



Connecting Older Adults with Community-based Resources and Options

Illinois Adult Protective Services Program Overview

The Adult Protective Services Program, administered through the Illinois Department on Aging (IDOA), is designed to respond to older adults (60+) and adults with disabilities (18-59) who are victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation and self-neglect by building on the existing legal, medical, and social service system to assure that it is more responsive to the needs of victims of abuse and their families.

Adult Protective Services are provided through local agencies that are designated by the Regional Administrative Agency (RAA) and IDOA.

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, exploitation and/or self-neglect has occurred.

Assessment

Depending on the nature and seriousness of the allegations, a trained caseworker will conduct an unannounced face-to-face visit with the alleged victim within the following time frames:

- 24 hours for life-threatening situations,
- 72 hours for most neglect and non-life-threatening physical abuse reports,
- 7 calendar days for most financial exploitation and emotional abuse reports.

The caseworker has 30-45 days to do a comprehensive assessment both to determine if the individual has been mistreated and to determine his or her needs for services and interventions.

Casework

If the abuse is substantiated, the caseworker involves the adult in the development of a case plan to alleviate the situation. The caseworker always attempts to utilize the least restrictive alternatives that will allow the adult to remain independent to the highest degree possible. In some cases, services for the abuser are also obtained, including mental health, substance abuse, job placement or other services related to their needs.

Follow-Up

The caseworker may keep the case open 15 months from the date of intake in order to monitor the situation and to continually reassess the need for different interventions. Where the caseworker judges that the best interests, safety and well-being of the adult require further follow-up service, the case may stay open for up to an additional 12-month period. If subsequent reports of abuse are received and substantiated, the case may be kept open even longer.

Early Intervention Services (EIS)

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 may include: legal assistance, housing and relocation assistance, respite care, and emergency aid (i.e., food, clothing, and medical care).

Multidisciplinary Teams (M-Teams)

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, exploitation and/or self-neglect. 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.

Each APS Provider Agency, with a few exceptions, is responsible for creating and supporting a Multi-disciplinary Team. The specific goals are to improve each APS Provider Agency's response to its adult abuse and neglect clients by: a) providing consultation on complex cases, b) acting as a sounding board for caseworkers, c) providing different perspectives on problems, and d) improving networking among peers within each professional group.

Fatality Review Teams (FRTs)

FRTs purpose in reviewing a death is to: a) Assist local agencies in identifying and reviewing suspicious deaths of adult victims of alleged, suspected or substantiated abuse or neglect in domestic living situations; b) 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; c) Evaluate means by which the death might have been prevented; and d) 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. AgeOptions is the designated coordinating agency for the suburban Cook County Fatality Review Team.

Public Awareness and Education

Public awareness and education focus on prevention efforts and identification of abuse, neglect, exploitation and self-neglect. 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 to ensure professionals understand their role as mandated reporters.

APS Training

All Adult Protective Services caseworkers are trained and certified by the IDOA, which also promulgates the program's policies and procedures and oversees the monitoring of services through the Regional Administrative Agency (RAA). 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.

SERVICE	PAYMENT
Assessment	\$521.00
Casework	\$526.00
Follow-Up	\$134.00
Enhanced Assessment (Face-to-face after agency business hours – Priority 1 Reports)	\$782.00
Early Intervention Services (EIS)	Varies

Title VII Funding

APSPAs can utilize the designated Title VII funds, provided by AgeOptions through the Older Americans Act, to support the activities needed to perform the responsibilities outlined in the M-Team, 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.