

**California Department of Social Services
2018 Proposed Trailer Bill Language**

Title: Home Safe Program

SECTION 1. Chapter 14 (Commencing with Section 15767) is added to Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

Chapter 14. Home Safe Program

15767. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) “Adult protective services” has the same meaning as defined in Section 15610.10.
- (b) “Eligible individual” means any individual that, at a minimum, meets all of the following conditions:
 - (1) Is an adult protective services client.
 - (2) Is homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness as a result of elder or dependent abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation, as determined by the adult protective services agency, in partnership with their local homeless Continuum of Care.
 - (3) Voluntarily agrees to participate in the program.
- (c) “Homeless or at risk of homelessness” means any of the following:
 - (1) Lacking a fixed or regular nighttime residence and either of the following:
 - (A) Having a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised publically or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations.
 - (B) Residing in a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
 - (2) In receipt of a judgment for eviction, as ordered by the court.
 - (3) In receipt of a pay rent or quit notice, or who will otherwise imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that all of the following are true:
 - (A) Their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance.
 - (B) No subsequent residence has been identified, including, but not limited to, individuals exiting medical facilities, long-term care facilities, prisons, and jails.
 - (C) The individual lacks the resources or support networks, including, but not limited to, family, friends, faith-based or other social networks needed to obtain other permanent housing.
- (d) “Multidisciplinary personnel team” has the same meaning as defined in Section 15610.55.
- (e) “Permanent housing” means a place to live without a predetermined limit on the length of stay subject to landlord-tenant laws pursuant to Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 1940) of Title 5 of Part 4 of Division 3 of the Civil Code.
- (f) “Program” means the Home Safe Program established pursuant to this chapter.

(g) “Supportive housing” has the same meaning as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 50675.14 of the Health and Safety Code, except that the program is not restricted to serving only projects with five or more units.

15767.1. (a) Subject to an appropriation of funds for this purpose in the annual Budget Act, the department shall award grants to counties or tribes, or groups of either, that provide services to elder and dependent adults who experience abuse, neglect, and exploitation and otherwise meet the eligibility criteria for adult protective services, for the purpose of providing housing-related supports to eligible individuals.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), this section does not create an entitlement to housing-related assistance, which is to be provided at the discretion of the grantee as a service to eligible individuals.

(c) (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that housing-related assistance provided pursuant to this article utilize evidence-based practices in homeless assistance and prevention, including housing risk screening and assessments, housing first, rapid rehousing, and supportive housing.

(2) Housing-related supports and services available to participating individuals may include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(A) An assessment of each individual’s housing needs, including a plan to assist them in meeting those needs, consistent with the case plan as developed by the Adult Protective Services agency. To the extent feasible, this plan shall be developed in coordination with a multi-disciplinary team that should include housing program providers.

(B) Navigation or search assistance to recruit landlords and assist individuals in locating affordable or subsidized housing.

(C) Enhanced case management including motivational interviewing and trauma-informed care, to help the individual recover from elder abuse, neglect, and/or financial exploitation.

(D) Housing-related financial assistance, including rental assistance, security deposit assistance, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and interim housing assistance while housing navigators are actively seeking permanent housing options for the individual.

(E) Housing stabilization services, including ongoing landlord engagement, case management, public systems assistance, legal services, tenant education, eviction protection, credit repair assistance, life skills training, heavy cleaning, and conflict mediation with landlords, neighbors, and families.

(F) If the individual requires supportive housing, referral to the local homeless Continuum of Care for long-term services promoting housing stability.

(G) Mental health assistance, as necessary or appropriate.

(d) The department shall provide grants to counties and tribes according to criteria and procedures developed by the department, in consultation with the County Welfare Directors Association, tribes, the California Elder Justice Coalition, and the California Commission on Aging. These criteria shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

(1) The criteria by which applicant counties or tribes, or groups of either, may be awarded funds to provide housing-related assistance to eligible individuals pursuant to this chapter.

(2) Eligible sources of funds and in-kind contributions for the match to the grant described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (e).

(3) The proportion of funding to be expended on reasonable and appropriate administrative activities, in order to minimize overhead and maximize services.

(4) Tracking and reporting procedures for the program, which shall be conducted as a condition of receiving funds, including, but not limited to, collecting disaggregated data on:

(A) Number of people determined eligible for Home Safe.

(B) Number of people receiving Home Safe assistance, and the duration of such assistance.

(C) Types of housing assistance received by recipients.

(D) Housing status six months and one year after receiving Home Safe assistance.

(E) Number of substantiated adult protective services reports six months and one year after receiving Home Safe assistance.

(e) Grants shall be subject to all of the following requirements:

(1) Grantees shall match that funding on a dollar-for-dollar basis, which may be met by cash or in-kind.

(2) Grantees shall demonstrate the extent to which they will attempt to leverage county mental health services for participating individuals, and any barriers to leveraging these funds.

(3) Grantees shall agree to actively cooperate with tracking, reporting, and evaluation efforts.

(f) Funding pursuant to this section shall supplement, and not supplant, the level of county or tribal funding spent on these purposes in the 2017-18 state fiscal year.

(g) Utilizing the funds appropriated for purposes of this chapter, the department shall, in consultation with County Welfare Directors Association, tribes, the California Elder Justice Coalition, and the California Commission on Aging, enter into a contract with an independent evaluation and research agency to evaluate the impacts of Home Safe, which may include, but are not limited to:

(1) the likelihood of future homelessness and housing instability among recipients.

(2) the likelihood of future instances of abuse and neglect among recipients.

(3) program costs and benefits.

(h) Notwithstanding the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code), the department may implement, interpret, or make specific this chapter through all-county letters without taking any regulatory action.