



Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging
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AGING NETWORK PRAISES NEW INVESTMENT FOR PROTECTION OF SENIORS

Today, Governor Kasich signed House Bill 483, which includes an unprecedented \$10 million for adult protective services. The inclusion of this significant investment demonstrates recognition by the General Assembly and the Governor's Office that protection of seniors must be a top priority for the state. The funding will strengthen Ohio's capacity to protect the state's vulnerable elderly from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Ohio's 12 Area Agencies on Aging work side by side with county adult protective services and share a common goal: to enable older adults to live safely at home for as long as they want to be there.

"Our partnership with Adult Protective Services is one of our most important. We often need their help for us to provide supportive services to help individuals regain their dignity and security," explained Cindy Farson, Director of the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging and member of the Attorney General's Elder Abuse Commission.

HB 483 included a new Adult Protective Services workgroup to be appointed by the Governor to provide recommendations on the distribution of the funds for adult protective services to the counties. The work group will also examine the long-term needs of the adult protective services system and resources to build a strong system going forward.

"We look forward to working with the workgroup to take a closer look at the APS system," Farson said. "Since the implementation of the APS law, I have been alarmed that it is an unfunded mandate for the counties. This has resulted in a scattered approach to services, without consistent training, procedures or reporting."

Beth Kowalczyk, Chief Policy and Operating Officer, Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging, expressed gratitude for the new investment. "We are thrilled that our state leaders have recognized the need for more resources to protect older Ohioans. Moving from \$500,000 a year to \$10 million is a significant investment. Our most vulnerable should have somewhere to turn for help, and this investment can go a long way towards that goal."