

Minnesota Adult Protective Services ARPA Formula Grant Operational Plan

About Minnesota's plan

Contact

Mary McGurran, LSW, Adult Protection Supervisor, mary.mcgurran@state.mn.us

Budget allocation

- ARPA 1 \$1,376,357 (NOA 8.3.21)
- ARPA 2 \$2,877,779 (estimate FFY22)
- Budget allocation estimated total of 4,254,136

Timeline

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021—Grant 1: August 2021–September 2023
- American Rescue Plan Act of 2021—Proposed Grant 2: August 2022–September 2024

Date submitted

March 21, 2022

A new direction for Minnesota's Adult Protective Services

The following vision, mission, and core operating principles were developed by an eight-member Vision Team composed of county Adult Protective Services (APS) professionals and state program administrators. They were refined based on survey feedback from over 200 community and institutional stakeholders and focus group feedback from six special interest groups including Minnesota American Indian tribal health and human services leadership, Diverse Elders Coalition, Minnesota Council on Disability, Minnesota Elder Justice Center, Minnesota Board on Aging, and the DHS Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council.

Vision

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.

Mission

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.

Core principles guiding our work

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.

Choice and values are balanced with safety

Respect for the cultural identity 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.

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.

Goals for program improvement

Armed with an abundance of information generated from community and institutional stakeholders and qualified researchers, the new vision, mission, and core operating principles, and the list of what they determined were the most significant challenges, the Vision Team developed the following goals for program improvement and the significant challenges they plan to have an impact on.

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

- Racial and ethnic groups are screened out more frequently than white people.
- 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.
- Screening and intake lack consistency.

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.

- The system is not culturally responsive.
- Stakeholders don't understand reporting system.
- The VAA isn't focused on prevention.

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

- Racial and ethnic groups are screened out more frequently than white people.
- County discretionary decisions may pose a risk to objective and equitable APS decision-making.

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.

- Adult protection is under-resourced, resulting in funding inequities.
- County discretionary decisions may pose a risk to objective and equitable APS decision-making.
- County of residence impacts screen-out rates.

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

- There are not enough options for resolving reports of maltreatment.

- Data and good measures don't drive continuous improvement efforts.
- Data sharing restrictions hinder collaboration and trust-building, but privacy is also important.

Targeted improvement projects

Having identified these five overarching system goals, state program administrators identified targeted improvement projects feasible because of ARPA funding. The following are the targeted improvement projects.

Goal	Inputs (Resources Deployed)	Activities	Outputs from Investment	Short-Term Outcomes	Long-Term Outcomes
<p>Goal #1</p> <p>Adults who are vulnerable to maltreatment and referred to APS have equitable access to protective services.</p>	<p>1. \$200,000 Racial and cultural equity</p>	<p>1. Statewide community listening tour in three areas of the state for six different racial, ethnic, and disability communities underrepresented in APS referrals or service acceptance.</p>	<p>1. Report on needs, priorities, barriers, and recommendations from communities to improve equity and cultural competence in APS.</p>	<p>1. Increased awareness by state and partners on needs and priorities for APS program administration in underrepresented communities.</p>	<p>1. APS policy, services, and public awareness are more culturally appropriate and reflect service needs and approaches recommended by underrepresented communities. The state sees equal percentages of vulnerable adults with different characteristics referred to APS being accepted for APS.</p>

Goal	Inputs (Resources Deployed)	Activities	Outputs from Investment	Short-Term Outcomes	Long-Term Outcomes
	<p>2. \$110,000 Clarify APS role in the Social Services continuum</p>	<p>2. Stakeholder engagement and policy analysis for when there is a case manager, hospital, or another service provider or support involved.</p>	<p>2. Process map, policy, and training tools are developed for APS roles and integrated into APS training, manuals, and screening practices.</p>	<p>2. APS and stakeholders have improved clarity on APS roles. APS has improved policies to support screening decisions.</p>	<p>2. The reporting system reflects the needs of underrepresented communities. The state sees 20 percentage points fewer vulnerable adults meeting policy criteria being screened out for APS based on a county-based discretionary decision. (From 59% to 39%).</p>

Goal	Inputs (Resources Deployed)	Activities	Outputs from Investment	Short-Term Outcomes	Long-Term Outcomes
	<p>3. \$560,000 Improve the reporting system</p> <p>4. \$100,000 Mandated reporter training</p>	<p>3. Analyze and enhance the web-based technology to reduce inefficiencies in the reporting process and improve reporters' data entry.</p> <p>4. Develop new training module for mandated reporters on how to identify and report vulnerable adults experiencing maltreatment and understand what to expect from APS.</p>	<p>3. Simplified, more efficient, user-friendly reporting form for ease of reporters.</p> <p>4. Training modules for mandated reporters are available to reporters.</p>	<p>3. The web reporting system is available to the public with improved accessibility and translation capability. This improves information provided for APS intake.</p> <p>4. Mandated reporters have improved guidance for identifying and reporting suspected vulnerable adult maltreatment for APS referral.</p>	<p>3. 30% increase in reports made electronically to improve access and manage costs. More equitable vulnerable adult service outcomes as APS referrals contain robust report data for intake decisions.</p> <p>4. Vulnerable adults in need of APS are referred to APS. Report information entries support APS intake and service decisions.</p>

Goal	Inputs (Resources Deployed)	Activities	Outputs from Investment	Short-Term Outcomes	Long-Term Outcomes
<p>Goal #2</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>1. \$350,136 APS Training</p>	<p>1. Implement use of statewide LMS for APS. Develop e-learning on balancing honoring choices with interventions to keep the person safe from maltreatment.</p>	<p>1. LMS for APS is activated. E-learning developed through CRRSA and new module on choice and safety are available through the LMS.</p>	<p>1. APS workers in counties and tribal nations have access and receive training to support service outcomes that align with policy. The state, counties, and tribes could track compliance with training requirements.</p>	<p>1. 85% of APS workers are compliant with training requirements and are better trained to understand policy and services outcomes, and have tools to engage vulnerable adults in person-centered, culturally appropriate services.</p>

Goal	Inputs (Resources Deployed)	Activities	Outputs from Investment	Short-Term Outcomes	Long-Term Outcomes
	<p>2. \$900,000 APS Service Grants</p>	<p>2. County and tribal APS programs are supported to apply for and expend grant funds for person-centered, culturally appropriate housing, goods, and services for APS clients.</p>	<p>2. APS has supports from the state to apply for and expend grants for vulnerable adults' service needs.</p>	<p>2. More vulnerable adults receive services to stop, reduce risk, and prevent maltreatment reoccurrence.</p>	<p>2. APS accepts more vulnerable adults referred who meet policy criteria because they have effective partnerships to offer person-centered, culturally appropriate service interventions. More vulnerable adults are safe from maltreatment following APS service interventions.</p>

Goal	Inputs (Resources Deployed)	Activities	Outputs from Investment	Short-Term Outcomes	Long-Term Outcomes
<p>Goal #3</p> <p>Tribal nations are supported in development of agreements with the state to assume administration of adult protection program duties.</p>	<p>500,000 Tribal Nations Program Development</p>	<p>Tribal Nations who want to assume administration or improve APS programs receive support to meet their goals.</p>	<p>Tribal Nations are supported to develop or improve APS programs including code, manuals, training, services, system and infrastructure development.</p>	<p>Tribal Nations are supported in APS program development or improvements for culturally responsive services for tribal elders and members with disabilities.</p>	<p>Tribal Nations choosing to administer APS programs have contractual agreements with the state for program operation and are eligible for state and federal APS funding when available.</p>

Goal	Inputs (Resources Deployed)	Activities	Outputs from Investment	Short-Term Outcomes	Long-Term Outcomes
<p>Goal #4</p> <p>APS workers across the state have equitable access to resources to meet needs to reduce risks for adults who are vulnerable to maltreatment.</p>	<p>\$150,000 APS Resource Needs Evaluation</p>	<p>Evaluate APS program administration needs for counties and tribal nations.</p>	<p>Budget estimates are developed for APS program administration needs at the state and local levels.</p>	<p>State, county, and tribal partners and policy makers are aware of what resources are needed to accomplish the APS mission and vision.</p>	<p>More vulnerable adults meeting the policy criteria for APS are accepted. Statewide consistency and equity in outcomes for vulnerable adults are realized as the state, counties, and tribal nations receive funding and technical assistance to accomplish the mission and vision.</p>

Goal	Inputs (Resources Deployed)	Activities	Outputs from Investment	Short-Term Outcomes	Long-Term Outcomes
<p>Goal #5</p> <p>Tribal, state, and county partnerships for program management and evaluation of outcomes for adults who are vulnerable to maltreatment are enhanced.</p>	<p>1. \$150,000 Quality Assurance</p> <p>2. \$523,357 Enhance the Social Services Information System (SSIS)</p>	<p>1. Develop best practices, analyze data, and engage stakeholders to develop quality assurance measures for intake, assessment, and service outcomes for vulnerable adults.</p> <p>2. Improve the Vulnerable Adult module in SSIS. Enhance the state’s case-level data submission to the National Maltreatment Reporting System (NAMRS).</p>	<p>1. Report with recommendations for new quality assurance measures to monitor program improvements in statewide consistency, equity, and service outcomes.</p> <p>2. Improved worker experience. Tribal Nations who choose to participate are included in the state’s NAMRS report.</p>	<p>1. Improved alignment between policy and program administration on outcomes for vulnerable adults. The state and its partners are aligned in benchmarks to measure program quality in service outcomes.</p> <p>2. Vulnerable adult module in SSIS better aligns with policy goals. Reduced pain points and improved SSIS data.</p>	<p>1. More adults from all communities and from all racial and disability groups across the state experience outcomes of safety and dignity as a result of improved alignment between DHS and APS program administrators.</p> <p>2. Improved alignment between policy and program administration. The state and its partners have more accurate data for program improvements</p>

Goal	Inputs (Resources Deployed)	Activities	Outputs from Investment	Short-Term Outcomes	Long-Term Outcomes
	3. \$200,000 Public Awareness	3. Develop a public awareness campaign approach that is consistent with culturally appropriate, person-centered messaging.	3. Improved awareness for the public on vulnerable adult maltreatment reporting.	3. Improved understanding by the community about who is a vulnerable adult and what is maltreatment.	and for national reporting. 3. Public awareness messages are culturally appropriate and align with policy and recommendations from underrepresented communities. Vulnerable adults in need of protective services are referred to APS and offered services to stop, reduce risk, and prevent maltreatment.

Budget/spending plan for ARPA funds

First Grant Allocation: August 2021 - September 2023, \$1,376,357

Project	Description	2022 Period 1	2022 Period 2	2023 Period 1	2023 Period 2	Total
Project 1	Statewide Community Listening Tour			\$50,000	\$150,000	\$200,000
Project 2	Systems Enhancement			45,000	51,357	96,357
Project 3	Training Mandated Reporter			50,000	50,000	100,000
Project 4	Policy Guidance for Role of APS in Social Service Continuum Modification			50,000	60,000	110,000
Project 5	APS Resource Need Evaluation		50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000
Project 6	Improved web reporting system			200,000	90,000	290,000
Project 7	Tribal Nations APS Development			100,000	100,000	200,000
Project 8	Administration and Evaluation			115,000	115,000	230,000
Total			50,000	660,000	666,357	1,376,357

Second Grant Allocation: August 2022 - September 2024, \$2,877,136

Project	Description	2023 Period 1	2023 Period 2	2024 Period 1	2024 Period 2	Total
Project 1	Tribal Nations APS Program Development (Tribal Nations in SSIS)	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$300,000
Project 2	APS partnerships and technical support for culturally and racially appropriate service interventions	230,000	230,000	230,000	210,000	900,000
Project 3	Public Awareness	100,000	50,000	50,000		200,000
Project 4	APS Training	90,000	90,000	90,000	80,136	350,136
Project 5	Improve web reporting system	200,000	25,000	25,000	20,000	270,000
Project 6	Quality Assurance Intake and Assessment Outcome Benchmark Report	100,000	50,000			150,000
Project 7	System enhancements and tribal NAMRS reporting	106,750	106,750	106,750	106,750	427,000
Project 8	Administration and Evaluation	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	280,000
Total		996,750	721,750	621,750	536,886	2,877,136