



## **KEEP PROTECTION OF SENIORS A TOP PRIORITY!**

The Ohio Coalition of Adult Protective Services continues its long history of successful advocacy working on behalf of older victims of crime in Ohio. We work with county aging programs to identify and speak out about legislative issues that impact older victims in the state.

### **CALL TO ACTION**

#### **Support adequate funding of Adult Protective Services**

- **OCAPS urges the Ohio General Assembly to invest \$10 million per year (including a base amount of at least \$65,000 per county) to fund adult protective services in the 2018-2019 state budget (ALI 600-534).**

#### **Tell your state representatives NOW:**

- The adult protective services system in Ohio has been severely underfunded for many years with only \$500,000 in general revenue funds for SFY 2014-2015 for all of Ohio's 88 counties. That amounted to less than \$550 to more than \$50,000 per year to each county based on a state distribution formula.
- As a result, APS services has been dependent upon availability of local funding.
- A one-time \$10 million allocation in the last budget allowed for much-needed state APS infrastructure to begin. The subsequent changes to the APS law, however, have put greater demand on already strained-to-the-limit services that continue to rely on local funding when it's available.
- The current funding allocation of \$30,000 per year per county is not enough to even ensure that a full-time APS staff is available to seniors in every county. Ohio has required that an infrastructure is in place, but must now make the investment to enable it to be functional.

**Greater Investment Needed:** Ohio should invest at least a base amount of \$65,000 per year to each county to fully fund a dedicated full-time worker to ensure quality core services are available in each county, regardless of the availability of local funds. Additional dollars can be distributed by formula to provide for emergency services, coordination of interdisciplinary teams, support for outreach and education, and other important activities and services.

#### **It's the right thing to do:**

- Seniors in every county deserve to age safely with dignity and respect, with the knowledge that help is available when they need it.

- Ohio should have a strong adult protective services system that is fully functional in all 88 counties to meet that goal.
- Each county should be provided the resources to meet state mandates, to maintain at least one full time staff person, and to provide services needed to stabilize victims of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

**Without increased state support, all recent efforts to combat elder abuse and neglect will not provide quality protective service statewide.**

**CALL NOW!**

**Contact your House Representatives and State Senators via phone:**

**Call your House Representative at 1-800-282-0253.**

**Call your State Senator directly or call the toll-free legislative hotline at 1-800-282-0253.**

**Visit your representative's website and submit your comments there:**

**HOUSE:** <http://www.ohiohouse.gov>

**SENATE:** <http://www.ohiosenate.gov/members/contacting-your-senator>

For more information and to let us know your efforts:

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