

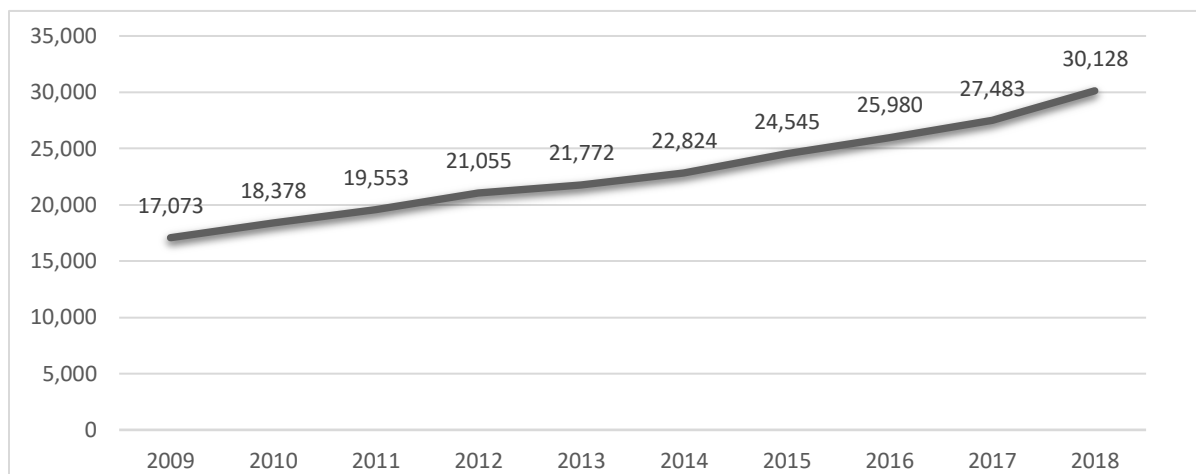
NORTH CAROLINA SENIOR TAR HEEL LEGISLATURE 2019 FACT SHEET

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM

The Senior Tar Heel Legislature urges the General Assembly recognize and value its vulnerable citizens by making available \$7 million in recurring funds in the State budget to meet the growing need for Adult Protective Services in North Carolina and conduct a comprehensive evaluation/review of these services to ensure this protection is adequate. Funds are needed in order to respond to the accelerated growth in the State's aging population, some of whom may be at risk of becoming victims of abuse, neglect or exploitation. The State of North Carolina has not provided any funding for the APS Program since the 2010-2012 State budget. The only funding for the APS Program is provided by county governments and a decreasing federal Social Services Block Grant.

North Carolina APS Statute, Chapter 108A, Article 6, requires that county departments of social services receive, evaluate and provide protective services to adults 18 and over who are abused, neglected and exploited. The majority of persons receiving Adult Protective Services are older adults. Specifically, 73% were 60 years of age or older, 56% were women and 86% lived alone or with family members.

APS reports have increased over the past eight years. In State Fiscal Year 2008, **15,337** reports were received. In State Fiscal Year 17-18, **30,128** reports were received. Based on this data, the number of reports received over the past ten years has increased by 96 percent.



Due to the aging of the population, APS reports are projected to continue to increase in the coming years. According to U.S. Census Bureau, 15.5% of the total population was 65 and over in 2016. In 2034, 20.5% of the State's population will be 65 and over.¹

The current system is underfunded and understaffed. County Departments of Social Services use Social Service Block Grant funding to partially fund their APS program, however, this resource has decreased in recent years resulting in insufficient staff to handle reports. The total expenditures for APS in SFY 2016-17 was \$23,542,432. Of this total, \$4,177,475 comes from the federal Social Services Block Grant, \$742,528 from the State and \$18,622,428 from counties.

We recommend that the General Assembly make available **\$7 million** in the state budget to meet the growing need for Adult Protective Services in North Carolina. During State Fiscal Year 2011-2012 of the North Carolina General Assembly, \$2 million was eliminated from the state budget. This was the only state funding allocated to support Adult Protective Services in 53 county Departments of Social Services. A comprehensive evaluation/review is needed to better reflect the challenges counties currently face in meeting the changing needs of vulnerable and older adults who have been abused, neglected or exploited and are in need protective services.

¹ NC State Office of Budget and Management. Population estimates and projections:
http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/ncosbm/facts_and_figures/socioeconomic_data/population_estimates.shtm.