



Karol Swartzlander, Executive Director
Gavin Newsom, Governor

March 19, 2025

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Assembly Member Corey Jackson, Chair
Assembly Budget Sub Committee #2 Human Services
State Capitol, Room 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for \$88M One-Time Budget Request for the Home Safe Program

Dear Honorable Chair Jackson,

On behalf of the California Commission on Aging (CCoA), I respectfully request that the Assembly Budget Subcommittee Health and Human Services hear and consider a one-time \$88 million budget request to fund the Home Safe Program. This investment is essential to maintaining and expanding targeted, person-centered housing and disability advocacy services for older adults and individuals with disabilities at risk of homelessness.

Established under the Older Californians Act, the CCoA is an independent advisory body and advocate for California's older adults. Our Commission represents the State's cultural and geographic diversity, with members bringing decades of expertise in aging services, research, and policy.

California's Master Plan for Aging Goal 1, Initiative 6, states: "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 budget request aligns with that goal by extending the Adult Protective Services Home Safe Program for an additional three years, ensuring uninterrupted services.

Administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), Home Safe provides housing case management, eviction prevention, and stabilization services. It serves individuals identified through Adult Protective Services (APS) and older or dependent adults recognized by a Tribe or Tribal grantee due to potential abuse, neglect, or self-neglect.

Early findings from the Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative (BHII) in 2023 indicate Home Safe fills a critical gap in services. No alternative program replicates its impact. Grantees report that Home Safe has transformed their ability to prevent homelessness among older adults. With affordable housing in short supply, preserving existing housing is key to long-term stability.

California faces a rising crisis in older adult homelessness, with nearly half of unhoused adults now age 50 and older. Home Safe provides essential tools to prevent homelessness through eviction prevention, case management, financial assistance, and housing stabilization.



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The Budget Acts of 2021 and 2022 provided one-time funding (\$92.5 million each year), with the Budget Act of 2024 reappropriating funds through June 30, 2026. This proposal extends funding through June 30, 2028, preventing program closures and ensuring continued service for older adults in need.

By mid-2024, several counties had already exhausted their Home Safe allocations, and many others were nearing depletion. Extending funding will prevent service disruptions and ensure continued support for vulnerable older adults.

The 2021 Interim Home Safe Evaluation by UCSF BHHI found that 85% of participants retained housing six months after exiting the program. Staff interviews emphasized Home Safe's flexibility as a key factor in its success.

For these reasons, we strongly urge the Subcommittee to support this one-time \$88 million budget request. Investing in Home Safe ensures that California's most vulnerable older adults remain housed and avoid the devastating consequences of homelessness.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your leadership in addressing the urgent housing needs of older Californians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Lindeman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. David Lindeman
Chair
California Commission on Aging