






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
Home Safe Program	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

**Comments:**





The Home Safe Program is intended to support the safety and housing stability of individuals involved in Adult Protective Services (APS) who are experiencing, or at imminent risk of experiencing, homelessness due to elder or dependent adult abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation by providing housing-related assistance using evidence-based practices for homeless assistance and prevention. Home Safe statute is written specifically to support the safety and housing stability of individuals involved in APS. Through a competitive application process, twenty-four counties, some in collaboration with tribes, were selected to participate in Home Safe. Each county program is required to match, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, any State funding provided under the Home Safe Program.



Funded by CDSS, Home Safe is operated at the county-level.








- The [October 28, 2018 Home Safe All County Welfare Directors Letter \(ACWDL\)](#) requires that Home Safe be operated in a manner consistent with SB 1380 and the core components of Housing First enumerated in W&I Code section 8255.
- The [ACWDL](#) requires counties and tribes in receipt of Home Safe funding to consult with their local homelessness Continuum of Care (CoC) as they develop their Home Safe program and are strongly encouraged to partner with CoCs or other regional efforts to create and participate in the homeless Coordinated Entry System. This is especially critical in terms of making referrals for individuals that are not prioritized for Home Safe services, such as those needing permanent supportive housing, or who otherwise have a higher level of need than Home Safe can provide. Adequate referrals consist of an assessment and then ensuring they are entered into the Coordinated Entry System.
- Per the [ACWDL](#), Home Safe programs must implement an assessment and prioritization tool. In order to develop objective consistency across providers, Home Safe programs will be required to use the Prevention Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (PVI-SPDAT), the VI-SPDAT, or other CDSS-approved assessment tool to assess the clients' vulnerability, housing need, and their likelihood of becoming homeless.
- The [ACWDL](#) notifies counties that the APS program will likely need to further develop working relationships with the Coordinated Entry System, to develop a more robust referral process, and that, Home Safe program funds may be used to develop that relationship and formalize that partnership.
- Upon accepting funding, County Welfare Directors were required to certify that they would "operate the Home Safe Program consistent with the Housing First core components specified in Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section 8255."
- To receive Home Safe funding, counties were required to demonstrate in their application how they will utilize a Housing First approach in their local program, including their capacity to quickly design and implement a program in which the APS agency collaboratively engages with local county or tribe program partners.
- CDSS hosted a learning forum for all counties in receipt of Home Safe funding in March 2019, which included sessions by national housing experts on Housing First.
- CDSS is currently 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

**Recommendations:**

- 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?			
State Programs	 <p>Counites/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>
Home Safe Program	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p><b>Comments:</b></p> <p>Per the <a href="#">Home Safe 2018-19 ACWDL</a>, counties and collaborating tribes have the flexibility to determine, with the partnership of the client, what housing supports will be the most beneficial to their APS clients to mitigate a housing crisis or provide an exit from homelessness after a short episode, and to tailor their programs accordingly. Importantly, Home Safe is not intended to provide ongoing case management or housing needs of a client beyond what is necessary to address and stabilize the immediate housing crisis that led to APS involvement. Partnerships should include the local homelessness Continuum of Care (CoC) and coordinated entry system, to ensure a range of services are available to Home Safe participants and appropriate referrals can be made for individuals that require longer-term housing assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <a href="#">Home Safe 2018-19 All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL)</a> requires that Home Safe be operated in a manner consistent with SB 1380 and the core components of Housing First enumerated in W&amp;I Code section 8255.</li> <li>• Per the <a href="#">ACWDL</a>, Home Safe programs should use a progressive engagement model to specifically tailor housing assistance for each eligible participant. These housing-related services should be used to directly address the housing crisis that led the client into APS. Existing services should be used to provide the clients with any other wraparound services that they may need. Appropriate services will be identified through the coordinated entry system.</li> <li>• The <a href="#">ACWDL</a> also states APS case workers must assess each individual's circumstances, as well as incorporate consumer input, to determine what housing-related services, including prevention and diversion services, would be the most beneficial for the individual.</li> <li>• CDSS hosted a learning forum for all counties in receipt of Home Safe funding in March 2019, which included sessions by national housing experts on Housing First.</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 and other evidence-based practices in forthcoming guidance and technical assistance efforts.</li> </ul>				

<p><b>Services Are Voluntary:</b></p>	<p>Does the Program Prohibit Conditioning Housing Tenancy on Tenant Participation in Services or Program Compliance?</p>	
<p><b>State Programs</b></p>	 <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>
<p><b>Home Safe Program</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p>
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Home Safe statute is written specifically to support the safety and housing stability of individuals involved in APS. Per the <a href="#">Home Safe 2018-19 ACWDL</a>, Home Safe is not intended to provide ongoing case management or housing needs of a client beyond what is necessary to address and stabilize the immediate housing crisis that led to APS involvement. Partnerships should include the local homelessness Continuum of Care (CoC) and coordinated entry system, to ensure a range of services are available to Home Safe participants and appropriate referrals can be made for individuals that require longer-term housing assistance. While Home Safe legislation requires that an individual/family must have an open APS case to be eligible, Home Safe participants receive housing supports regardless of their participation in Adult Protective Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <a href="#">Home Safe 2018-19 All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL)</a> requires that Home Safe be operated in a manner consistent with SB 1380 and the core components of Housing First enumerated in W&amp;I Code section 8255.</li> <li>• Per WIC Section 15770 (b), "eligible individual" means an individual that is an adult protective services client, 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, and voluntarily agrees to participate in the program.</li> <li>• The <a href="#">ACWDL</a> requires counties and tribes in receipt of Home Safe funding to consult with their local homelessness Continuum of Care (CoC) as they develop their Home Safe program and are strongly encouraged to partner with CoCs or other regional efforts to create and participate in the homeless Coordinated Entry System. This is especially critical in terms of making referrals for individuals that are not prioritized for Home Safe services, such as those needing permanent supportive housing, or who otherwise have a higher level of need than Home Safe can provide. Adequate referrals consist of an assessment and then ensuring they are entered into the Coordinated Entry System.</li> <li>• Per the ACWDL, Home Safe programs must implement an assessment and prioritization tool. In order to develop objective consistency across providers, Home Safe programs will be required to use the Prevention Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (PVI-SPDAT), the VI-SPDAT, or other CDSS-approved assessment tool to assess the clients' vulnerability, housing need, and their likelihood of becoming homeless.</li> <li>• Per the ACWDL, Individuals identified by the APS through the use of the assessment tool paired with additional prioritization data...that require a higher level of housing intervention and/or longer-term housing assistance shall be served by a referral to other local housing resources through the Coordinated Entry System, (rather than Home Safe funding long- term or permanent housing assistance).</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 (<i>including eviction protections</i>)</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>Home Safe Program</b>				n/a
<p><b>Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <a href="#">Home Safe 2018-19 All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL)</a> requires that Home Safe be operated in a manner consistent with SB 1380 and the core components of Housing First enumerated in W&amp;I Code section 8255.</li> <li>Funded by CDSS, the Home Safe Program is operated at the county-level. Home Safe does not provide direct housing, Home Safe is a social service housing support program intended to house APS clients through evidence-based housing interventions, all of which are time-limited under Home Safe.</li> <li>Per WIC Section 15771(c)(2)(F), if the individual requires supportive housing, the county must make a referral to the local homeless continuum of care for long-term services promoting housing stability.</li> <li>The <a href="#">ACWDL</a> requires counties and tribes in receipt of Home Safe funding to consult with their local homelessness Continuum of Care (CoC) as they develop their Home Safe program and are strongly encouraged to partner with CoCs or other regional efforts to create and participate in the homeless Coordinated Entry System. This is especially critical in terms of making referrals for individuals that are not prioritized for Home Safe services, such as those needing permanent supportive housing, or who otherwise have a higher level of need than Home Safe can provide.</li> <li>Per the <a href="#">ACWDL</a>, individuals identified by the APS through the use of the assessment tool ...that require a higher level of housing intervention and/or longer-term housing assistance shall be served by a referral to other local housing resources through the Coordinated Entry System, (rather than Home Safe funding long-term or permanent housing assistance).</li> <li>Home Safe is not a youth serving program.</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 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>				