



February 22, 2019

To: The Honorable Dr. Richard Pan  
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3

Honorable Members  
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3

From: Frank J. Mecca, Executive Director  
Scarlet Hughes, Executive Director, California State Association of Public Administrators/Guardians/Conservators (PA | PG | PC)  
Gretchen Zeagler, Executive Director, California Commission on Aging  
Lisa Nerenberg, Executive Director, California Elder Justice Coalition

**RE: ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (APS) AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR/GUARDIAN/CONSERVATOR TRAINING PROGRAM**

The California State Association of Public Administrators/Guardians/Conservators (CAPAGPC), California Commission on Aging, California Elder Justice Coalition, and County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) respectfully request your support for \$5.75 General Fund (GF) over three years to continue support of a training program and infrastructure to enable counties to meet local needs to protect and serve this vulnerable elderly and dependent adult population.

**Background**

Counties operate the APS Program, 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. County APS also collaborate with, and rely upon, County PA/PG/PC who provide services to individuals who are no longer able to act in their own best interest, resist undue influence, or are gravely disabled as a result of a psychiatric or cognitive disorder.

In 2016, the Legislature and Governor approved \$3 million in one-time funding to begin work on the implementation of the necessary training infrastructure for APS social workers to protect and serve older adult victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation. This investment was leveraged with another \$3 million in federal funds, for a \$6 million total investment.

**The one-time funding has resulted in:**

- ✓ Augmented training infrastructure with additional trainers and curriculum developers, resulting in over 3,200 social workers attended 154 advanced training courses on a range of topics to better serve victims of abuse and neglect.
- ✓ 120 social workers are on track to receive national certification in the APS core competencies including many new APS social work staff.
- ✓ Several eLearning modules were developed including mandated reporter training to facilitate timely reporting to APS when abuse and neglect is suspected.
- ✓ A small portion of funds were used for PA/PG/PC to provide ten regional trainings and advanced training through an annual conference.

This funding will expire at the end of this fiscal year and leave California unprepared to meet the growing demand for services among California's burgeoning older adult population. Without continued funding the current training system will be dismantled, leaving just \$88,000 GF (\$176,000 total funds) shared among 58 county APS programs - only providing three days of basic training in each of the five training regions spread across the year, reaching just a fraction of APS social workers.

The APS program was primarily a state-funded program until 2011, when 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.

**Needed Investment to Realize the Goals of APS Training**

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 and PA/PG/PC must increase its capacity to meet the expected corresponding increase in abuse and neglect cases among older adults.

In addition, APS and PA/PG/PC 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. Given the significant overlap between the APS and PA/PG/PC programs, additional training coordination and support between these programs is necessary.

An increase to state funding support for statewide APS and PA/PG/PC training at a total cost of \$5.75 million General Fund (\$11.5 million with federal matching funds) over three years will enable the current, yet temporary, APS training structure to continue, and would allow for some expansion to bring core training to all new APS social workers and supervisors, and new advanced training addressing emerging trends and legislative mandates, and support to new staff through simulation training and coaching to supervisors.

Additionally, this level of funding would build a training infrastructure for county PA/PG/PC who, together with APS staff, protect our most vulnerable older adult population. County PA/PG/PC staff are mandated by state law to complete initial training and continuing certification requirements. State law also empowers the CAPAPGPC to establish these training and certification requirements. However, there is no state funding appropriated to support these training requirements. The proposed funding would ensure all new PA/PG/PC staff receive core induction training while supporting the growing needs for advanced training based on increasing demands for services.

California must continue to build on the successes of the investment in County APS and PA/PG/PC training programs so that a vulnerable elderly and dependent adult population are provided consistent, effective care and services.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

<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).

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