

Adult Protective Services

What Is It?

Why Is It Important?

Jennifer Spoeri
NAPSA Executive Director



NAPSA - History

States began developing their own APS programs throughout the 1970s and 1980s. State Administrators of APS Programs recognized the need for a professional organization and the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) was formed in the late 1980s. NAPSA was the first voice for APS in Washington and remains the only organization to speak solely for APS nationwide.

NAPSA - Today

NAPSA is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with members in all fifty states. NAPSA provides APS programs a forum for sharing information, solving problems, and improving the quality of services for victims of elder and vulnerable adult mistreatment. Its mission is to strengthen the capacity of APS at the national, state, and local levels, to effectively and efficiently recognize, report, and respond to the needs of elders and adults with disabilities who are the victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, and to prevent such abuse whenever possible. (2900 members and growing!)

What is APS???

APS is a social services program that serves older adults and adults with disabilities who are in need of assistance. APS professionals investigate cases of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation, working closely with a wide variety of allied professionals in the medical, law enforcement, legal, and financial fields.

APS Professionals

APS professionals are some of the most dedicated, compassionate people in today's workforce.

NAPSA is proud to support them through events, networking opportunities, training [Home | NATC \(acl.gov\)](#), our robust research library, and many other educational resources.

Adult Protective Services

- Typically the first responders to elder abuse and abuse of adults with disabilities.
- Investigate, offer interventions and protections.
- May be the only people who see those experiencing maltreatment in their homes (except for perpetrators).
- Are the “boots on the ground” in the fight against elder and vulnerable adult abuse.
- Their work is difficult & dangerous.

APS Programs

- APS can differ from state to state & county to county:
 - Definitions
 - Client eligibility: age; disability; residence
 - Mandated reporting – almost half of states require financial institutions to report abuse to APS
 - Resources
- *APS budgets are being slashed in many states while the client population soars*

The need for collaboration in APS...

- Multi-faceted allegations
- Complexity of cases
- Polyvictimization
- Increasing caseload numbers
- Historical lack of funding



Why is APS important?

APS Code of Ethics:

- *Adults have the right to be safe.*
- *Adults retain all their civil and constitutional rights unless some of these rights have been restricted by court action.*
- *Adults have the right to make decisions that do not conform with societal norms as long as these decisions do not harm others.*
- *Adults are presumed to have decision-making capacity unless a court adjudicates otherwise.*
- *Adults have the right to accept or refuse services.*

How to Report

You can find the information to report in your area on the NAPSA website:

[Help In Your Area – NAPSA
\(napsa-now.org\)](http://napsa-now.org)



The Heroes of APS (HOAPS)

The first educational and recruitment docuseries of its kind. A feature length film to document the maltreatment faced by elderly and dependent adults. This project will highlight what APS professionals encounter when adults need a hero.

Stories will feature APS professionals, victim advocates, victim resiliency, and the army of people who work together to protect victims who cannot protect themselves.



SCAN ME

You're Essential!

- Letters to Editors
- Write/Call/Meet with your Senators & Representative
- Engage your agency's federal legislative affairs/budget offices & others to make APS funding a priority
- Engage partner organizations, others (MDTs, family, friends, neighbors) to act too – find proxies

Tell Congress



[https://bit.ly/
fundAPS2024](https://bit.ly/fundAPS2024)

Thank you!

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www.napsa-now.org



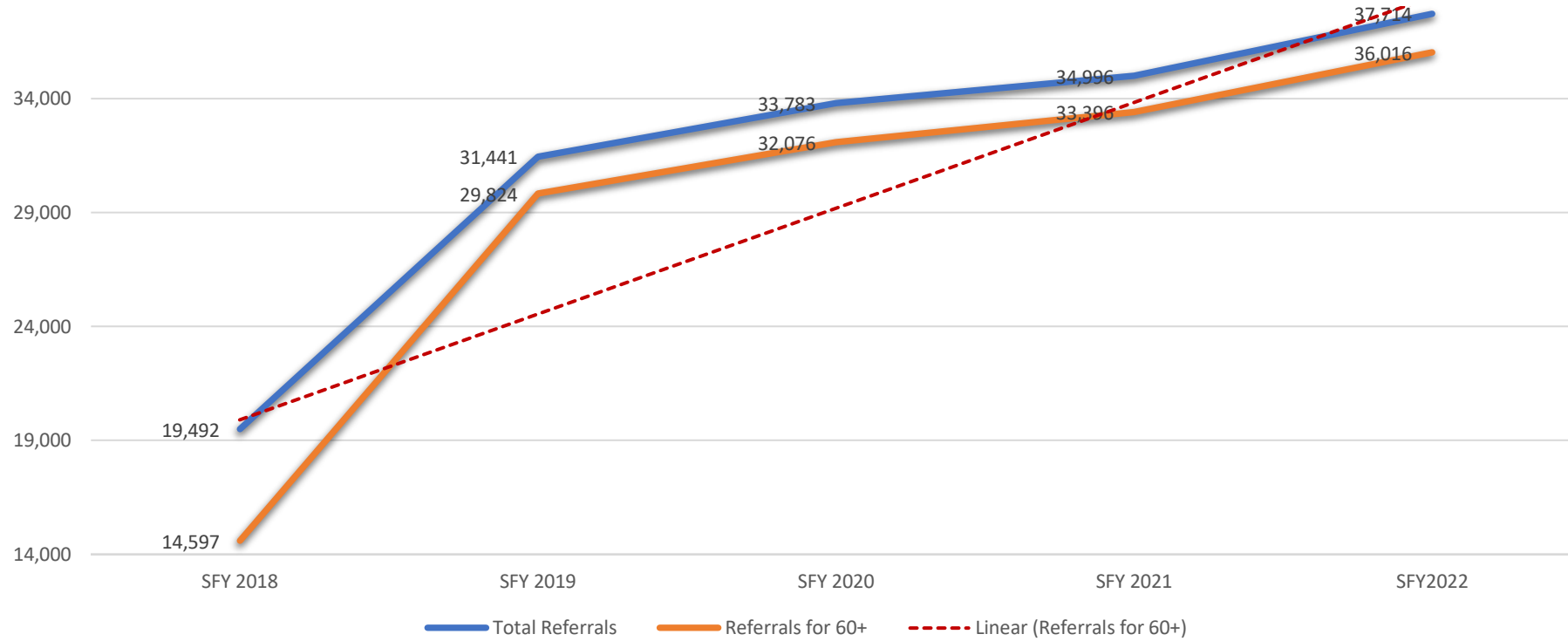


The Importance of Federal Funding for State Adult Protective Services Programs

Heidi Turner-Stone
Section Chief, APS, ODJFS

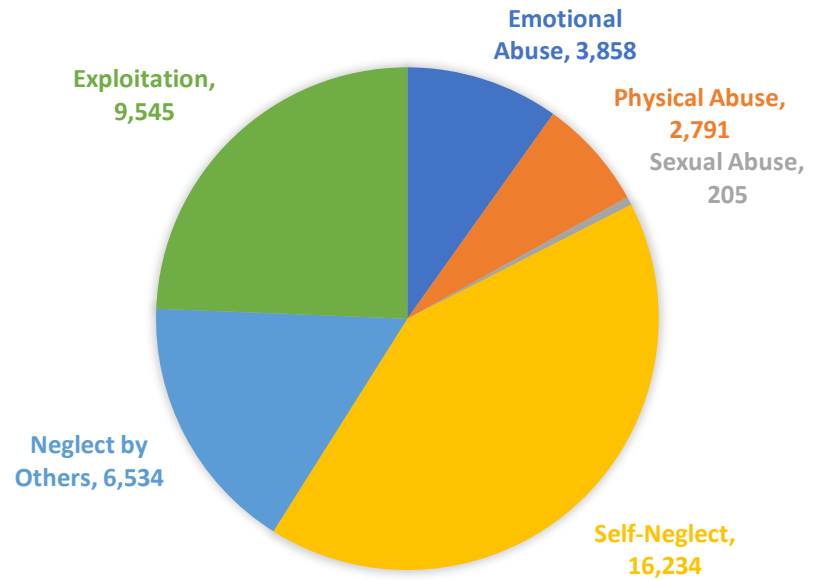


APS Referrals SFY 2018 - SFY 2022

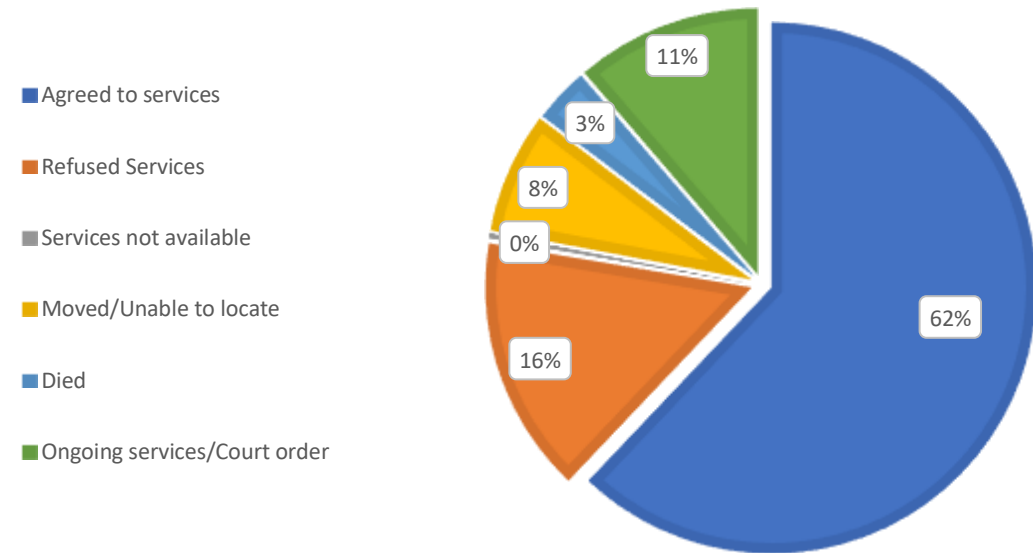




TYPES OF ALLEGATIONS SFY 2022



INDIVIDUALS DETERMINED TO BE IN NEED OF APS INTERVENTION SFY 2022



In Ohio, county departments of job and family services are mandated to provide protective services to those who are-

(ORC 5101.60)

- 60 or older
- Disabled by the infirmities of aging
- Physically or mentally impaired in such a way that prevents them from providing for their own care or protection
- Residing in an independent living arrangement



The CDJFS provides services to older citizens by -

- Receiving referrals of adult maltreatment 24/7
- Conducting assessments and investigations of accepted referrals
- Identifying service needs
- Providing or referring for services
- Monitoring open service cases

How is APS Funded in Ohio?

In the past budget cycle, the amount of funding provided by the state for the provision of APS services was increased -

- \$7,040,000 in each fiscal year is to be used to provide an initial allocation of **\$80,000 to each county**.
- The remainder of the appropriation will be provided to CDJFSs based on the formula found in ORC 5101.14.



Federal Funding for APS in Ohio



- 4/1/2021 – 9/30/2023
- \$37,152.22 (per county)
- One-time federal funding in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



- 8/1/2021 – 9/30/2024
- \$45,454.54 (per county)
- One-time federal funding to enhance and improve APS provided by state and local governments



- Elder Justice Act
- 4/1/2023 – 3/30/2025
- \$484,094.00
- Will be used for enhancements to the Ohio Database for Adult Protective Services

At the state level, ARPA funding is being used for program enhancement and improvement with projects such as

- allocations to each of the 88 county CDJFSs;
- improving data collection;
- continuous quality improvement and technical assistance (QA/TA) process;
- outreach/public awareness;
- improved community partnerships; and,
- costs related to training.

Creative County Uses of APS COVID-19 and ARPA Funding

Besides using grant dollars for staff training, vehicles, enhancing I-Teams, resource rooms, home repair, hoarding clean-ups, and emergency housing, counties are also being very creative -





- Working with EMS to provide integrated mobile healthcare services to adults referred to APS
- Developing a Memorandum of Understanding to purchase guardianship services through the local Guardianship Board
- Contacting with local professionals to conduct emergency competency evaluations for APS clients
- Development of a Senior Technology Program to assist APS clients battle isolation and connect to the community - enrollees will receive a tablet to keep in order to stay connected after the program is over





Current ODJFS APS Projects

- Quality Assurance/Technical Assistance
- Public Awareness
- County APS Staffing Composition
- Federal Funding
- Training/Teams Live Events
- ODAPS Enhancements
- Statewide APS Advisory Council

Federal Regulations



- Currently, there are no federal regulations governing APS.
- The Department of Health and Human Services has proposed regulations for APS under the Elder Justice Act.
- Regulations would “promote an effective APS response across the country so that all older adults and adults with disabilities, regardless of the state or jurisdiction in which they live, have similar protections and service delivery from APS systems”.
- In order to be effective and equitable, federal regulations will require additional funding to implement.

Here in Ohio, it's the local APS staff that does the hardest work, they are on the front lines helping one of our most vulnerable populations. Funding that supports them is paramount to their success.





Department of
Job & Family
Services

Your advocacy is
important -

Tell Congress



[https://bit.ly/
fundAPS2024](https://bit.ly/fundAPS2024)



APS: The National Picture

Bob Blancato

National Coordinator of Elder
Justice Coalition

December 7, 2023

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Hello and Welcome

- Proud to cohost this important webinar with Benjamin Rose and join two great leaders in APS, Jennifer Spoeri, Executive Director of NAPSA and Heidi Turner Stone, APS Ohio Section Chief.
- NAPSA, a founding member of EJC, has been vital to any successes we have enjoyed.
- EJC is observing our 20th anniversary, an appropriate time to be focusing on APS
- Want to also thank BRIA and SPRY for their vital support of EJC
- I will touch on three current topics each with different timelines

Topics



The end of pandemic funds and funding for FY24



APS first time regulations issued by ACL



Reauthorization of the 2010 Elder Justice Act



Pandemic Funding: .

The best and worst of times

- The Elder Justice Act received an unprecedented \$376 million in just 4 months of the emergency pandemic funding.
- This was a huge success as we've advocated for the past 10 years just to get over \$100 million.
- APS got more than 90 percent of these funds.
- Why this infusion of funding?
 - Responding to covid scams and to anticipate an increase in cases after the pandemic.
 - APS in the position of helping to combat these scams and address other issues related to elder abuse which grew out of the pandemic.

Pandemic Funding

- Jennifer outlined some of the important uses of these funds by APS agencies across the nation and Heidi on the uses in Ohio.
- Out of this unexpected development, the nation got a greater understanding and appreciation of the work of APS in combatting and preventing elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- BUT- These were emergency funds, separate from regular appropriations
- Important point to where we find ourselves now.



Funding from ACL

- APS has traditionally received all of its federal funding from the Social Services Block Grant—a program whose funding has been frozen for more than a decade.
- In this past Fiscal Year (FY23), APS received dedicated funding for the **first time** from the Administration for Community Living (ACL).
- The FY23 funding level was \$15 million- an important but incomplete milestone.

The Current Landscape for FY24



- Congress has passed two short-term continuing resolutions (CR) following the debt ceiling agreement which keeps funding at FY 23 levels.
- The second CR would ensure the same \$15 million through Feb 2.
- Yet there could still be trouble hanging onto that
- The House version of the funding bill gave \$0 in funding for APS, which was its funding level in FY22
- What could happen?
 1. Another short-term CR
 2. A year-long CR
 3. Passage of a separate Labor HHS funding bill.
- It will require constant advocacy to ensure at least the \$15 million is retained and you can help.

Don't Accept-Advocate!

You're Essential!

- Letters to Editors
- Write/Call/Meet with your Senators & Representative
- Engage your agency's federal legislative affairs/budget offices & others to make APS funding a priority
- Engage partner organizations, others (MDTs, family, friends, neighbors) to act too – find proxies



The next advocacy efforts are to work for possible increase later in FY 24 and to focus on FY 25. Data that shows increases in reported cases following the pandemic are essential in this push.

Regulations for APS

- First-ever federal regulations for APS, issued by the Administration for Community Living
- Establishes national standards for state APS systems to meet through policies, procedures, and uniformed definitions.
- EJC comments:
 - Echo the same concerns as other state APS agencies have expressed.
 - Against the mandated 24 hour (one calendar day) response time following a report as it only imposes a bigger burden on APS case workers.
 - Funding must be adequate to meet these standards.
 - Must make standards achievable and practical for APS agencies.
- Final regulations likely in early in 2024

EJA Reauthorization

- The effort to renew the landmark 2010 Elder Justice Act is stalled- pure and simple
- Stalled in part because whereas elder justice has always been a bi partisan issue—right now it is not
- There are excellent bills in both the Senate (S.1198) and House (H.R.2718) to extend this important law.
 - Bills are authored by key legislators Chairman Ron Wyden (S.1198) of Senate Finance Committee and Ranking Member Richard Neal of House Ways and Means Committee(H.R.2718)
- But—to date—no Republican has joined either bill and without bi partisan support it goes nowhere.



EJA Reauthorization

- Anyone attending this webinar cares about APS -that makes you an advocate.
- Contact Senator Vance and ask him to cosponsor S.1198, The Elder Justice Reauthorization and Modernization Act of 2023.
 - This bill would continue to provide dedicated funding for Adult Protective Services at levels totaling \$400 million a year for 4 years- a level reflective of the realities on the ground every day for APS
 - Be responsible for the first Republican Senator to join this vital bill
 - The funding isn't just an expenditure, but an investment in the safety and dignity for over 2.8 million older adults in Ohio and millions more across the country.

Advocacy is the Answer

- If the EJRMA is going to pass, will likely be in 2024.
- To help ensure that we must keep advocating
 - Not lobbying—not being partisan
 - Educating and informing is something you can do
- Your help is important for the funding and future of APS.
- Thank you



Resources



- Elder Justice Coalition
 - Sign up for our updates! <https://elderjusticecoalition.com/sign-up/>
- Advocate for APS FY24 funding: <https://bit.ly/fundAPS2024>
- Email: bob@elderjusticecoalition.com



Online Training for Mandated Reporters of Adult Abuse*

*Developed with funding from the
Ohio State Bar Foundation

Ohio's Mandated Reporters of Elder Abuse

- Ambulance Drivers
- Attorneys
- Bank, Savings & Loan, Credit Union Employees
- Building/Housing Inspectors
- Certified Public Accountants
- Chiropractors
- Clergy
- Coroners
- County Humane Society Employees
- Dentists
- Dialysis Technicians
- Emergency Technicians & Paramedics
- Financial Planners
- Firefighters
- Health Department Employees
- Home Health Agency Employees
- Hospital Employees
- Investment Advisors
- Marriage and Family Therapists
- Mental Health Agency Employees
- Notaries Public
- Nursing Home Employees
- Osteopaths
- Outpatient Health Facility Employees
- Peace Officers
- Pharmacists
- Physicians
- Podiatrists
- Professional Counselors
- Psychologists
- Real Estate Brokers and Salespeople
- Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses
- Residential Care Facility Employees
- Senior Service Providers
- Social Workers

Module 1: Understanding Abuse

Designed to enable any mandated reporter to understand and define the various types of abuse, identify common characteristics of both victims and perpetrators, and understand why abuse is so under reported across the country. Ohio specific definitions of adult abuse are used, which can be easily adapted for other states.

\$10

Module 2: Recognizing and Reporting Abuse

Helps mandated reporters understand their responsibility to report abuse in Ohio. Participants receive downloadable resources including a *Reporting Protocol* guide for reporting abuse and the *Recognizing Abuse Tool*, which was developed by Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging to screen for abuse. Information can be adapted by other states.

\$15

Enroll in both
Modules for
just \$20!

Links & Contact

To learn more:

- <https://www.benrose.org/-/mandated-reporter-training>

To purchase the training:

- <https://benrose.academy.reliaslearning.com/>

For more information about the training or the approval of contact hours:

- **Email Courtney Reynolds at ANETTraining@benrose.org**