



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Board of Supervisors

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March 1, 2018

The Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
State Capitol, Room 5155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Adult Protective Services Program (APS) Home Safe: Homelessness Prevention for Vulnerable Seniors
Per Legislative Platform: SUPPORT

Dear Dr. Arambula:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of providing \$15 million State General Fund on a one-time basis to establish Home Safe, a homelessness prevention demonstration grant program for victims of elder abuse and neglect served by county-run Adult Protective Services (APS). The proposed one-time investment would allow participating counties to demonstrate over three years how providing short-term housing crisis intervention services can help APS victims recover, rebuild, and find safety in their own homes after experiencing abuse and neglect.

Between 2010 and 2017, the average annual population of Riverside County residents age 65 and above increased by 4% and is expected to grow by 56% over the next 10 years. In 2017, approximately 7.5% of our unsheltered homeless population was age 62 and above.

Research shows homeless adults are at higher risk of chronic health problems and are likely to die younger than those who are housed. For many victims the health hardships of homelessness exacerbate the physical and emotional wounds of abuse and neglect, leading to increased emergency room visits and accelerated entry into nursing home care, both at high cost to the state and to taxpayers. With a lack of affordable housing and limited, often fixed incomes for seniors and persons with disabilities, homelessness prevention is necessary. The Home Safe demonstration program builds on the best practices and evidence-based principles of rapid re-housing, a cost-effective approach that the Legislature has supported in recent years.

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With Home Safe, Riverside County could apply for grant funding that would allow its APS program to provide the necessary housing services they are currently unable to offer, such as short-term rental and utility assistance, heavy cleaning, immediate mental health treatment, and intensive case management to ensure clients can maintain their homes. By providing targeted assistance to prevent homelessness, Home Safe has the potential to produce benefits to the state that far outweigh the costs. An increasing body of research shows that prevention pays. A 2016 article published in the journal *Science*, for example, showed that providing just \$1,000 in short-term financial assistance for those at highest risk of losing their homes saved taxpayers more than \$10,000 in avoided health and social services costs.

Home Safe is a critical step towards ending homelessness among victims of elder abuse and neglect. For this reason, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors supports this request for a one-time funding augmentation to the APS program. If you have any questions about the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Deputy County Executive Officer, Brian Nestande at (951) 955-1110 or bnestande@rivco.org

Sincerely,



Chuck Washington
Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Philip Y. Ting, Chair, California State Assembly Budget Committee
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Riverside County Legislative Delegation
Nicole Vazquez, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Alex Kahn, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
County Welfare Directors Association of California