



The Elder Justice Coalition

FY 2019 Begins; Elder Justice Programs Maintain Funding Increases

Federal fiscal year 2019 began on October 1, and a funding bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education was signed into law on time before the fiscal year began today, October 1. This is the first time in 22 years that the Labor-HHS bill has been signed on time.

The increases that many elder justice programs saw for FY 2018 were maintained, including:

- \$12 million for the Elder Justice Initiative
- \$1.7 billion for the Social Services Block Grant
- \$21.7 million for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program
- \$3.9 million for Elder Rights Support Activities

The President also signed into law a short-term funding bill called a "Continuing Resolution" or CR, to keep many other government programs running at FY 2018 levels. This Continuing Resolution will ensure funding through December 7 for other programs, such as those funded through the Department of Justice. This bill also gives the Violence Against Women Act programs an extension of authorization through December 7.

Webinar Recording Available!

If you missed our webinar last month entitled "But Did It Work? Elder Justice Interventions II: Self-Neglect", you can access the recording below! It featured a panel discussion about an innovative project developed with the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging, WellMed and Texas Adult Protective Services to screen for risk factors for self-neglect among older adults and people with disabilities in WellMed clinics in Texas in the hopes of helping people avoid self-neglect and the negative outcomes associated with it.

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3059367307851923201>

Elder Justice Grants Awarded by the Administration for Community Living

Fifteen separate grant awards related to elder justice were announced recently by the US Administration for Community Living. One award is for the Orutsararmiut Native Council in Bethel, Alaska, for a two-year project that aims to reduce harm and maltreatment among Yup'ik Eskimo elders. Also, fourteen states received grants to enhance statewide Adult Protective Services systems, evaluate and improve practices, and improve data collection and reporting to ACL's National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System.

<https://www.acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/new-grants-support-elder-justice-and-independent-living-indian>

<https://www.acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/acl-awards-grants-14-state-adult-protective-services-systems>

DEMOGRAPHICS AND OUTCOMES FOR ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES FY 2017-2018

WHO ARE THE ADULTS AND THEIR FAMILIES?	WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THEM?	WHAT DO THESE ADULTS AND THEIR FAMILIES NEED?
<p><input type="checkbox"/> In FY 2017-2018 30,128 reports were received by county departments of social services alleging the abuse, neglect or exploitation of adults.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 15,563 of the reports were screened-in for Adult Protective Services to determine whether the adults reported as being abused, neglected or exploited were in need of protective services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Older adults comprised the majority of those receiving APS, 73% were 60 years of age or older, 27% were 18-59 years of age.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Women comprised 56% of the total reports screened-in, and men comprised 44%.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 68% of the adults reported were White, 27% were Black, 1% was Hispanic and the remaining 4% were Native American, Asian and others.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The majority of the adults reported were living in our communities. 86% lived alone or with family members, while 14% lived in a facility, institution or shelter.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Abuse, neglect or exploitation was found for 6066 (45%) of the reports screened-in.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Neglect (88%) was the most common form of mistreatment found. 64% of the neglect situations involved self neglect. 24% involved caretaker neglect.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Abuse was found in 4% of the situations.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exploitation was found in 14% of the situations.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> When mistreatment was found, the most frequently named perpetrator was the self-neglector, followed by an adult child, parent, non-relative caretaker, and other relatives.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The most common disabilities experienced by mistreated adults were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Physical illness -- Multiple disabilities --Alzheimer's Disease --Other Physical Impairment --Mental Illness 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Factors which may have contributed to the abuse, neglect or exploitation of adults living at home included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Mental/Emotional impairment -- Physical Impairment -- Dependent/Physically Frail -- Inadequate Health Care -- Unsafe Environment -- Substance Use/Misuse -- Inadequate knowledge of the health care needs of the disabled adult -- Unstable living arrangement <p><input type="checkbox"/> The primary factors identified as contributing to mistreatment in facilities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Inadequate knowledge or training of care needs -- Inadequate supervision or management <p><input type="checkbox"/> The most frequently identified services needed to address the abuse, neglect, or exploitation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Placement -- Medical or Health Care -- In-home Aide Services -- Legal/Surrogate Decision Maker -- Money Management -- Mental Health