

Date of Hearing: April 14, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Alex Lee, Chair

AB 2470 (Arambula) – As Amended March 19, 2026

SUBJECT: Public social services: domestic violence services

SUMMARY: Allows housing assistance flexibility for domestic violence survivors and requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to establish the Domestic Violence Survivors Reentry Program. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires CDSS to establish a one-stop reentry program that collaborates with local registrars of birth, death, and marriage and county recorders, credit bureaus, and financial institutions to assist survivors of domestic violence in doing all of the following:
 - a) Obtaining copies of their and their dependents' vital records, credit reports and credit scores from all of the major credit bureaus, and a listing of all bank, checking, investment, and other financial accounts in their name;
 - b) If the survivor has been subject to identity theft or fraud, all of the following:
 - i) Creating a recovery plan with the Federal Trade Commission;
 - ii) Connecting with all of the other entities, including, but not limited to, utility companies that they may need to contact to close fraudulent accounts and government agencies they may need to send affidavits of identity theft to explain why there might be double filings for their tax returns or government benefits;
 - iii) Establishing new banking and credit accounts out of reach of their abuser; and,
 - iv) Applying for a new social security number and provide ongoing assistance to help survivors navigate the challenges that will arise from having no credit or any other history on the new number.
 - c) Protecting their identity from future assaults by teaching them how to freeze and unfreeze their credit, signing them up with a credit monitoring program, and providing financial literacy classes.
- 2) Permits California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) domestic violence survivors seeking homeless assistance who does not use all of the temporary shelter assistance for which they are eligible, as described in 2) below, due to finding permanent housing shall receive the value of the remaining days of eligible temporary shelter assistance as permanent housing assistance.

EXISTING LAW:

State law:

- 1) Establishes in state law the CalWORKs program to provide cash assistance and other social services for low-income families through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Under CalWORKs, each county provides assistance through a combination of state, county and federal TANF funds. (Welfare and Institutions Code [WIC] §§ 11200 *et seq.*)

- 2) Limits the homeless assistance payments to the CalWORKs applicant to two periods of not more than 16 cumulative calendar days each of temporary shelter assistance within the applicant's lifetime and provides that these homeless assistance payments are in addition to other homeless assistance payments for which the CalWORKs applicant, if the applicant becomes a CalWORKs recipient, may later qualify. (WIC § 11450)

Federal law:

- 3) Establishes an optional program for states, under TANF, commonly known as the Family Violence Option, which requires states to establish standards and procedures to ensure that the state will screen for and identify individuals receiving TANF assistance with a history of domestic violence, refer such individuals to counseling and supportive services, and waive, pursuant to a determination of good cause, program requirements for individuals receiving assistance in cases where compliance with such requirements would make it more difficult for individuals receiving assistance to escape domestic violence or unfairly penalize such individuals who are or have been victimized by such violence, or individuals who are at risk of further domestic violence. (42 United States Code § 602(a)(7))

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown, this bill has not been analyzed by a fiscal committee.

COMMENTS:

Background: *Domestic Violence in California.* According to Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Intervention Services, “domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence, and emotional abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically, however, the one constant component of domestic violence is one partner’s consistent efforts to maintain power and control over the other.”

Data from the California Study on Violent Experiences Across the Lifespan (Cal-VEX) in 2020 reveals that 24% of adult women and 6% of adult men in California experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetimes.¹ In addition to physical or sexual abuse, many domestic violence victims also experience mental and emotional abuse at the hands of their abusers, including stalking, deprivation of access to the family's financial resources and exertion of economic control, as well as sabotage of the victim's attempts to work or go to school.

California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Overview. CalWORKs is the state’s primary cash assistance program. More specifically, CalWORKs implements the federal TANF program, which is a federal flexible block grant with the objective of providing income and support to families with children. CalWORKs provides eligible low-income families with cash grants and education, employment and training programs, and supportive services to give families opportunities to build resilience and achieve critical economic mobility.

¹ <https://geh.ucsd.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/ipv-report-for-cal-vex.pdf>

Available CalWORKs supports include flexible program requirements, specialized services including access counseling, legal assistance, and domestic abuse advocacy services intended to provide guidance and support during difficult times, and emergency housing and safety planning. These services are offered and coordinated at the county-level.

The CalWORKs Homeless Assistance (HA) program was established to help Assistance Units meet the costs of securing or maintaining permanent housing, or to provide emergency shelter. HA serves eligible CalWORKs recipients or apparently eligible CalWORKs applicants, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Domestic violence survivors on CalWORKs are eligible for Expanded temporary HA benefits. In order to be eligible, applicants must be determined to be apparently eligible for CalWORKs and provide a sworn statement on the *Statement of Facts - Homeless Assistance (CW 42)* that they are actively fleeing past or present domestic abuse. Extended HA is allowed once in a lifetime, in addition to regular temporary HA and permanent temporary HA benefits, and does not count against the once-a-year HA exception, including exceptions based on domestic abuse. The 32 days of Expanded temporary HA are available in two 16-day increments and may be used any time the family is experiencing homelessness and meets expanded temporary HA eligibility.

This bill would allow recipients to receive the value of the remaining days of eligible temporary shelter assistance as permanent housing assistance if they find permanent housing *This bill* also establishes a state-level coordination for assisting domestic violence survivors in obtaining vital records and financial services.

Author's Statement: According to the Author, "According to the Little Hoover Commission Report, 'Beyond the Crisis', intimate partner violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women. The primary reason women return to abusive partners is economic insecurity. Further, many survivors experience economic abuse in their relationship, which can destroy their finances and credit.

"By modernizing and humanizing California's social safety net, [this bill] recognizes that escaping domestic violence is not just a matter of finding temporary shelter. It is about empowering survivors with the tools and resources they need to rebuild their lives with dignity and long-term security. The bill aims to advance housing stability, financial autonomy, and public safety for some of our state's most vulnerable residents."

Equity Implications: According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women. On the organization's 2019 National Violence Counts day, a one-day unduplicated count of adults and children seeking domestic violence services in the United States, 3,307 victims of domestic violence received emergency and transitional housing in California. Another 630 victims requesting housing assistance were turned away that day in California due to lack of resources.² *This bill* attempts to address homelessness amongst domestic violence survivors by easing program requirements for those who find permanent housing solutions.

² NNEDV 2019 Census Report narrative - 13Feb2020.indd

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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