



Drug Free Anaheim

- **What:** city of Anaheim program connecting drug users with treatment options as a potential alternative to arrest and prosecution
- **Why:** as part of Anaheim's larger efforts to address homelessness and the impacts of drug abuse
- **Start date:** January 2017
- **Participants:** as of January 2020, more than 550 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

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- **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
- **Model:** Angel program started in June 2015 in Gloucester, Mass., offering “help rather than handcuffs” to drug users who request treatment