

**California Department of Social Services  
2023 Proposed Trailer Bill**

**Title: Home Safe Program Technical Clean-Up**

**SECTION 1. Section 15770 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:**

15770. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) “Adult protective services” ~~has the same meaning as~~ means any of the following:

(1) The same meaning as defined in Section 15610.10.

(2) Activities performed, in accordance with tribal law or custom, on behalf of seniors and dependent adults who have come to the attention of a tribe, or tribal entity or agency, due to potential abuse or neglect.

(b) “Dependent adult” has the same meaning as defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 15750.

~~(b)~~

(c) “Eligible individual” means an individual that, at a minimum, meets all of the following conditions:

(1) Is an adult protective services ~~client or~~ client, is in the process of intake to adult protective services, or is an individual who may be served through a ~~tribal social services agency~~ tribe, or tribal entity or agency, who appears to be eligible for adult protective ~~services, as defined in Section 15610.10.~~ services.

(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 or tribal agency.

(3) Voluntarily agrees to participate in the program.

~~(c)~~

(d) “Homeless or at risk of homelessness” means any of the following:

(1) A person who lacks a fixed or regular nighttime residence and either of the following apply:

(A) The person has a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter, hotel, or motel, designed to provide temporary living accommodations.

(B) The person resides in a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

(2) A person who is in receipt of a judgment for eviction, as ordered by the court.

(3) A person who has received a pay rent or quit notice or who will otherwise imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, which may include individuals who have not yet received an eviction notice, if all of the following are true:

(A) The right or permission to occupy their current housing or living situation will be, or there is credible evidence that it will be, terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance.

(B) A subsequent residence has not been identified or secured, including, but not limited to, an individual exiting a medical facility, long-term care facility, prison, or jail.

(C) The individual lacks the resources or support network, including, but not limited to, family, friends, or faith-based or other social network, needed to obtain other permanent housing.

(4) A person who has a primary nighttime residence or living situation that is either directly associated with a substantiated report of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation or that poses an imminent health and safety risk, and the person lacks the resources or support network needed to obtain other permanent housing.

~~(d)~~

(e) “Multidisciplinary personnel team” has the same meaning as defined in Section 15610.55.

~~(e)~~

(f) “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)~~

(g) “Primary nighttime residence or living situation” includes housing that an individual owns, rents, lives in without paying rent, or is sharing with others, or rooms in hotels or motels used as temporary shelter.

~~(g)~~

(h) “Program” means the Home Safe Program established pursuant to this chapter.

**(i) “Senior” means any of the following:**

**(1) The same meaning as “elder,” as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 15750.**

**(2) For individuals receiving services from a tribe, or tribal entity or agency, any person residing in this state within the age range established by tribal law or custom for tribal programs serving needy and vulnerable older adults.**

**(h)**

**(j)** “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.

**SEC. 2. Section 15771 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:**

15771. (a) Subject to an appropriation of funds for this purpose in the annual Budget Act, the department shall award grants to counties, tribes, or groups of counties or tribes, that provide services to elder and dependent adults who experience abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or 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 chapter 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 are not limited to, all of the following:

(A) An assessment of each individual’s housing needs, including a plan to assist the individual in meeting those needs, consistent with the case plan, as developed by the adult protective services agency. To the extent feasible, the plan shall be developed in coordination with a multidisciplinary team that may include housing program providers, mental health providers, local law enforcement, legal assistance providers, and others as deemed relevant by the adult protective services agency.

- (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, 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) Referrals and coordination of services to access mental or behavioral 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 of California, 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) Eligible sources of funds and in-kind contributions to match the grant, as described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (e).
  - (2) The proportion of funding to be expended on reasonable and appropriate administrative activities, in order to minimize overhead and maximize services.
  - (3) 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 all of the following:
    - (A) The number of people determined eligible for the program.
    - (B) The number of people receiving assistance from the program and the duration of that assistance.
    - (C) The types of housing assistance received by recipients.
    - (D) The housing status six months and one year after receiving assistance from the program.
    - (E) The number of substantiated adult protective services reports six months and one year after receiving assistance from the program.

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

(1) (A) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (B), grantees shall match the funding on a dollar-for-dollar basis, which may be met by cash or in-kind contributions.

(B) Between July 1, 2021, and June 30, ~~2024~~, 2025, grantees that receive state funds under this chapter shall not be required to match any funding provided during that period.

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

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

(4) Grantees shall coordinate with the local homeless continuum of care network.

(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 fiscal year.

(g) Utilizing the funds appropriated for purposes of this chapter, the department shall, in consultation with the County Welfare Directors Association of California, 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 the program, which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

(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) This chapter shall not be construed to require a tribe, or tribal entity or agency, to comply with Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 15750) of this part, including, but not limited to, the requirement to establish a county adult protective services system or an emergency response adult protective services program.**

~~(h)~~

**(i)** Notwithstanding the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure 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 regulatory action.