County of Orange Social Services Agency
Family Self-Sufficiency & Adult Services Division

Program/Area:	**Adult Services/Adult Protective Services**		
Title:	**Home Safe Program Policy**		
Number:	**904**	**Status:**	Revised
Effective Date:	**10/23/2023**	**Revision Date:**	10/26/2026
Approved:	**Signature on file**		

PURPOSE

To provide Adult Protective Services (APS) staff information regarding the Home Safe Program.

POLICY

The Home Safe program provides housing-related supportive services supports to older and dependent adults, in receipt of Adult Protective Services (APS) or are in the APS intake process, who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and who experience abuse, neglect, exploitation, or are unable to care for their own needs or interests as outlined in Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Sections 15770 and 15771. Examples of housing-related supportive services that may be provided by the program include, but are not limited to, housing-related case management, rental assistance and help with arrears, interim housing, assistance searching for and applying for new housing (housing navigation), landlord mediation, referrals to legal aid, and utility payments.

Home Safe is state-funded and administered by eligible counties, tribal grantees, and regional partnerships that aims to prevent or address homelessness among seniors and adults with disabilities who are APS clients or in the APS intake process. Home Safe grantees must utilize evidence-based practices in homeless assistance and prevention, including housing risk screening and assessments, housing first, rapid rehousing, and supportive housing.

Home Safe must operate in accordance with Housing First meaning, clients should be connected to housing or housing supports immediately without preconditions, services will be voluntary, client choice will be respected, and applicants shall not be rejected on the basis of income, past evictions, substance use, or any other behaviors that may indicate a lack of “housing readiness”.

BOOKMARKS

- Background
- Client Eligibility
- Prioritization and Assessment
- Housing-Related Supports and Services
- Data Reports

- References

DEFINITIONS

Refer to the Adult Protective Services (APS) Glossary.

BACKGROUND

Assembly Bill (AB) 1811 (Chapter 35, Statutes of 2018) created the Home Safe program to support the safety and housing stability of APS clients by providing housing-related assistance using evidence-based practices for homeless assistance and prevention.

AB 135 was enacted in July 2021 outlining continuing Home Safe requirements and guidance while providing new guidance due to increased funding and changes to the program statute.

Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Sections 15770 and 15771 outline Home Safe Program requirements, defines the population that may be eligible to participate in Home Safe, and lists the types of housing supports and services that can be provided to program participants.

CLIENT ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for Home Safe is defined in WIC Section 15770 as an individual that meets all three conditions:

1.) Is an APS client, or is in the process of intake to adult protective services (including those who have been assigned for investigation)
Note: Individuals who may be served through a tribal social services agency do not need to be involved in adult protective services but should otherwise appear to be eligible for adult protective services as defined in WIC Section 15610.10.
2.) Is homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness; and
3.) Voluntarily agrees to participate in the Home Safe program.

PRIORITIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

All APS clients are assessed for housing-related risk factors incorporating their input, to determine Home Safe program eligibility and the most beneficial housing-related services, including prevention and diversion services. The Home Safe program requires a structured assessment for Home Safe eligibility and service planning. The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate a client's housing vulnerability, risk, need for intervention, and likelihood of becoming or remaining homeless, to prioritize limited Home Safe resources. Individuals with needs beyond what Home Safe can provide (e.g., requiring long-term supportive housing) should be referred through the local homeless Coordinated Entry System (CES) based on assessment results.

An assessment tool is required to identify everyone's housing needs and create a plan to meet those needs. Each county may select or design their own assessment tool to be applied constituently across the program.

If the county cannot accommodate all eligible clients, a prioritization framework will be needed. Among eligible individuals who are at risk of homelessness, Home Safe must prioritize those who are most likely to fall into homelessness if not for Home Safe intervention. An assessment can be used to better target services to those who meet the prioritization criteria. It is recommended that grantees select a few critical factors to distinguish who should receive priority, such as acuity of medical needs or protective issues. These factors and the prioritization framework must be memorialized in writing and applied consistently across the program.

Participants in Home Safe who are experiencing homelessness and require supportive housing be referred to the Continuum of Care (CoC) for longer term services to promote housing stability. Participants may also be served by Home Safe while awaiting longer term housing placement and to ensure stability once transitioned to supportive housing.

HOUSING-RELATED SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

Home Safe should serve participants until housing stability is reached or a connection to longer-term permanent housing is made. Consistent with WIC Section 15771(c)(2), Home Safe shall offer the following interventions and services to all clients as needed.

1.) **Intensive Case Management**: Home Safe must offer housing-related intensive case management services, consistent with Housing First principles, to offer participants assistance in achieving housing stability. Housing related case management should be provided in a manner consistent and in coordination with the APS service plan and may include, but is not limited to, the following activities in relation to supporting Home Safe client achieve and maintain housing stability:

- coordinating all components of a participant's housing service plan and APS plans
- working with family and community to identify any and all available supports related to housing stability
- various forms of in-depth problem solving related to housing stability
- assisting clients in applying for other public assistance and benefits to support housing stability, including assistance in accessing rent relief programs
- assisting clients in accessing physical and behavioral health services in order to support housing stability and
- connections to benefits advocacy programs, such as HDAP, in order for Home Safe clients to achieve or maintain housing stability.

Home Safe housing related case management should complement but not replace or supplant traditional APS case management. Client participation in Home Safe case management is voluntary and clients should not be penalized, sanctioned, or disenrolled from Home Safe due

to failure to attend appointments or their inability to meet with a case manager.

2.) **Housing Stabilization**: Delivered through case management and direct financial assistance such as rental assistance. Examples of housing stabilization services and assistance may include, but are not limited to, any of the following:

- Provisions or connection to legal assistance
- eviction prevention
- tenant education
- credit repair
- cleaning services
- hazard removal
- assistance with hoarding
- home repairs or modifications

Home Safe typically provides a crisis intervention to address an immediate health and safety issues related to housing. However, it is important to ensure clients are linked to longer term resources to avoid future housing related health and safety risks. Examples of longer-term housing stabilization services may include, but are not limited to, connections to In Home Support Services (IHSS) or connections to agencies that provide home modification and accessibility devices to ensure seniors are able to safely remain in their home. Connections to behavioral health programs may also be critical housing stabilization services. Housing stabilization services should be offered to all participants whether they are looking to stabilize in their current housing to prevent homelessness, relocating to new housing, or transitioning to other permanent supportive housing programs through the local Continuum of Care or residential care placements for individuals in need of a higher level of care.

3.) **Housing Navigation:** assists participants in finding, applying, securing, and moving into interim and permanent housing as needed. Examples of housing navigation that should be provided as part of the Home Safe program include, but are not limited to:

- landlord engagement, including outreach and appreciation events to recruit landlords to work with Home Safe clients
- searching for housing based on client's housing preferences and mobility needs
- building a resource of available units and matching clients to unit availability; according to their preferences for both interim and permanent housing options
- assistance in completing housing applications
- coordination with the local public housing authority and advocating for availability of affordable housing vouchers for Home Safe clients
- ensuring quality of housing placements

- assistance in making higher-level care placements, such as Adult Residential Facilities (ARFs) and Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs) or skilled nursing facilities, only when needed.

4.) **Housing Direct Financial Assistance**: Represents all costs paid out on behalf of the participant related to housing. Direct financial assistance should be maximized to ensure clients provided housing or prevented from entering homelessness as quickly as possible. Examples of direct financial assistance includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:
   - costs associated with rental assistance or mortgage payments (including shallow subsidies and enriched services funding to residential adult and senior care facilities)
   - rental backpay and arrearages
   - application fees
   - security deposits
   - housing rehabilitation and modification costs
   - interim housing including hotel/motel stays or master leased units
   - emergency shelter
   - one-time emergency basic needs provided pursuant to evidence-based practices in homeless assistance and prevention
   - provision of basic housing items and resources
   - transportation vouchers related to housing needs
   - costs associated with moving or relocating

Connections to Longer-Term Supports: Home Safe clients who require long term supports related to housing, such as supportive housing, should be referred to the local Continuum of Care for long term services to promote housing stability. Home Safe programs may serve clients through Home Safe in the interim, while awaiting services through the referral to the Continuum of Care, and Home Safe should work in close coordination with other systems of care or complimentary programs. Home Safe should also make referrals and coordinate services in order for clients to access physical and/or behavioral health assistance, as necessary and when appropriate.

DATA REPORTS

As a condition of receiving Home Safe funds, counties must collect, and report individualized data on:

- Number of people determined eligible and not eligible for the program and why.
- Number of people receiving assistance from the program and the duration of the that assistance
- Types of assistance received by the recipients
- Housing status six months and one year after receiving assistance from the program
- Number of substantiated APS reports six and one year after receiving assistance from the program

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
Housing & Urban Development (HUD) requires that federally funded homeless service agencies use a HMIS to track past and future incidences of homelessness.

Housing and Homelessness Data Reporting Solution (HHDRS)
The goal of HHDRS is to enable HHD grantees to report information into one seamless software solution that will be accessible to HHD and grantee counterparts. This system was designed and implemented in May 2025 to replace the Home Safe Adult Protective Services (HSAPS) 19.

REFERENCES

All County Letter (ACL) No. 19-114: Implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 1380; Housing First Requirements for all State-Funded Programs that Provide Housing or Housing-Related Services to People Experiencing or At-Risk of Homelessness

All County Letter (ACL) No. 24-12: Statutory Changes Made by Assembly Bill (AB 120 (Chapter 43, Statutes of 2023) to the Home Safe Program.

All County Letter (ACL) No. 24-88: Additional Guidelines for Implementing the Core Components of Housing First for Counties Opting to Participate in Home Safe.

All County Letter (ACL) 25-23 Transition to Housing and Homelessness Data Reporting Solution

All County Information Notice (ACIN) No. I-02-23 (February 6, 2023): Revision of Home Safe Adult Protective Services (HSAPS) Individual Level Data Quarterly Status Report HSAPS 19 (12/22)

All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) (October 22, 2018): Home Safe Program: Request for Proposal

All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) (April 16, 2020): Implementation of Home Safe Adult Protective Services (HSAPS) Program Individual Level Data Monthly Status Report HSAPS 19

All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) (October 15, 2021): Notice of Funding for the Home Safe Program

OC Social Services Agency: Facts on Financial Abuse

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: How can I recognize elder abuse?

California Assembly Bill (AB) 120

California Assembly Bill (AB) 135

California Assembly Bill (AB) 1811

Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC)

- 8256
- 15610.10
- 15610.57
- 15610.07
- 15610.30
- 15750
- 15770
- 15771