






Housing and Disability Advocacy program (HDAP) Housing First Checklist | [WIC](#) | [ACWDL](#) | [CFL](#)

Tenant Screening:	Does the Program Require Providers Who House Tenants to Accept Applicants with the Greatest Needs or Vulnerabilities?				
CDSS Programs	 Counties/Providers Must Accept Tenants Regardless of Sobriety/Completion of Treatment	 Counties/Providers Do Not Reject Applicants for Poor Credit/Financial History, Criminal Background	 Counties/Providers May Not Impose a "Housing Readiness" Requirement on Applicants for Housing	 Counties/Providers Receive Referrals to Housing from Homeless Response System	 Program Offers Funding Incentives to Providers to Accept Referrals from Coordinated Entry/Assessment Systems
Housing & Disability Advocacy Program	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

**Comments:**

The Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) eligible population is individuals who are disabled or likely disabled, and who are experiencing homelessness. For HDAP, the CDSS defines chronically homeless and homeless according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition in 24 CFR section 91.5. HDAP is a 3-year pilot program, beginning in July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020, designed to assist disabled individuals who are experiencing homelessness apply for disability benefit programs while also providing housing supports. Through a competitive application process, thirty-nine counties were selected to participate in HDAP. Each county program is required to match, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, any State funding provided under the HDAP Program.









Funded by CDSS, HDAP is operated at the county-level. CDSS continues to work toward ensuring tenant screening compliance at the county-level.

- Per WIC Section 18999.2 (b)(1), the county shall give highest priority to individuals who are chronically homeless or who rely the most heavily on state- and county-funded services.
- Per [HDAP All County Welfare Directors Letter \(ACWDL\) dated July 27, 2017](#), CDSS requires that HDAP be operated in a manner consistent with SB 1380 and the core components of Housing First enumerated in W&I Code Section 8255.
- Per the [HDAP ACWDL](#), "consistent with the core components of Housing First, counties must assess their local need and work in collaboration with the CoC and coordinated entry system to ensure populations with the highest needs are given the highest priority and are able to access HDAP services. Prioritization methods based on "first come, first serve" basis or based on tenant selection processes that screen-in those who are most likely to succeed are inappropriate. Screening and/or triage tools shall be used by counties to identify high need homeless individuals. Generally, these shall be the same screening tools used by the county's local coordinated entry, unless there is convincing evidence to use an alternative screening tool. The screening/triage tools should be used to ensure program applicants that are chronically homeless and/or rely most heavily on state or county funded programs are given highest priority for HDAP services."
- Upon receiving HDAP funding, County Welfare Directors were required to certify that they would "operate an HDAP Program consistent with the Housing First core components specified in Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section 8255." Additionally, they certified they would "ensure the HDAP will work with the local homeless Continuum of Care and coordinated entry systems and to ensure chronically homeless individuals are given the highest priority and have access to HDAP services. Prioritization will be based on assessment tools utilized by the coordinated entry system or alternative screening tools when convincing evidence suggest a reason for doing so."
- To receive HDAP funding, [counties were required by ACWDL](#) to demonstrate in their application how they would incorporate the core components of Housing First in their HDAP, including prioritization of most vulnerable families, participation in their homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) and other community-based organizations, as well as integration in their coordinated entry/access system.
- CDSS hosted learning forums for all counties in receipt of HDAP funding in January 2018 and November 2018. Both trainings included sessions by national housing experts on Housing First core components, including identification, prioritization, and engagement with the local Coordinated Entry System.
- CDSS is hosting a Housing First webinar series in partnership with the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) for all CDSS-funded housing programs.
- CDSS regularly disseminates related trainings and materials published by our state and federal counterparts (HCD, HUD, USICH, etc.) on housing first best practices.





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### Recommendations:

- If HDAP is extended beyond its sunset date of June 30, 2020, CDSS should include the requirement for counties to operate in a manner consistent with SB 1380 and the core components of Housing First enumerated in W&I Code section 8255 in forthcoming regulations.
- If HDAP is extended beyond its sunset date of June 30, 2020, CDSS should include guidance around providing funding incentives to providers that accept referrals from Coordinated Entry Systems (CES), as well as continued guidance on addressing barriers such as prior evictions, poor credit, criminal history, etc.
- CDSS will continue providing individual Housing First TA to counties, informed by their monthly data and expenditure reporting.
- CDSS will issue a Housing First All County Letter (ACL) by summer 2019.

Housing-Based Services:	Are Services Tailored to Tenant’s Needs, Rather Than to Meet Set Programmatic Requirements?			
<b>State Programs</b>	 <p>Counties/Service Providers are Required to Offer Services Emphasizing Engagement &amp; Problem-Solving, rather than Meeting Set Therapeutic Goals</p>	 <p>Services Providers Use Evidence-Based Practices for Engagement</p>	 <p>Services Providers Practice Harm Reduction and/or Recognize Drug/Alcohol Use as Part of Tenant’s Lives &amp; Recovery</p>	 <p>Providers Offer Tenants Education on Avoiding Risky Behaviors, and Connect to Evidence-Based Treatment By Choice</p>
<b>Housing &amp; Disability Advocacy Program</b>				
<p><b>Comments:</b>                      Funded by CDSS, HDAP is operated at the county-level. CDSS continues to work toward ensuring compliance at the county-level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Per WIC Section 18999.1 (b)(3), a county receiving state funds pursuant to this chapter shall, at a minimum, maintain a level of county funding for the outreach, active case management, advocacy, and housing assistance services described in this chapter that is at least equal to the total of the amounts expended by the county for those services in the 2015–16 fiscal year.</li> <li>Per WIC Section 18999.4 (a)(2), a client’s participation in HDAP housing assistance programs or services is voluntary.</li> <li>To receive HDAP funding, the <a href="#">HDAP ACWDL</a> required counties to demonstrate the use of evidence-based models and best practices regarding the four required elements of HDAP— outreach, case management, advocacy, and housing.</li> <li>CDSS hosted learning forums for all counties in receipt of HDAP funding in January 2018 and November 2018. Both trainings included sessions by national housing experts on case management and coordination of services, working through barriers and client engagement, and disability advocacy best practices.</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If HDAP is extended beyond its sunset date June 30, 2020, CDSS should include the requirement for counties to operate in a manner consistent with SB 1380 and the core components of Housing First enumerated in W&amp;I Code section 8255 in forthcoming regulations.</li> <li>CDSS will continue providing individual Housing First TA to counties, informed by their monthly data and expenditure reporting.</li> <li>CDSS will issue a Housing First All County Letter (ACL) by summer 2019.</li> <li>CDSS should include guidance on engagement, including motivational interviewing, trauma-informed care, client-choice, harm-reduction and other evidence-based practices in forthcoming guidance and technical assistance efforts.</li> </ul>				

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Services Are Voluntary:	Does the Program Prohibit Conditioning Housing Tenancy on Tenant Participation in Services or Program Compliance?	
State Programs	 <p>Counties/Housing Providers Must Accept Most Vulnerable Californians Eligible for Program, Regardless of Applicant's Willingness to Participate in Services (though program may require services providers to offer services)</p>	 <p>Program Disallows Housing/Services Providers from Conditioning Tenancy on Participation in Services or Program Compliance</p>
Housing & Disability Advocacy Program		
<p><b>Comments:</b>                      HDAP statute is written specifically to assist disabled individuals who are experiencing homelessness apply for disability benefit programs while also providing housing assistance Per the HDAP has four core requirements: outreach, case management, disability advocacy, and housing assistance. All four components must be offered to recipients. HDAP legislation requires that an individual must be apparently eligible to disability benefits and experiencing homelessness to be eligible.</p> <p>Funded by CDSS, HDAP is operated at the county-level. CDSS continues to work toward ensuring compliance at the county-level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Per WIC Section 18999.2 (b)(1), the county shall give highest priority to individuals who are chronically homeless or who rely the most heavily on state- and county-funded services.</li> <li>Per WIC Section 18999.4 (a)(2), a client's participation in housing assistance programs or services is voluntary.</li> <li>To receive HDAP funding, among other things, the <a href="#">HDAP ACWDL</a> required counties to confirm they will ensure the HDAP will work with the local homeless Continuum of Care and coordinated entry systems, that chronically homeless individuals are given the highest priority and have access to HDAP services, and that prioritization is based on assessment tools utilized by the coordinated entry system or alternative screening tools when convincing evidence suggest a reason for doing so. Counties are also required to ensure clients understand client participation in housing assistance services is voluntary and not a required program component.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If HDAP is extended beyond June 30, 2020, CDSS should include the requirement for counties to operate in a manner consistent with SB 1380 and the core components of Housing First enumerated in W&amp;I Code section 8255 in forthcoming regulations.</li> <li>CDSS will continue providing individual Housing First TA to counties, informed by their monthly data and expenditure reporting.</li> <li>CDSS will issue a Housing First All County Letter (ACL) by summer 2019.</li> </ul>		

Housing Permanency	Does the Program Require Housing Providers to Offer Housing Without Limit on Length of Stay, with a Lease? <i>If the Housing is Time-Limited, Is the Housing Provider Required to Connect Tenants to Permanent, Decent, Safe Housing Upon Exit?</i>			
<b>State Programs</b>	 <p>Program Requires Housing Providers to Provide Tenants with Leases and Reflects Tenants' Rights &amp; Responsibilities of Tenancy Under CA Law (including eviction protections)</p>	 <p>Program Disallows Housing Providers from Evicting Tenants for Use of Drugs/Alcohol w/o Lease Violations</p>	 <p>Program Does Not Fund Time-Limited Housing, Unless Housing/ Services Providers Assist Tenants in Relocating to Decent, Safe Permanent Housing Tenant Can Afford Upon Exit</p>	 <p>If Funding Homeless Youth Program, Any Time-Limited Housing Documents Efforts to Avoid Eviction &amp; Help Tenant Find Permanent, Decent, Safe Housing Upon Exit</p>
<b>Housing &amp; Disability Advocacy Program</b>				n/a
<p><b>Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funded by CDSS, HDAP is operated at the county-level. HDAP does not provide direct housing, HDAP provides disability benefits advocacy, financial assistance and wrap-around supportive services.</li> <li>Per WIC Section 18999.4 (a)(1), if the client is not approved for disability benefits, case management staff shall assist in developing a transition plan for housing support through other available resources.</li> <li>CDSS has provided guidance on eviction prevention, risk mitigation and evidence-based housing interventions and progressive engagement through technical assistance efforts and mandates that counties work with their Coordinated Entry and CoC to ensure compliance and coordination of appropriate services. Ongoing technical assistance is provided through a mandatory monthly statewide technical assistance call for HDAP counties, as well as individualized phone calls, emails, site visits, webinars and in-person learning forums.</li> <li>CDSS hosted learning forums for all counties in receipt of HDAP funding in January 2018 and November 2018. Both trainings included session by national housing experts on evidence-based housing interventions (RRH and PSH), case management and coordination of services, and Housing First.</li> <li>HDAP is not a youth serving program.</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If HDAP is extended beyond June 30, 2020, CDSS should include the requirement for counties to operate in a manner consistent with SB 1380 and the core components of Housing First enumerated in W&amp;I Code section 8255 in forthcoming regulations.</li> <li>CDSS should provide additional guidance on lease agreements, risk mitigation, landlord incentives and housing navigation in the forthcoming guidance and technical assistance efforts.</li> <li>CDSS will continue providing individual Housing First TA to counties, informed by their monthly data and expenditure reporting.</li> <li>CDSS will issue a Housing First All County Letter (ACL) by summer 2019.</li> <li>CDSS plans to host a Tenants Rights webinar in 2019.</li> </ul>				