter/View/79618/Sanctioned-Homeless-Encampment-RFP>

5. *Sanctioned Encampments Forum 2022* (National Homelessness Law Center)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VppJS_f8OIk

6. *'Go Ahead and Vote Me Out': What Other Places Can Learn from Santa Rosa's Tent City* (California Healthline)

<https://californiahealthline.org/news/article/covid-california-homeless-housing-experiment-santa-rosa-tent-city/>

7. *Missoula County Temporary Safe Outdoor Space* (Missoula, MT)

[Temporary Safe Outdoor Space \(TSOS\) | Missoula County, MT](#)

8. Local News Videos about Sanctioned Encampments (Oakland, Seattle, Athens)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kp_yDu2nqSA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CCGbqNfay4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aclo3ZYPPhA>

Questions?



Thank you!



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