



BUDGET FACT SHEET
Training Funds for Adult Protective Services and Public Administrator/Guardians/Conservators

A joint proposal by the
**California Commission on Aging, California Elder Justice Coalition,
the County Welfare Directors Association, and
California State Association of Public Administrators, Guardians and Conservators**

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. County APS also relies on County Public Administrators/Guardians/Conservators (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 over three years to build a training infrastructure to enable counties to meet local needs to protect and serve this vulnerable elderly and dependent adult population. This investment was leveraged with another \$3 million in federal funds, for a \$6 million total investment. In 2019-20 this funding will expire and will leave California unprepared to meet the growing demand for services among California’s burgeoning older adult population.

Proposed Solution:

Increase state funding support for statewide APS and PA/PG/PC training at a total cost of \$5.75 million General Fund (\$10.25 million with federal matching funds) over three years. This will ensure 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 build a training infrastructure for county PA/PG/PC who, together with APS staff, protect our most vulnerable older adult 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.ⁱ 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 2020ⁱⁱ. 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).ⁱⁱⁱ County APS and PA/PG/PC must increase its capacity to meet the expected corresponding increase in abuse and neglect cases among older adults.

The Need:

Training for APS and PA/PG/PC workers is critical to meet statutory statewide mandates to respond to reports of abuse and neglect and to protect vulnerable older and dependent adults. Both the APS and PA/PG/PC programs lack meaningful, ongoing investment in a statewide training infrastructure, unlike other safety net programs such as Child Welfare, In-Home Supportive Services, mental health and education.

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.

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 often between the APS and PA/PG/PC programs, additional training coordination and support between these programs is necessary.

The one-time funding for APS training of \$3 million for three years starting in 2016-17 will expire on June 30, 2019, leaving APS social workers and PA/PG/PC without critical training needed just as the demand for services continues to increase. Without continued funding, the current training system will be dismantled, leaving just \$88,000 (\$176,000) spread across 58 county APS programs – only providing three training days of basic training per region, spread across the year.

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.

Investment in training is necessary to meet the new demands of a growing older adult population. This would enable the current, yet temporary, APS training structure to continue and to expand to bring core training to all new APS social workers and supervisors, new advanced training addressing emerging trends and legislative mandates, and support to new staff through simulation training and coaching to supervisors. Research indicates that a supportive supervisor is directly linked to improved retention of staff and increased quality of delivered services.

FAST FACTS

APS

Mandated by State law (WIC 15600 et seq) to respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to reports of abuse and neglect of elder and dependent adults.

Receives nearly **16,000 reports per month** of elder and dependent adult abuse. In FY 2017-18, APS agencies received over **191,000** reports of abuse and neglect.

Reports of elder and dependent adult abuse have risen **49 percent** in the six years between FY 2011-12 and FY 2017-18.

Elder abuse is significantly underreported. For every case known to programs and agencies, **24 are unknown**. For financial abuse, only **one in 44 cases is known**.

Statewide, approximately **750 social workers** provided case management services to **143,770 elders and dependent adults in FY 2016-17**.

PA/PG/PC:

Mandated by state law (Probate Code Section 1400 et seq) to identify and appoint appropriate individuals to make decisions on behalf of older and dependent adults who cannot make decisions on their own.

All counties are required by California law to operate PA/PG/PC programs.

PA/PG/PCs are sometimes housed in county health and human services agencies, but they may also be housed in other county departments.

Granted authority by the California Superior Court in each county to provide conservatorship services, which assist older and dependent adults who have severe cognitive impairments and who are substantially unable to provide for their own basic needs, (food, clothing, and shelter).

Training mandated by State law (Probate Code Sections 2923, 1456.2 and 7605).

PA/PG/PC Training:

The funding will also support County PA/PG/PC staff in meeting state training requirements. County PA/PG/PC staff are mandated by state law to complete initial training and continuing certification requirements. State law also empowers the California State Association of PA/PG/PC (CAPAPGPC) to establish these training and certification requirements. However, there is no state funding appropriated to support these training requirements. Because local PA/PG/PC programs are somewhat supported by estate fees collected, some staff must pay out-of-pocket to meet these 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.

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ⁱ Public Policy Institute of CA, "Just the Facts" retrieved 1/29/15 at http://www.ppic.org/main/publication_show.asp?i=259

ⁱⁱ Based on data from the California Department of Aging, accessed at http://www.aging.ca.gov/Data_and_Statistics/Facts_About_Elderly/, updated March 10, 2012.

ⁱⁱⁱ 2014 Alzheimer's Disease: Facts and Figures, accessed at http://www.alz.org/downloads/Facts_Figures_2014.pdf.