



March 3, 2025

Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Speaker
Assemblymember Robert Rivas
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Corey Jackson
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2 – Human
Services
1021 O Street, Suite 6120
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Budget Request for an ongoing appropriation of \$88.8 million GF per year, each appropriation to be available over 3 years, to continue the Adult Protective Services Home Safe Program.

Dear Chair Gabriel, Chair Jackson, and Speaker Rivas:

The 14 undersigned organizations are requesting an ongoing, \$88.8 million General Fund annual appropriation, each appropriation to be available over 3 years, to continue the APS Home Safe Program in 58 counties and 23 tribal social service agencies. The Home Safe Program, administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), provides critical interventions including intensive housing case management, eviction prevention, and housing stabilization. It supports

individuals at risk of or experiencing homelessness who are identified through their involvement with Adult Protective Services (APS), as well as older and dependent adults who come to the attention of a Tribe, or Tribal grantee, due to potential abuse, neglect, or self-neglect.

California's Master Plan for Aging 2025-26 reinforces the state's commitment to housing stability, stating under Goal 1, Initiative 6: **"Continue to help older adults and people with disabilities obtain housing stability through the Home Safe Program and the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP)."** This clearly reflects a priority for both the Governor and the state.

The current funding for APS Home Safe is running out. As of February 5, 2025, six counties had already exhausted their Home Safe allocations from the one-time appropriations in FY21/22 and FY 22/23, while others are preparing to wind down the program. Without additional funding, critical services will be discontinued, leaving thousands of vulnerable older adults without the support they need to remain housed. As California's aging population continues to grow, so does the demand for housing assistance and case management. Rising economic insecurity, particularly among older adults on fixed incomes, increases the risk of homelessness for this population. The proposed budget request would allow Home Safe to serve more individuals in need, stabilize housing for at-risk seniors and people with disabilities, and ensure California's commitment to preventing homelessness remains strong.

Background

APS Home Safe, first funded with \$15M in state General Funds in 2018 as a pilot in 24 counties, was championed by CWDA and expanded statewide in 2021 at the Governor's request as part of the Master Plan for Aging. The program serves individuals at risk of or experiencing homelessness who are involved in Adult Protective Services (APS) or in the APS intake process, as well as older and dependent adults identified by Tribes or Tribal grantees due to potential abuse or neglect.

Early findings from the Home Safe program evaluation, conducted by the UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative (BHHI) in 2023, indicated that "Home Safe continues to address a critical gap and no existing alternative programs replicates its impact or population served." Additionally, the evaluation reported that grantees across the state indicate that Home Safe has transformed their ability to prevent homelessness in older adults. Grantees and key informants reported that a lack of affordable housing often delays or interrupts housing placements for older adults and preserving participant's existing housing is key.

California has experienced an alarming increase in older adult housing precarity and homelessness; almost half of unhoused adults are now age 50 and older, a number that continues to grow. Per the BHHI's 2024 report *Toward Dignity: Understanding Older Adult Homelessness; Findings from the California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness*, 44% of people experiencing homelessness (PEH) over the age of 50 became homeless for the first time after age 50, indicating a need and opportunity for prevention services targeting this population. A National Institute of Aging longitudinal study published in 2022 reported that people who first became homeless at age 50 or later were about 60 percent more likely to die homeless than those who had become homeless earlier in life. For the past several years, Point-in-Time Count data in Los Angeles County has shown that adults 55+ are more likely to be unsheltered compared to the total PEH population. The 2024 PIT Count determined that 77% of homeless adults 55+ were unsheltered,

compared to 70% for all PEH. There could not be a worse time to end funding for a program that specifically targets the homelessness prevention and housing needs of older adults in crisis.

Home Safe provides essential tools to prevent homelessness and support housing stability for APS-involved individuals through eviction prevention, case management, financial assistance, and housing stabilization—services they would not otherwise be eligible to access.

Past Program Funding

- Assembly Bill 1811 established Home Safe in 2018 with a \$15 million one-time appropriation, available over a three-year period from July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2021. The program required a dollar-for-dollar grantee match.
- The Budget Act of 2021 (SB 129) allocated \$92.5 million in General Fund (GF) support for Home Safe in FY 2021-22, exempt from the matching requirement, with funds available from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2024.
- The Budget Act of 2022 (AB 178) provided an additional one-time \$92.5 million in match-exempt GF, available from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2025.
- The Budget Act of 2024 (AB 161) reappropriated funds from the 2021 Budget Act (SB 129), extending their availability through June 30, 2025 (previously June 30, 2024). It also reappropriated funds from the 2022 Budget Act (AB 178), now available through June 30, 2026 (previously June 30, 2025). Additionally, the 2024 Budget Act extended the match waiver for all available funds through June 30, 2026. (CDSS website)

Formula for Determining Funding Request

We request an ongoing, \$88.8 million General Fund annual appropriation, each appropriation to be available over 3 years. This would require augmentation in the budget act of item 5180-101-0001 (CDSS General Fund).

To arrive at this request, we reached out to California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) for technical assistance with determining an appropriate allocation amount and fiscal details. Based on CWDA's most recent feedback, the amount of \$88.8 million per year ongoing, and the need for 3-year availability of each appropriation, reflects counties' spending trends over FY 21/22, FY 22/23, and FY 23/24, and in addition includes an allocation of \$5 million per year for tribal entities.

Impact

In FY 2023-24, 62% of Home Safe participants exited to permanent housing, and 76% retained their housing six months after leaving the program. Home Safe served 40% of the APS population with identified housing needs, based on the most recent CDSS analysis using FY 2022-23 data. The program has grown significantly, expanding from 25 counties and zero tribes in FY 2019-20 to 58 counties and 23 tribes in FY 2023-24, highlighting the increasing demand for these services. However, without an extension of support, Home Safe will sunset at the end of FY 2025-26. The proposed budget request would extend the funding for the APS Home Safe Program through June 30, 2028, in alignment with the California Master Plan for Aging.

Investing in APS Home Safe is an investment in the stability, dignity, and well-being of California's most vulnerable older adults. As our aging population grows and economic insecurity rises, more seniors on fixed incomes are at risk of losing their homes. Home Safe has proven to be a lifeline, preventing homelessness and providing critical support services that help older adults remain housed, healthy, and independent. Without continued funding, thousands will be left without the assistance they need, further exacerbating California's homelessness crisis. Extending Home Safe ensures we uphold our commitment to protecting older adults and fostering long-term housing stability.

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss this request.

Sincerely,

Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County
Center for Independent Living
Justice In Aging
Fathers and Mother Who Care, Inc
Silicon Valley Independent Living Center
Aging Services Collaborative
Daybreak Adult Care
United Way of Greater Los Angeles
St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles
Corporation for Supportive Housing
California Elder Justice Coalition
Special Service for Groups, Inc
California Commission of Aging

CC: Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2 – Human Services

CDSS Home Safe Website - [Home Safe Program](#)
CCOA E-Update - [Established housing programs in jeopardy; engagement opportunities](#)
[CDSS Housing and Homelessness Program Annual Report \(AB 120\) 2024](#)