

Safe Parking Fall Fest



Day Center - Living Room



Heroes and Helpers Event

The Bellevue Safe Parking Pilot Program

Operated by 4 Tomorrow

Six Month Report



Day Center - Dining Room



Day Center - Kitchen



Safe Parking Fall Fest

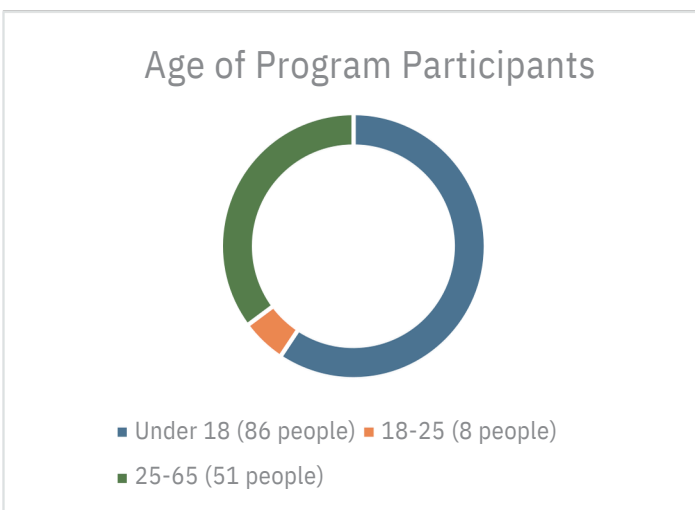


"I don't know what I would have done without 4 Tomorrow and Safe Parking. My family is forever grateful."

- Safe Parking Participant

Program Launch

After a rigorous RFP process, the City of Bellevue selected 4 Tomorrow to facilitate the City's first Safe Parking Pilot Program. Throughout spring of 2024, 4 Tomorrow and the City of Bellevue worked together to complete renovations to the Lincoln Center facility, ultimately opening the doors to program participants for the first time on May 10th.



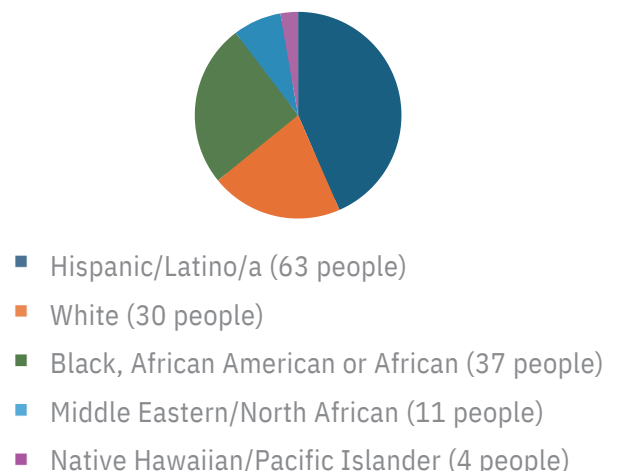
4 Tomorrow designed the program to cater to families with children living in their vehicles, offering on site services that are child-safe and family accessible, including a working kitchen, access to multiple restroom facilities, laundry facilities, several separate spaces with couches, tables, and other furniture to create a more home-like environment. 4 Tomorrow prioritized safety and security on site, installing security cameras, hiring on site security staff, conducting background checks for all participants, and establishing a 24/7 line for participants and concerned neighbors to call when needed.

Clientele Served

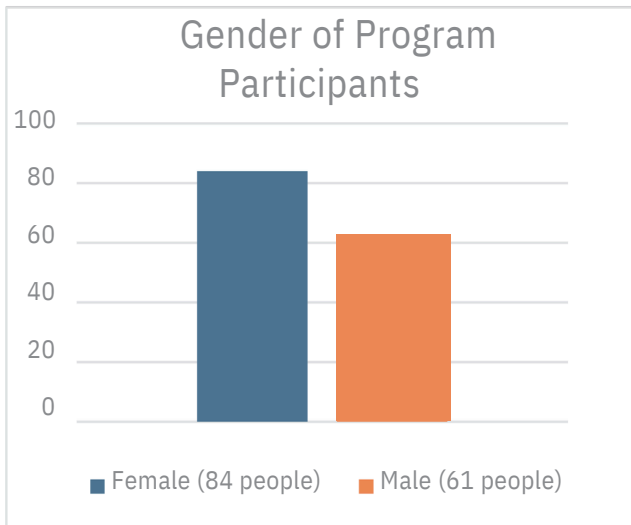
To date, the Safe Parking Program has served 40 households and 145 total people. The population of individuals served primarily identify as female (58%), are young (59% are younger than 18), and are from communities of color (79%).

Most children living with their parents in the Safe Parking program are enrolled in local schools. 45 were enrolled in Bellevue School District, 12 in Lake Washington School District, 19 in other school districts, and 10 in local childcare (for preschool-aged children and younger). Common referral sources include the City of Bellevue's Homelessness Outreach Program, Bellevue School District, local family shelter Mary's Place, and neighboring safe parking programs.

Race of Program Participants

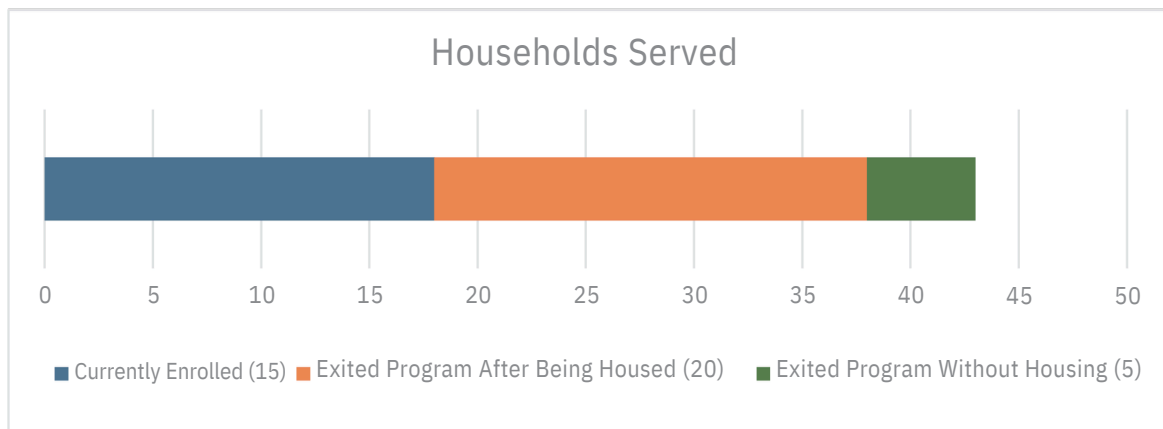


Client Outcomes



25 families that completed background checks and spent at least one night on site have exited the program. Of the 25 families that have exited, 20 have exited to stable housing, an 80% success rate. The 20 households that have found housing with 4 Tomorrow's help include 30 adults and 45 children, a total of 75 people. 12 of the families housed moved into some form of permanent-leased housing, five moved into transitional housing programs, and three found a room to rent in a shared house. Families that exited the program without housing chose to continue living in their vehicle or seek assistance elsewhere.

The average length of stay for families who have exited the program is 58 days. Of participants still enrolled in the program, some have been enrolled for nearly the length of the program, with one family enrolled since 5/10 and another enrolled since 5/24. Both of these families have had significant barriers to housing that the Safe Parking program has worked with them to help them overcome, including engaging in the complex process of transferring eligibility for a housing voucher, and eliminating over \$15,000 of past housing debt. Both of these households are expected to exit the program into permanent housing in the coming months.



In addition to helping households find housing, 4 Tomorrow has helped connect families to a number of other stabilizing services, including help finding employment, childcare, and other supportive services. A quick snapshot of other services provided to the families involved in the program is listed below:

- 17 families referred for childcare vouchers
- 10 families connected to government food assistance
- 14 individuals received mental health services from 4 Tomorrow
- 11 households had at least one person gain employment



“This is the first time in a long time I have felt safe and welcome anywhere.”

- Safe Parking Participant

Community Engagement and Connectedness

As the Safe Parking pilot neared launch, City staff visited businesses neighboring the Lincoln Center to explain the intent of the program and respond to any concerns raised. Based on the feedback of the community, the City included in the professional services contract that 4 Tomorrow maintain a publicly available 24/7 line for concerned residents to contact, and that they track any concerns expressed. All neighbors on 116th Ave NE between NE 4th St. and NE 8th St. were sent a letter with information about who to contact should concerns arise, including the 24/7 number 4 Tomorrow maintains. To date, there have been no recorded concerns or complaints registered in the community. Bellevue Police Department and Fire have been called out to the site four times, once for a participant health concern, once for a security alarm that a program participant accidentally set off, and twice for suspicious activity unrelated to the safe parking program.

Additionally, 4 Tomorrow has had positive support from community members, including community meals and volunteer days coordinated by City of Bellevue staff, a Fall Fest coordinated by Common Good, a local church partner, and various community holiday events facilitated by partner organizations including Amazon and The Bellevue Police Foundation. There have also been several community partners working regularly to provide essentials and enrichment for program participants and the site.

“Even though I am getting housing, can I come back and visit?”

- Safe Parking Participant

Looking Forward

At program launch, 4 Tomorrow and the City of Bellevue agreed to prioritize families living in vehicles, and households living in passenger vehicles. With very few exceptions, the program has served that population exclusively. 4 Tomorrow and City Homelessness Outreach staff will work to appropriately and safely expand the array of clients served by the program to address additional community needs.

The current contract between the City of Bellevue and 4 Tomorrow has been extended through June 2025. Funding to extend the program until the end of 2026 is included in the City’s 2025-2026 budget, with a City Council session to discuss next steps planned for Q1 of 2025. The current site for the Safe Parking program, the City of Bellevue-owned Lincoln Center, will ultimately be demolished, and eventually serve as a part of the City’s Grand Connection. Currently, the City plans to begin demolition in 2026, meaning that for the program to continue beyond 2025, City staff will have to work to identify a new location for the Safe Parking program.

