



Adult Protective Services Title VII Project Description

Overview

The Adult Protective Services Program administered through the Illinois Department on Aging [herein after referred to as IDoA] is designed to respond to adults with disabilities and older persons who are victims of abuse, neglect, self-neglect and exploitation by building on the existing legal, medical, and social service system to assure that it is more responsive to the needs of elder abuse victims and their families.

Service Delivery Components

Intake of Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation and Self-Neglect Reports

A screening process to determine if there is reasonable cause to suspect that abuse, neglect, or exploitation has occurred.

Assessment

A systematic, standardized system to respond to reports of abuse, neglect, self-neglect and exploitation for the purpose of determining whether abuse has occurred, the degree of risk to the eligible adult of further harm, and if the need exists for immediate interventions.

Case Work

Intensive case work activities on substantiated cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Case work includes working with the eligible adult on the development and implementation of a case plan for the purpose of stabilizing the abusive situation and reducing the risk of further harm to the older person. The case plan could include legal, medical, social service and/or other assistance needed.

Follow-Up

Because abuse, neglect, exploitation and self-neglect are sometimes recurring problems even after intervention, a systematic method of follow-up on substantiated cases is essential to the Adult Protective Services Program. Follow-up may be effective in preventing further abuse by working with the eligible adult in detecting recurring signs of abuse before the situation becomes life-threatening.

Early Intervention Services

While an array of services is usually available in communities, often older persons and persons with disabilities who are victims of abuse face unique barriers which prevent access to available resources. Early Intervention Services funds are available for short term and/or emergency assistance where resources are not available for the victim. These services include: legal assistance, housing and relocation assistance, respite care, and emergency aid (i.e., food, clothing, and medical care).

Multidisciplinary Teams (MTeams)

A Multi-disciplinary Team is a group of selected professionals from a variety of disciplines who meet minimally eight times per year to discuss and provide consultation on specific cases of adult abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation. The purpose is to use the varied backgrounds, training and philosophies of the different professions to explore the best service plan for the cases involved. The Illinois Department on Aging funds a Provider Agency in each geographic area to receive and respond to reports of adult abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation. Each Provider Agency, with a few exceptions, is responsible for creating and supporting a Multi-disciplinary Team.

The specific goals are to improve each Provider Agency's response to its adult abuse and neglect clients by: providing consultation on complex cases, acting as a sounding board for caseworkers, providing different perspectives on problems, and improving networking among peers within each professional group.

Fatality Review Teams (FRTs)

FRTs purpose in reviewing a death is to: Assist local agencies in identifying and reviewing suspicious deaths of adult victims of alleged, suspected or substantiated abuse or neglect in domestic living situations; Facilitate communication between officials responsible for autopsies and inquests and persons involved in reporting or investigating alleged or suspected cases of abuse, neglect or financial exploitation of at-risk adults and persons involved in providing services to at-risk adults; Evaluate means by which the death might have been prevented; and Report findings to the appropriate agencies and the FRT Advisory Council and make recommendations that may help to reduce the number of at-risk adult deaths caused by abuse and neglect and that may help to improve the investigations of deaths of at-risk adults and increase prosecutions, if appropriate.

Public Awareness/Education

Public awareness and education focus on prevention efforts and identification of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. In addition to general public awareness through posters, brochures, and public service announcements, education efforts will focus on those professional groups most likely to come into contact with victims of abuse.

APS Training

Per the IDOA APS Program Standards and Procedures, supervisors and caseworkers are required to complete designated amounts of training for both recertification and in service training in order to maintain their certifications.

Program Funding

The Illinois Department on Aging provides funding for the Adult Protective Services Program through General Revenue Funding on a fee for service schedule.

Title VII Funding

APSPAs can utilize the designated Title VII funds, provided by [AgeLinc](#) through the Older Americans Act, to support the activities needed to perform the responsibilities outlined in the MTeam, Fatality Review Teams, and to attend training to ensure compliance with training obligation. Expenses should be incurred in accordance with the 2CFR regulations consistent with the Older Americans Act funding.

Additional information on the above activities can be found in the APS Standards and Procedures, MTeam Handbook and Fatality Review Team Handbook posted on the AgeLinc's Partner webpage.