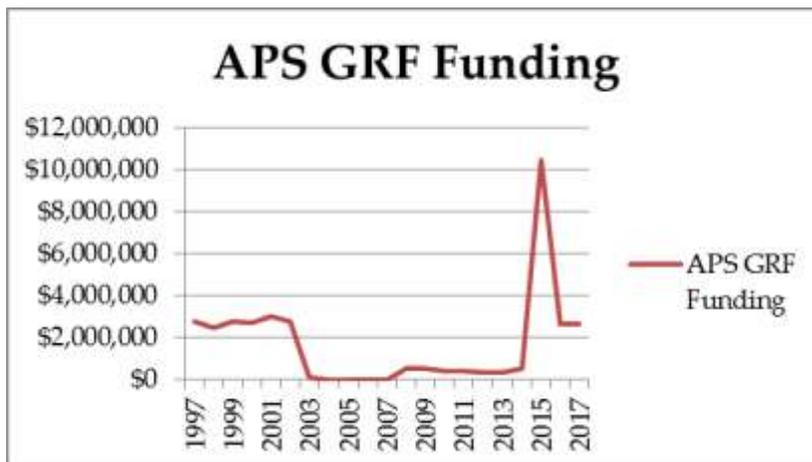




KEEP PROTECTION OF SENIORS A TOP PRIORITY!

The Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services urges the Ohio General Assembly to invest **\$10 million per year** (including a base amount of at least \$65,000 per county) to fund adult protective services in the 2018-2019 state budget (ALI 600-534).

Prevalence of Elder Abuse: In state FY'2015, 16,854 adult protective services investigations were opened. However, a study funded by the Health Path Foundation of Ohio estimated that at least 105,000 seniors (age 60+) are abused or neglected each year by people they trust. In comparison, the study estimated that 103,000 seniors are injured in falls that result in an emergency room visit each year. Publicly funded efforts are underway to prevent the harm caused by falls and associated health costs. Ohio must put forth a similar effort to protect seniors and prevent the loss of dignity and severe harm, and associated health costs, that are the result of elder abuse.



Funding History: The adult protective services system in Ohio has been severely underfunded for many years:

The 2014-2015 state budget allocated \$500,000/year in state general revenue funds to support county APS systems. That amounted to less than \$550 to more than \$50,000 per year to each county based on a state distribution formula.

As a result, availability of services has been dependent upon availability of local funding.

Capacity: Changes to the APS law in the last budget helped to begin building its infrastructure. However, these changes have put greater demand on already strained-to-the-limit services that continue to rely on local funding when available.

The current funding allocation of \$30,000 per year per county is not enough to even ensure that a full-time APS staff is available to seniors in every county. Ohio has required that an infrastructure is in place, but must now make the investment to enable it to be functional.

APS Standards: The Administration's APS Funding Workgroup recommended, and the 131st General Assembly established via state law, new statewide core minimum APS requirements:

- Investigate increased reports of abuse or those at risk of abuse, follow through with the investigation to enforcement (possible prosecution, protective orders, etc.) and the identification of services and ongoing case management and monitoring to reduce risk or stop abuse from happening.
- Establishing I-Teams to coordinate response to abuse, neglect and exploitation; create collaboration between APS and other community providers, including law enforcement, hospitals and judges to bring expertise and resources.
- Formalizing memorandums of understanding with local police departments to ensure legal issues like physical abuse and financial exploitation are cooperatively addressed.

Greater Investment Needed: Ohio should invest at least a base amount of \$65,000 per year to each county to fully fund a dedicated full-time worker to ensure quality core services are available in each county, regardless of the availability of local funds. Additional dollars can be distributed by formula to provide for emergency services, coordination of interdisciplinary teams, support for outreach and education, and other important activities and services.

It's the right thing to do:

- Seniors in every county deserve to age safely with dignity and respect, with the knowledge that help is available when they need it.
- Ensuring that the state has a strong adult protective services system that is fully functional in all 88 counties is essential to meeting that goal.
- Each county should be provided the resources to meet state mandates, to maintain at least one full time staff person, and to provide services needed to stabilize victims of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Without increased state support, all recent efforts to combat elder abuse and neglect will not provide quality protective service statewide.

The Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services (OCAPS) is a statewide coalition that strives to enhance the provision of services to adults at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation through education and advocacy.

For more information:

Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services – www.ocapsohio.org

Jayne Richards, Executive Director, jayne.richards@ocapsohio.org, 614.228.2277

Beth Kowalczyk, Co-Chair, OCAPS Public Policy Committee,
Kowalczyk@ohioaging.org 614.754.7028

Maridell Couture, Co-Chair, OCAPS Public Policy Committee,
Maridell.Couture@jfs.ohio.gov 216.420.6771