



California Commission on Aging  
*... a citizens voice within government*



BUDGET FACT SHEET  
Adult Protective Services – Training Funds

**A joint proposal by the  
California Commission on Aging, California Elder Justice Coalition and  
the County Welfare Directors Association**

**Purpose:**

Counties operate the Adult Protective Services Program (APS), which provides 24 hour/7 day response to reports of abuse and neglect of persons over age 65 and dependent adults. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) provides support to county APS agencies through its statewide training program. The current level of training is insufficient to enable counties to meet local needs to protect and serve this vulnerable elderly and dependent adult population.

**Proposed Solution:**

Increase state funding support for statewide APS training at a total cost of \$5 million General Fund. This will create a statewide, consistent APS training program infrastructure to provide core training to all new APS staff, supervisor training, and advance training driven by new policy and emerging trends. This level of training would be consistent with the child welfare services training infrastructure. Additionally, this level of funding would ensure access to mandated training for mandated reporters, as well as training coordination with public guardians/conservators/administrators who together protect our most vulnerable senior population.

**Number of Vulnerable Seniors is Skyrocketing:**

The population of seniors continues to dramatically increase. By 2030, about one in five Californians will be age 65 or older.<sup>i</sup> California Department of Aging statistics show that between 1990 and 2020, California's aging population (those 60 and older) will double, and the oldest demographic, those 85 and older, will grow by 143 percent by 2020<sup>ii</sup>. Of those 85 and older, an estimated 32 percent have Alzheimer's disease, with the highest prevalence of Alzheimer's among those 75 to 84 years of age (44 percent).<sup>iii</sup> County APS must increase its capacity to meet the expected corresponding increase in elder abuse and neglect cases.

**The Need:**

Training for APS workers is critical to meet our statutory statewide mandates to respond to reports of abuse and neglect and to protect vulnerable seniors and dependent adults. Unlike the Child Protective Services (CPS) program, the APS program completely lacks a training infrastructure to provide core training to all new APS social workers, advanced training for seasoned workers, specialized training for APS Supervisors, and new curricula to address emerging trends and legislative mandates.

The APS program was primarily a state-funded program until recently when, in 2011, state funding for APS was “realigned” and funding responsibility was given to the counties. However, the responsibility of funding and providing statewide training to APS workers remains a state function to promote consistency and coordination of training curricula. CDSS currently contracts with local universities to deliver this training. Unfortunately, training for county APS workers has not kept up with caseload and demand, and as a result, training for APS workers and their partner agencies is woefully underfunded. Currently only \$88,000 State General Fund (\$176,000 total funds) is allocated to CDSS for statewide APS training. These funds have not been increased for the past 10 years, despite the fact that APS cases rose by 35 percent between 2001 and 2013 throughout California. At this funding level, it is not possible to provide adequate training for APS staff – leaving workers often under-prepared as they go into the field to protect vulnerable seniors and dependent adults.

### **CPS vs. APS Training Support**

Counties administer both the CPS and APS programs and CDSS funds training for both. Both programs have acute training needs, yet the training supports are vastly different.

#### **CPS:**

Receives \$22 million in total training funds  
(\$8.9 million State GF)  
Responds to 500,000 reports per year  
Serves over 85,000 children (2012 data)  
Served by 3,000 social workers statewide  
Equates to \$7,333 training per worker/per year

#### **APS:**

Receives \$176,000 in total funds (\$88,000 state GF)  
Responds to 125,000 reports per year  
Serves nearly 25,000 cases (2013 data)  
Served by 550 social workers statewide  
Equates to less than \$350 per worker, per year

*Although APS and CWS workers protect equally vulnerable populations who suffer from abuse and neglect, APS workers receive less than 1 cent for every dollar of state and federally-funded training that is provided to CWS workers.*

Statewide training of mandated reporters is also lacking. County APS is mandated to provide training to mandated reporters, such as physicians and public safety personnel. Unfortunately, counties struggle to meet this mandate in light of increasing local workloads. County APS relies on timely reports by mandated reporters to protect victims from further harm, so training of mandated reporters is critical. In addition, county APS and county public guardian/conservator/administrators (PA/G/C) work together to protect abuse and neglect victims and strive to keep elders and dependent adults in the least restrictive, community-based setting. These programs are often co-located with county APS and are overseen by the county human services agency. The PA/G/C is a completely self-sustaining program, but staff must meet training and certification requirements per state law. Given the significant overlap often between the APS and PA/G/C programs, additional training coordination and support between these programs is necessary.

#### **For More Information:**

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<sup>i</sup> Public Policy Institute of CA, “Just the Facts” retrieved 1/29/15 at [http://www.ppic.org/main/publication\\_show.asp?i=259](http://www.ppic.org/main/publication_show.asp?i=259)

<sup>ii</sup> Based on data from the California Department of Aging, accessed at [http://www.aging.ca.gov/Data\\_and\\_Statistics/Facts\\_About\\_Elderly/](http://www.aging.ca.gov/Data_and_Statistics/Facts_About_Elderly/), updated March 10,2012.

<sup>iii</sup> 2014 Alzheimer’s Disease: Facts and Figures, accessed at [http://www.alz.org/downloads/Facts\\_Figures\\_2014.pdf](http://www.alz.org/downloads/Facts_Figures_2014.pdf).