

Pre-Assessment Screening

The goal of the Pre-Assessment Screening is to help the CES Virtual Front Door and access points identify whether the individual or family **may be or may have been** a victim or survivor of domestic violence (as defined by HUD) so that staff can offer a referral to victim service providers and/or CES for survivors.

- These questions are intended for adults over age 18.
- Questions should be asked in a private one-on-one setting.

Introduction

If any urgent safety needs are identified prior to beginning the Pre-Assessment Screening, immediately offer a connection to the local police or a Domestic Violence Hotline. Prior to beginning the Pre-Assessment Screening, provide a brief explanation of the Pre-Assessment Screening.

Sample Script

To learn more about your housing situation, I want to ask you some questions about whether you feel safe or are in danger right now. These are questions that I ask everyone because these issues are very common, and I want to ensure that you are connected to services that best fit your individual needs. Based on your answers, I may offer you referrals to specific resources. It is always your choice where you accept a referral to work with another program or continue talking to me about your housing situation. Your answers will not affect your eligibility for housing assistance. You will have the same ability to access housing as anyone else regardless of how you answer these questions.

*Anything you share today remains confidential. I will not call the police or do anything with this information that you don't want me to do. **(Note: At this time disclose any mandated reporter exceptions you or your agency may have.)***

Do you have any questions for me?

Pre-Assessment Screening

Some people find themselves feeling unsafe at home or the place they are currently staying. Do any of the following apply to you or anyone in your household?

- Currently staying with, trying to leave, or used to stay with someone who threatens you or another family member; OR
- Anyone you stay with or used to stay with has hit, choked, or physically hurt you or a family member; OR
- Anyone you stay with or used to stay with has emotionally, psychologically, or verbally abused you or family member (see page 3); OR
- Anyone you stay with or used to stay with has forced you or a family member to do something sexually that you did not want to do; OR
- Anyone you stay with or used to stay with controls your access to money; OR
- Anyone you stay with or used to stay with controls, monitors, or harms you using any form of technology (social media, text message, email, location monitoring, etc.)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Client refused ☐ Client doesn't know ☐ Data not collected

If yes, offer help calling one of the 24 hour Domestic Violence hotlines below:

Human Options (877)854-3594

Interval House (714)891-8121

Laura's House (866)498-1511

Radiant Futures (877)531-5522

Pre-Assessment Screening (continued)

Some people are being forced by others to trade sex in exchange for money, shelter, or other items. Is this something that is happening to you?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Client refused ☐ Client doesn't know ☐ Data not collected

If yes, offer help calling one of the 24 hour Domestic Violence hotlines below:

Human Options	(877)854-3594	Waymakers	(949) 250-0488
Interval House	(714)891-8121	Radiant Futures	(877)531-5522

Some people are being forced by others to trade work in exchange for shelter or other items. Is this something that is happening to you?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Client refused ☐ Client doesn't know ☐ Data not collected

If yes, offer help calling one of the 24 hour Domestic Violence hotlines below:

Human Options	(877)854-3594	Waymakers	(949) 250-0488
Interval House	(714)891-8121	Radiant Futures	(877)531-5522

ATTENTION

Before proceeding, CES for Survivors is only for transitional and/or permanent housing. If the survivor is interested in getting resources for emergency shelter or other crisis support resources, offer help by calling one of the 24 hour Domestic Violence hotlines referenced above.

CES for Survivors Eligibility

CES for Survivors is a program that provides potential transitional and/or permanent housing resources to the most vulnerable survivors who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Any information shared will be deidentified and only shared with consent.

1. Are you fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking (as defined by HUD, see definition on page 3)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If YES, continue to the next question. If NO, you are not eligible for CES for Survivors.

2. Do you have any other safe place to stay?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If NO, continue to the next question. If YES, you are not eligible for CES for Survivors.

DISCLAIMER: Stays in Emergency Shelter do not affect CES for Survivors eligibility.

3. Do you have any resources to obtain a safe place to stay?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If No, you are eligible to be enrolled in CES for Survivors and can be referred to a partnering victim service provider. If YES, you not eligible for CES for Survivors.

Is there anything else you would like to share about your safety at home or the place where you're currently staying?

For responses to the eligibility questions that did not meet the requirements for CES for Survivors, please end the assessment and provide a warm hand-off to another CES partnering agency.

CES for Survivors Victim Service Provider Partners include:

WISEPlace	Human Options	Interval House
(714) 542-3577 ext 200	(877) 854-3594	(714) 891-8121 ext 300

For Reference: HUD DEFINITIONS

Definition of Homelessness: Category 4

Any individual or family who is fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence; has no other residency; and lacks the resources or support networks to obtain permanent housing.

Definition of Domestic Violence

“Domestic Violence” includes dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and other dangerous life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or family member that either takes place in, or him or they are afraid to return to, their primary nighttime residency (including human trafficking).

VAWA's 2022 Reauthorization expanded the definition of “domestic violence” to include any felony or misdemeanor crimes committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner pursuant to domestic violence laws in jurisdiction receiving grant funding; or the use or attempted use of physical/sexual abuse, or any other coercive behavior used to maintain verbal, psychological, economic, or technological abuse. The abuser can be anyone who is a current or former spouse, intimate partner of the survivor, or a person in the position of a spouse/intimate partner of the survivor; is living with or who has lived with the survivor as a spouse or intimate partner; or commits acts against youth or adult survivor who is protected from acts defined by the jurisdiction's family or domestic violence laws.

Economic abuse is behavior that is coercive, deceptive, or unreasonably controls/restrains a person's ability to acquire, use, or maintain economic resources; restricting a person's access to money, assets, credit, or financial information; unfairly using a person's personal economic resources for one's own advantage; or exerting undue influence over a person's financial economic behavioral or decisions, including exploiting powers of attorney, guardianship, or conservatorship.

Technological abuse is an act or pattern of behavior that occurs within domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking, and is intended to harm, threaten, intimidate, control, stalk, harass, impersonate, exploit, or monitor another person using any form of technology (i.e. social media, “revenge porn,” emails, WhatsApp messages/texts, location trackers).

Definition of Emotional, Verbal, and Psychological Abuse

Emotional, psychological, and verbal abuse include mostly non-physical behaviors that the abuser uses to control, isolate, or frighten a person. Often, the abuser uses it to break down a person's self-esteem and self-worth in order to create a psychological dependency on the abuser.