

**Self-Sufficiency Matrix**

**Applicant Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_ **Assessment Date** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Domain	1 - In Crisis	2 - Vulnerable	3 - Safe	4 - Building Capacity	5 - Empowered	Score	Note
<b>Safety</b>	Immediate level of lethality is extremely high.	Safety is threatened, but temporary protection is available; level of lethality is high.	Current level of safety is minimally adequate.	Environment is safe, however, future of such is uncertain.	Environment is apparently safe and stable.		
<b>Food</b>	No food or means to prepare it. Relies to a significant degree on other sources of free or low-cost food.	Household is on SNAP or relies on some other type of assistance.	Can meet basic food needs, but requires occasional assistance.	Can meet basic food needs without assistance.	Can choose to purchase any food household desires.		
<b>Housing</b>	Homeless or threatened with eviction.	In transitional or temporary housing.	In stable housing that is safe but marginally adequate.	Household is in safe, adequate subsidized housing.	Household is safe, adequate, unsubsidized housing.		
<b>Family / Social Relations</b>	Lack of necessary support from family or friends; abuse (DV, child) is present.	Family/friends may be supportive, but lack ability or resources to help.	Some support from family/friends.	Strong support from family or friends.	Has healthy/expanding support network; household is stable.		

**\*Not to be used with VALE applicants\***

<b>Income</b>	No income.	Inadequate income.	Can meet basic needs with subsidy.	Can meet basic needs without assistance.	Income is sufficient; has discretionary income and is able to save.		
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## Safety

The goal of this domain is to assess the degree to which environments are safe. Specifically, their homes, schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods. Any current or potential abuse at the hands of a family member, caregiver, partner, or other individual should be taken into consideration. It is advised that a safety plan detailing strategies to prevent victimization and to respond effectively in the event that one's safety is jeopardized be developed.

### In Crisis

- Lethality refers to the risk of death, which may be heightened by separation violence; stalking; the availability or past use of weapons; and or the presence of individuals who: directly threaten themselves or others; dream or fantasize about killing themselves or others; have a history of assault; behave in a controlling manner; are heavily dependent; are acutely depressed; have become increasingly aggressive; and or abuse drugs and alcohol.

### Vulnerable

- Safety is threatened for any number of reasons, including to the presence or threat of physical, sexual, or emotional violence.
- Temporary protection may involve obtaining a protective order or staying at the home of a friend, family member, neighbor, or a shelter.
- Lethality see definition above.
- If the assessed has not directly witnessed or been the victim of some kind of dangerous behavior but is currently receiving direct threats to their safety, then the assessed should be scored as "Vulnerable".

### Safe

- Safety in minimally adequate when safety may be threatened but the level of lethality is not high.

### Building Capacity

- Whether an environment is safe should be subjectively determined by the applicant.
- If future safety is uncertain, there is a genuine risk of encountering an unsafe situation.

### Empowered

- Whether an environment is safe should be subjectively determined by the applicant.
- If the environment is stable, it means there is little risk of encountering an unsafe situation in the near future.

## Food

This domain assesses the current ability of a household to satisfy its members' food needs. For instance, if the assessed has recently applied for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) but has yet to receive benefits, that rating should reflect the household's current ability to meet food needs and not future receipt of SNAP. Assessed individuals who reside in (and whose food needs are met through unrestricted access to food or a kitchen with stocked grocery product) a shelter should be scored as "Safe".

### In Crisis

- Free or low-cost food: Meals received from shelters, food pantries, or soup kitchens, or in the form of charitable food boxes.

### Vulnerable

- SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as food stamps or EBT).
- Assistance can refer to any food-related financial support from government programs, nonprofits, family, and friends. (Meals on Wheels, WIC, & Free Lunch)

### Safe

- Basic food needs are met when the time, contents and quantity of a next meal is identified and certain.

### Building Capacity

- Strong support is defined as the ability to consistently receive emotional, financial, or material support when called upon or as necessary.

### Empowering

- Healthy support network provides strong support and has the opportunity to expand on that network.

## Housing

This domain is intended to assess the applicant's current housing status.

### In Crisis

- Homeless means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes those who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals; includes a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings including living arrangements in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- Threatened with eviction refers to those who are at risk of losing their home due to financial and/or relational reasons.

### Vulnerable

- Traditional/Temporary housing refers to a housing initiative that offers short/long-term temporary housing.

### Safe

- Stable housing is defined as housing in which the applicant is able and likely to continue residing; adequate refers to the legal security of tenure.

### Building Capacity

- Subsidized housing refers to government-supported housing with low to moderate income and can include direct housing subsidies, public housing, affordable housing, rent supplements, and programs offered through non-profit organizations.

### Empowered

- Unsubsidized housing is defined as private housing with no government or public assistance.

## Family/Social Relations

This domain assess the level of emotional, financial, and/or material support received from family and members of one's social network.

### In Crisis

- Necessary: Family and friends are uninvolved, uninterested, or unmotivated to provide emotional, financial, or material support.

### Vulnerable

- Inability is further defined as having restricted financial ability to assist, barriers related to geographical distance, and/or other circumstances that limits ability.

### Safe

- Some support identifies any healthy and otherwise positive financial, emotional, material support received when available.

### Building Capacity

- Strong support is defined as the ability to consistently receive emotional, financial, or material support when called upon or as necessary.

### Empowering

- Healthy support network provides strong support and has the opportunity to expand on that network.

## Income

This domain aims to assess the current level of income of the applicant's household.

### In Crisis

- No income means that the applicant's household receives no income, either in the form of wages or cash benefits.

### Vulnerable

- Inadequate income refers to households earning 200% or less than the Federal Poverty Level when considering cash benefits and earned income.

### Safe

- Basic needs include, but are not limited to, housing, food, childcare, transportation, and healthcare.
- Subsidy refers to various forms of assistance that cover the cost or partial cost of basic needs.

### Building Capacity

- Without assistance refers to structured programs or informal arrangements for financial assistance.

### Empowering

- Sufficient income is above 200% FPL and do not receive any cash or non-cash benefits.
- Discretionary income remains after the households' taxes and basic needs are covered.