



# A New Vision for Minnesota's Adult Protective Services



Mary McGurran | DHS Adult Protection Supervisor

Amanda Vickstrom | MEJC Executive Director

# 2021 First Federal APS Funding CRRSA

Minnesota DHS received \$1.5M through the Coronavirus Relief and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). DHS Allocated:

- \$550,000 to Tribal Governments for APS activities
- \$430,000 APS Client Services
- \$150,000 Public Awareness in Underrepresented Communities
- \$200,000 APS Training on Unconscious Bias and Equity

# 2021/2022 Federal APS Funding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

## Grant purpose

To enhance, improve, and expand the ability of APS at the state and local levels to receive, investigate, case plan, and offer service response to APS clients in response to allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

<b>Funder</b>	Administration for Community Living (ACL)
<b>Funding source</b>	American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds
<b>Recipient</b>	Minnesota's Department of Human Services
<b>Amount</b>	\$4.2 million, not ongoing

# Administration for Community Living APS Operational Plan

## Every State and Territory Submit to ACL

- Plan to improve APS at the state and local level
- Vision – What the APS program aspires to become and achieve in 3-5 years
- Mission – Who is served, what needs can be fulfilled, how do we make people's lives better?
- Guiding Principles/Core Values – Where is APS headed?
- Environmental Scan – Describe the current environment
- Targeted Improvements/Goals – Based on Environmental Scan

# Stakeholders – MN APS Operational Plan

- APS Vision Team – MACSSA and DHS representatives
- Minnesota American Indian Tribal Health and Human Services Leadership – DHS Office of Indian Policy
- MN Leadership Council on Aging Diverse Elders Coalition
- Minnesota Council on Disability
- Minnesota Elder Justice Center
- Minnesota Board on Aging
- DHS Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council
- 200 Community and Institutional Stakeholders Survey Response

# New APS Vision

## Purpose

To explain why an organization exists (not what it does!) and the way in which the Minnesota will be a better place because of the work of that organization.



Minnesota's Adult Protective Services exists so that all adults who are vulnerable to abuse, neglect, or exploitation are supported to live in safety and dignity, consistent with their own culture, values and goals, and so people concerned about them have resources for support.

# New APS Mission

## Purpose

To describe the purpose, actions and services of an organization.



Adults who are vulnerable and those who support them receive the assistance they need to identify, prevent, report, stop, and minimize the risk for abuse, neglect, and exploitation through tribal, state, and county partnerships.

# New Core Operating Principles

## **Purpose**

To give staff overarching guidance on how to approach their work.



# Core Operating Principle #1

## **Sometimes adults need support.**

Adult Protective Services engages adults who are vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and exploitation and those who support them using trauma-informed, culturally appropriate, and person-centered approaches in assessment, investigation, safety planning, and service intervention.



# Core Operating Principle #2

## **Choice and values are balanced with safety.**

Respect for the cultural identify and dignity of all involved guides protective services while we balance the choices and values of the person who is vulnerable with support for them to be safe from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.



# Core Operating Principle #3

## Focus on outcomes.

Tribal, state and county partners commit to continuously improve the adult protection system and services, remove barriers, eliminate disparities, and focus on outcomes of safety and dignity for the adult who is vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and exploitation.



# Minnesota's Approved APS ARPA Spend Plan *(slide 1 of 2)*

- APS Resource need analysis
- Community based services to prevent, stop and reduce risks for vulnerable adults from underrepresented communities referred to APS
- Mandated Reporting Training
- Statewide community listening tour in underrepresented communities
- Support for Tribal Federal NAMRS Participation
- Systems Enhancements to the reporting and Social Services Information System (SSIS)

# Minnesota's Approved APS ARPA Spend Plan *(slide 2 of 2)*

- Training APS Core Competencies using an unconscious bias, anti-racism lens
- Tribal Nations APS Program Development/Enhancement
- Policy Guidance – APS role in Social Services Continuum
- Project administration and evaluation
- Quality Assurance benchmarks for equity in outcomes
- Vulnerable Adult Maltreatment Awareness in underrepresented groups
- Web Reporting Improvements

# Most Significant Challenges

- The system is not culturally responsive
- Racial and ethnic groups are screened out more frequently than white people
- Screening and intake lack consistency.
- Adult protection is under-resourced, resulting in funding inequities
- County discretionary decisions may pose a risk to objective and equitable APS decision-making
- Services are not equitably accessible among all disability types
- County of residence impacts screen-out rates
- There are not enough options for resolving reports of maltreatment
- Stakeholders don't understand reporting system
- Data and good measures don't drive continuous improvement efforts
- Data sharing restrictions hinder collaboration and trust-building, but privacy is also important
- The VAA isn't focused on prevention

# New APS Goals

**Goal 1.** Adults who are vulnerable to maltreatment and referred to APS have equitable access to protective services.

**Goal 2.** Adults who are vulnerable to maltreatment and referred to APS experience person-centered, culturally appropriate, and trauma-informed assessment, services, and supports to reduce risk and recover from maltreatment.

**Goal 3.** Tribal nations are supported in development of agreements with the state to assume administration of adult protection program duties.

**Goal 4.** APS workers across the state have equitable access to resources to meet client needs to reduce risk for adults who are vulnerable to maltreatment.

**Goal 5.** Tribal, state, and county partnerships in program management and evaluation of outcomes for adults who are vulnerable are enhanced.

# 2022 Legislative Changes

- Prevention – service offering at intake
- Transparency – posted prioritization guidelines
- Person-centered outcomes – focus on assessment and services to stop maltreatment
- Data Sharing – improved communication and coordination, including with MN Tribal Human Services

## ***MN APS Vision***

Minnesota's Adult Protective Services exist so that all adults who are vulnerable to abuse, neglect, or exploitation are supported to live in safety and dignity, consistent with their own culture, values and goals, and so people concerned about them have resources for support.



# Thank you!

## **Contact:**

Email: [dhs.adultprotection@state.mn.us](mailto:dhs.adultprotection@state.mn.us)

Phone: 651-431-2609

Website: <http://mn.gov/dhs/>