

Program Name: Vehicularly Housed Associations

Your name and date: Eileen Morris, Jan. 30

Program Evaluation Template - This template is to be used as an evaluation tool during our program investigation. The questions are designed to assist in determining what elements of each program we want to consider for incorporation into our programs. Feel free to add additional notes as you use the template. This template is the foundation for your presentation about the program you have researched. (Version #4)

Program or Concept Purpose or Mission Statement:

The concept behind this program is that existing shelters are inadequate and that homeless people living in their cars are subject to victimization and all kinds of legal hassles and expenses. As far as I can tell, camping in your car outside of a campground is legal only in Eugene, Oregon. In most cities, sleeping in your car can put you at risk for towing, fines, and even jail time. Having your home towed away results in a world of problems: loss of property, huge tow and storage fees, and credit history problems when bills don't get paid. The San Francisco Homeless Coalition has a proposal to the City of San Francisco to create a "neighborhood association"/campground in China Basin. From the record of minutes on the city website, the proposal appears to be languishing.

Principles or Values

The current shelter system is inadequate. People who are forced to live in their cars should not be at risk for crime, legal problems, loss of property and fines. Instead, they should be able to create a community for themselves where they can get back on their feet or subsist comfortably.

Program Structure or Key Points:

A complete description of the proposal is at www.sf-homeless-coalition.org/vhradescription.html. Basically, the coalition wants to take a lot in China Basin, divide it into spaces—a la a mobile home park—add showers, toilets and a community kitchen. Additionally, classrooms, a community room and a staff trailer might be added. The campground would be open to the very low income (35 percent of median area income). Rules of operation are to be developed by a consortium of interested nonprofits. The program would be open to people who had lived in SF for at least 30 days and had their vehicles registered in SF. Every resident would participate in maintenance of the site and pay a small tenant fee for maintenance costs.

How does the program define or measure success? (What evidence does the program provide to show success?)

The program measures how many people sleep safely at night.

Describe a successful participant

Someone who is able to sleep in safety and relative privacy in the company of family and/or partners. The association would also allow pets.

At what level would a participant enter the program?

Complete the table below.

Program Approach (Application)	Method (How it's used?)	Outcome (What would it look at COTS?)	Measurement (How do we measure success?)
Human Growth & Transformation	The program meets basic needs for comfort and security—which makes it more likely that participants will want to make changes in their lives.	This would depend on who we were serving.	The program would measure how many people sleep safely at night.
Staff Interaction with Clients	Open-ended. At a minimum, staff would screen residents, collect maintenance fees and schedule work assignments.	It might look like a combination of the Faith Based program and the Emergency Shelter.	We would be successful when we provided a clear program to churches and when we screened out potential problem clients.
Client-to-Client Interaction	An auto campground offers the opportunity for a lot of client-to-client interaction. People are allowed to hang out there during the day, so there's a lot of social contact. Also, campers can graduate to staff positions. All campers have to do chores and attend meetings.	It might look a lot like the Opportunity Center.	We would want to encourage clients to take leadership roles at the campground and to interact peaceably.

Client Self-Help	A campground would help lay the groundwork for clients to help themselves.		The number of clients who thrive over the winter.
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Does this promote a responsible and accountable lifestyle? How?

This depends on how it's structured.

What are the client decision points in this program? (Are they clear and identifiable?)

When the rules of conduct are developed, this will become clearer.

What would you change to make the program or concept more useful in our setting?

The program is not established, so it's impossible to say.

Additional Issues:

- **Staffing Requirements** (Any additional staff? Any staff training requirements?)

This would depend on how the program was structured, but it would definitely require more staff and many more volunteers.

- **Aftercare**

I would see a campground as being a complement to our emergency shelters.

- **Costs**

The biggest costs would be related to sanitation.

What pieces of the program or concept do you see useful for COTS?

I like that it allows a secure home base.

How do you see this working in our effort?

See above.

What makes you feel uneasy about this program or concept?

I think we'd want to find an out-of-the-way campground.

Sources:

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various newspaper articles