



Invest in Ohio's Seniors

Ohio Association of Area
Agencies on Aging

State Biennium Budget Request
SFY 2018-2019

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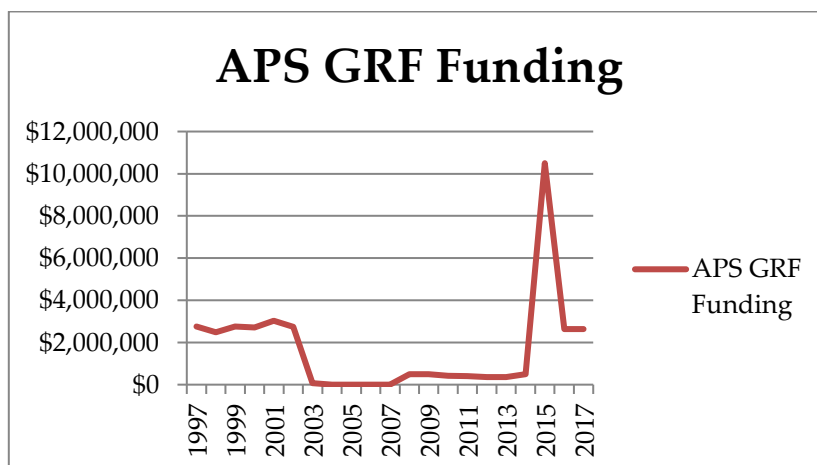
Protect Seniors: Support Adult Protective Services

Background

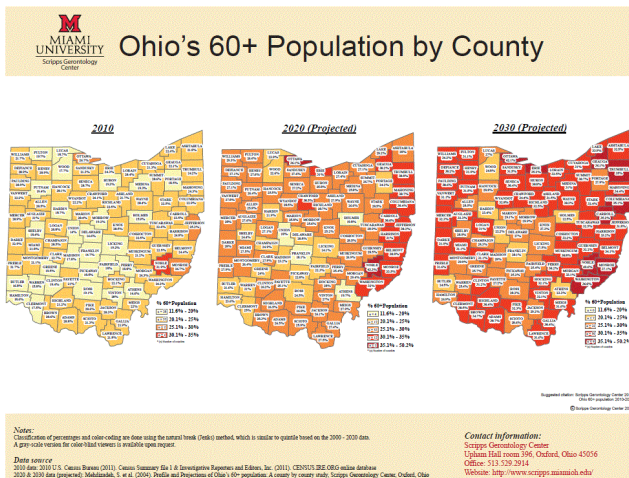
- The **Adult Protective Services line item (ALI 600-534)** supports county departments of job and family services to conduct screening and investigation, and provide services, education and outreach on elder abuse, neglect and exploitation in Ohio's 88 counties.
- This line item is **the only dedicated funding** available to Ohio counties to combat elder abuse.
- **We have made progress.** In SFY 2014-2015, the appropriation to counties was \$500,000, with 46 counties receiving less than \$3000 per year. In SFY 2016-2017, the appropriation was \$2.6 million, with each county receiving \$30,000 per year.
- **In 2015, the General Assembly appropriated \$10 million in one-time funds.** Little more than half was distributed to counties, mostly in the form of one-time APS capacity and innovation grants.
- **HB 64 (SFY 2016-2017) introduced statewide APS standards and requirements.**

The impact is clear:

- Nationally, *one in ten financial abuse victims will turn to Medicaid as a direct result of their own monies being stolen from them.*
- Victims of elder abuse are *four times more likely to be admitted to a nursing home and three times more likely to be admitted to a hospital*
- Direct medical costs associated with violent injuries to older adults are estimated to *add over \$5.3 billion* to the nation's annual health expenditures.
- Annual financial losses by victims of financial elder exploitation are estimated at *\$36.5 billion per year* nationally.
- Financial losses can bankrupt the victim and even other family members, *causing them to turn to publicly funded programs to provide for their basic needs.*



What is the issue?



The senior population is growing. By 2030, adults 65 years and older will make up nearly 25% of Ohio's population, up from 14% today. The fastest growing segment, age 85+ population, is most likely to need long term care services and supports. Cognitive impairment and the need for help with activities of daily living make seniors more vulnerable to abuse.

Elder abuse is significantly underreported and unrecognized as a serious problem. Recent studies indicate that at least 100,000 or more seniors are

abused or neglected each year. In comparison, 103,000 seniors are injured in falls that result in an emergency room visit, and 123,000 are diagnosed with cancer. Investments to address elder abuse do not match up to current investments to address these other important issues, even though the health and financial impacts are as significant.

Recent investments are not enough. Access to services for older Ohioans has been dependent upon where they live and availability of local funding to subsidize county APS. Not all counties can employ full time APS staff with the resources available. While \$30,000 per county per year was an increase for almost all counties, it is not enough to meet the need. As a result of new statewide mandates, Area Agencies on Aging, on the front lines and in the homes of seniors, have witnessed a substantial increase in outreach and awareness, but not in counties' capacity to take reports and conduct investigations.

What is the solution?

Increase investment in adult protective services so that counties can meet the need. The current level of funding means that access to APS still depends on where you live. At a minimum, \$10 million per year is needed to more fully support adult protective services in Ohio. A base allocation of at least \$65,000 per county per year, with additional dollars allocated by formula, would ensure that county agencies can hire at least one full time staff person, and would provide additional resources needed for outreach, education and services.