



Drug Free Anaheim

- **What:** city of Anaheim program, led by the Anaheim Police Department, connecting drug users with treatment options as a potential alternative to arrest and prosecution
- **Why:** to bring a preventive, healing approach to drug dependency as part of Anaheim Mayor Tom Tait's City of Kindness initiative
- **Start date:** January 2017
- **Participants:** As of December 2018, 418 people have taken part in the program
- **How it works:**
 - Those seeking help can come to any Anaheim Police facility or approach any officer, police department or city employee and ask about the program
 - They will be referred to Anaheim's nonprofit partner, Covina-based Social Model Recovery Systems Inc., to determine eligibility and identify treatment options
 - Drug users can also reach out directly to Social Model Recovery
- **Who is eligible:**
 - Someone seeking help for a drug problem
 - Those on parole or probation, *with parole or probation officer approval*
 - Those under 18, *with parent or guardian permission*
- **Who is not eligible:**
 - Those with outstanding arrest warrants — exceptions may be made for minor offenses with the approval of the prosecuting attorney overseeing the case
 - Those convicted of one of the following serious drug offenses: drug sales or transportation, possession for sale or a violation within a school zone
 - Registered sex offenders or those with a history of sex-related offenses
- **Why eligibility:** to protect the program's intent, which is to respond to good-faith efforts of someone seeking treatment and not be a way around serious drug charges, outstanding warrants or violent crimes
- **Sobriety:** Those seeking help ideally should be sober enough to make decisions about treatment and not pose a danger to himself, herself or others

- **Nonprofit partner:** Covina-based Social Model Recovery Systems Inc., a provider of drug treatment at 12 locations in Los Angeles and Orange County and operator of a drug prevention program on Skid Row
- **Anaheim contract:** one-year agreement valued at \$83,845 with three optional one-year extensions, not to exceed \$400,000 in four years; approved by City Council on Dec. 20, 2016
- **Funding:** narcotics asset forfeiture funds
- **History:** introduced at Mayor Tait's State of the City address, February 2016
- **Model:** Angel program started in June 2015 in Gloucester, Mass., offering "help rather than handcuffs" to drug users who request treatment
- **Why:** a fishing town of 30,000, Gloucester has been hard hit by the opioid-abuse crisis
- **Results:** From June 2015 to May 2016, Gloucester's Angel program provided assistance on 429 occasions to 376 users, including some who sought help more than once, according to a December 2016 New England Journal of Medicine study
- **Impact:** as of June 2016, drug-related crime in Gloucester is down 27 percent from a year earlier and fatal opioid overdoses are down from five to one from a year earlier, according to the Gloucester Police Department
- **Adoption:** More than 150 police agencies in 28 states have adopted programs similar to Gloucester's