

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# Elder Justice INITIATIVE

## OVC Ignites Elder Justice Collaboration & Programming

Shelly L. Jackson  
Consultant, Elder Justice Initiative  
US Department of Justice

2023 NATIONAL JOINT  
TRAINING CONFERENCE

AUGUST 15, 2023







## Speakers

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**Shelly L. Jackson, Ph.D.**

Consultant

Elder Justice Initiative

US Department of Justice

**Kathleen Buckley**

Manager

Victim's Services Program

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime  
and Delinquency



# ELDER ABUSE

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- 6 Types
- 10-20%
- 1:24 reported









Enforcement

Direct  
Victim  
Services

Public  
Awareness



Research

Capacity  
Building



# OVC Needs Assessment

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SHELLY L. JACKSON, PH.D.

FINANCIAL FRAUD & ABUSE VISITING FELLOW

OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME, US DOJ


# Building Bridges

## *Proof Positive:* VOCA Funds May be Used to Fund Elder Abuse Programs

Laura Ivkovich, Policy Analyst, OVC  
Shelly Jackson, Visiting Fellow, OVC/EJI

Opinions expressed herein or otherwise are those of the speaker and do not necessarily reflect the views of the US Department of Justice.

2016 VOCA Training Conference  
Albuquerque, New Mexico




OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS • JUSTICE FOR ALL

## Accessing Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) Funds for Elder Justice

NAPSA Conference  
August 28, 2017  
Laura Ivkovich  
OVC Policy Analyst





State	VOCA-Funded Elder Abuse Program	VOCA Administrator
Alabama	<p>Elderly and Disabled Adult Victim Services (EDAVS) provides direct short-term services to elderly and disabled victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. The project provides short-term in-home sitter or homemaker services to ensure victims' safety and avoid unnecessary out-of-home placement and short-term placement funding for adults requiring emergency out-of-home placements including nursing home, assisted living, and foster care.</p> <p>Tammy Fuller, EDAVS Coordinator Adult Protective Services– Department of Human Resources Phone: 334-353-4901 Email: <a href="mailto:Tammy.fuller@dhr.alabama.gov">Tammy.fuller@dhr.alabama.gov</a></p>	<p>EDAVS is funded by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.</p> <p>Contact VOCA Administrator <a href="#">Derek Yarbrough</a>, at 334-353-3252 for more information.</p>
California	<p>The Elder Abuse Forensic Center provides additional services in medicine and neuropsychology to provide comprehensive services and achieve better outcomes for the elder and dependent adult population in Riverside County.</p> <p>David Franklin, Psy.D., MHA, Director Elder Abuse Forensic Center County of Riverside, CA Email: <a href="mailto:david.franklin@medsch.ucr.edu">david.franklin@medsch.ucr.edu</a></p>	<p>The Elder Abuse Forensic Center is funded through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.</p> <p>Contact Leigh Bills, MSW, Victim Services Division Chief, at <a href="mailto:leigh.bills@caloes.ca.gov">leigh.bills@caloes.ca.gov</a> or 916-845-8280; and Diana Mazuka, Chief, Underserved Victims Unit, at 916-845-8262, for more information.</p>

# VOCA–Funded Elder Abuse Programs

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I. DISCRETIONARY FUNDING  
OVC ELDER FRAUD & ABUSE INITIATIVES



## **Office for Victims of Crime's Mission**

*OVC is committed to enhancing the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and providing leadership in changing policies and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime.*

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# OVC

# Enhanced Multidisciplinary Teams



# E-MDTS

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## Enhanced

- ▶ Forensic accountant
- ▶ Access to capacity assessments

## MDT Coordinator

Varying stages of development



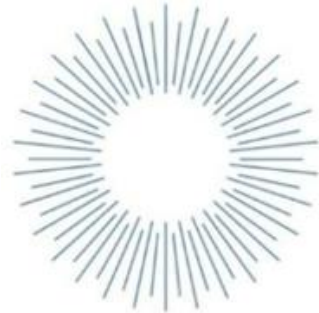
**FY2019**

Transforming America's Response to Elder Abuse:  
**Enhanced Multidisciplinary Teams (E-MDTs) for  
Older Victims of Abuse and Financial Exploitation**





# National Elder Abuse MDT Training and Technical Assistance Center



National  
Elder Abuse  
MDT Training  
and Technical  
Assistance  
Center

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# OVC Elder Justice Coalitions



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# THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PROMOTES COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

OVC FY 2022

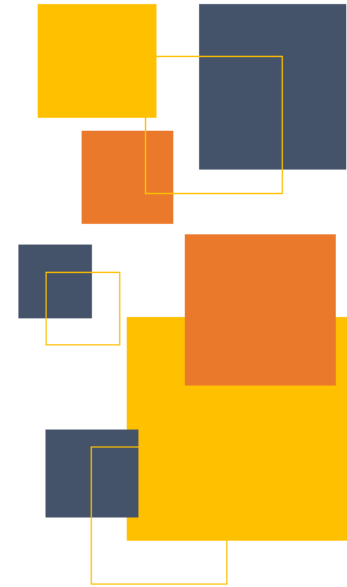
Transforming America's Response to Older Victims:  
**Developing and Supporting Statewide Elder  
Justice Coalitions and Training and Technical  
Assistance Program**



National Center for State and Tribal  
**Elder Justice Coalitions**



# National Network of State Elder Justice Coalitions



National Network  
of State Elder  
Justice Coalitions  
(NNSEJC)





# National Center for State and Tribal Elder Justice Coalitions

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## Goals

- (1) Support statewide efforts to develop or expand Elder Justice Coalitions;
- (2) Provide evidence-based, trauma-informed TTA to existing coalitions across the Nation;
- (3) Make and monitor subawards to seven Coalitions to support their growth and expansion; and
- (4) Contribute to the growth of Elder Justice Coalitions as a field of practice.

Lifespan of Greater Rochester – \$3.750 M

Grant period: 10/1/22 – 9/30/25

Consortium of national partners

- Ohio Coalition for APS (OCAPS)
- Minnesota Elder Justice Center (MEJC)
- Jacque Gray, PhD (Native American specialist)
- NYC Elder Abuse Center (NYCEAC)

Federal Coordination

Applications under review (8 will be funded)

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# OVC

## Field-Generated Innovations in Addressing Elder Financial Exploitation





The Department of Justice is committed to investing in resources for professionals to optimize their response to elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation. Below, browse through the resources developed specifically for elder justice professionals.



### STAGES Curriculum

STAGES (Strategies and Training to Advance Greater Elder Safety) curriculum to educate teams of judicial, justice and community professionals about financial exploitation and elder abuse.



### Lifting Up the Voices of Older Survivors Videos and Discussion Guides

A collection of 9 training videos (15 min. approx.) featuring the voices of older survivors describing their experiences and insights regarding effective interventions. A discussion guide accompanies each video.



### Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams: A Replication Manual (Update)

The updated Replication Manual builds on the foundational 2007 Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams Manual by enhancing and evaluating the capacity of these teams to improve systems. Evaluation Report.



### Elder Justice Advocates Curriculum

Curriculum to transition victim advocates/victim assistance staff to elder justice advocates.



### Elder Law Risk Detector

Online tool in which civil legal professionals ask clients a few questions and a risk level indicator for financial exploitation is returned that then allows professionals to more accurately assess the client's situation.



### Training and Videos

Financial exploitation investigation training for adult protective services; power of attorney training for professionals and for the general public; and a series of four videos sharing older victims' experiences (one in Spanish and one in Navajo).

# Resources for Elder Justice Professionals

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## Enhancing Services for Older Victims of Abuse and Financial Exploitation

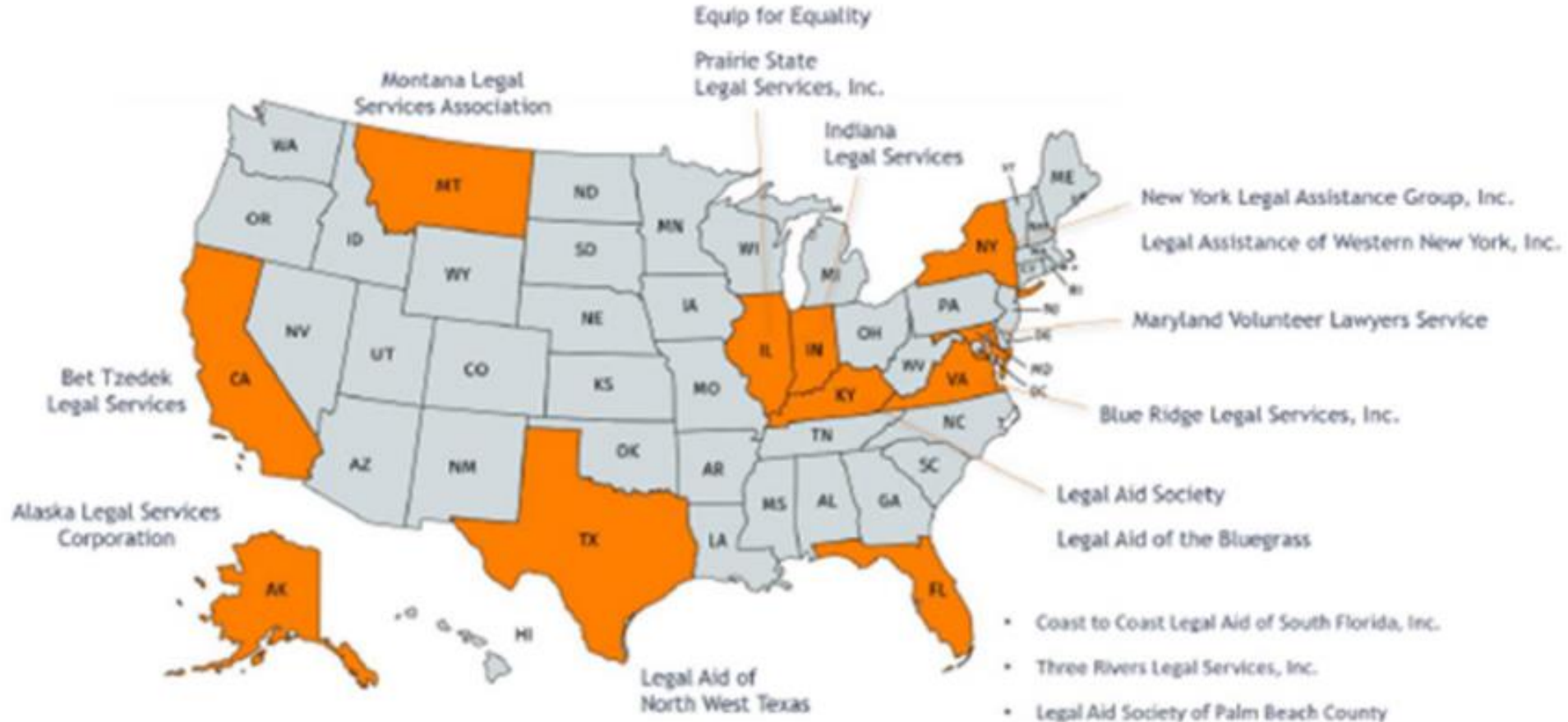


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# OVC

## Transforming America's Response to Elder Abuse: Mobilizing Attorneys for Older Victims of Abuse & Financial Exploitation

## Locations of Elder Justice Program Fellows and Host Organizations







# Providing Help, Restoring Hope

Quick Exit

Getty Images (see reuse policy).

## National Elder Fraud Hotline [↗](#)

### **▲** Fraud Alert [↗](#)

We have received reports of a scam in which scammers are claiming to be from the National Elder Fraud Hotline and threatening to file suits against the phone call recipient. In some instances, personal identifiable information (PII) is requested. Do not provide PII, such as a social security number, or money in response to these false claims. [Learn more.](#)

**If you or someone you know has been a  
victim of elder fraud, help is standing by at  
the National Elder Fraud Hotline. [↗](#)**

**833-FRAUD-11 [↗](#)**

**or 833-372-8311 [↗](#)**

**Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.  
eastern time  
English/Español/Other languages  
available [↗](#)**

**Home**

About the Hotline

Press Room [↗](#)

Resources

Common Scams and  
Warning Signs

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## II. OVC VOCA FORMULA GRANT PROGRAMS



# OLDER ADULTS: 2021 VOCA FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM

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- 5,893 VOCA victim assistance subgrantee organizations provided services to 349,759 new older victims
- VOCA-funded victim assistance organizations allocated \$83 million to specifically serve victims of elder abuse
- In each quarter, an average of 29,256 victims sought services for elder abuse or neglect
- Most common victim types: elder abuse or neglect; identity theft, fraud, or financial crimes; and domestic or family violence
- 11,606 older adults applied for compensation
- VOCA-funded organizations paid 1,017 compensation claims related to elder abuse or neglect



# **Pennsylvania Office of Victim Services**

VOCA Assistance and VOCA Compensation

# Pennsylvania's CURRENT STATISTICS

## AGING POPULATION

**3.5M**  
ADULTS  
OVER 59

MORE THAN  
**354K**  
ADULTS  
OVER 84

## DISABLED ADULTS

**24%**  
ADULTS AGED  
65 TO 74

**48%**  
ADULTS AGED  
75 & OLDER

Source: PA 2018 disability rates

*PA's last baby boomer turns **65** in **2029***

# HISTORICAL & PROJECTED STATISTICS

## PA Older Adult Population

COMPARED TO TOTAL STATE POPULATION (ALL AGES)

■ **2010 (21%)**

2,713,232 ADULTS 60+

■ **2020 (26%)**

3,462,916 ADULTS 60+

■ **2030 (29%)**

3,960,194 ADULTS 60+

■ **2040 (28%)**

3,959,453 ADULTS 60+

■ **ALL AGES**

100% OF POPULATION



PERCENTAGE  
CHANGE FROM  
PRIOR DECADE

**28%**

**14%**

**-0.02%**



## Pennsylvania's History Funding Services for the Elderly

- Two VOCA-funded programs located in Philadelphia that specialize in serving elderly
  - Center for the Rights and Interests of the Elderly (CARIE)
    - Providing Advocacy to Victimized Elders (PAVE) Project
- SeniorLAW Center (SLC)
  - Funded since 2002--SeniorLAW Center's Project S.A.F.E. (Stop Abuse and Financial Exploitation)
- VOCA funded programs with a focus on Elderly Victims—  
Close collaboration with their Area Agency on Aging
  - Center for Victims in Allegheny County
  - Network of Victim Assistance in Bucks County
  - Women's Center of Montgomery County
  - Delaware County Senior Victims Unit
  - AWARE, Inc.—Mercer County

## Increase in Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Funding

- Victim Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) completed a year-long strategic planning process in 2015
  - Services to Elder Victims of Crime was a made a priority under the 2016 VOCA Competitive Solicitation
- Two additional VOCA Competitive Solicitations were released
  - 2017 Solicitation-Encouraged services focused on elderly that included:
  - 2018 Solicitation-Scoring preference for those who demonstrated their project included substantial and meaningful activities devoted to the priority categories—**included Elderly Victims**
- Resulted in:
  - 49 new programs funded
  - Increased the number of FTE's over this span by 332% (309 to 1335).
  - **73% increase in services to victims aged 60 & older**

- The PA Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) is committed to helping victims and their families ease the financial burden crime imposes upon them.
- Stolen Cash—Eligible for Victim Compensation Reimbursement
- An individual who suffers a cash loss as a result of a crime, and whose primary source of income comes from an eligible source, is eligible for reimbursement of the cash loss up to the amount of one month's benefit.
- Up to one month's worth of the qualifying benefit(s) may be paid.



## Eligible Stolen Cash income sources

An individual who suffers a cash loss as a direct result of a crime and who derives his or her primary source of income (50 percent or more) from one or more of the following sources:

- Social Security Retirement
- Social Security Disability
- Social Security Supplemental
- Social Security Survivor Benefit
- Railroad Retirement
- Pension Plan
- Retirement Plan
- Disability (includes Workers' Compensation payments)
- Veteran's Retirement
- Court-ordered child support or court-ordered spousal support payment

# Stolen Cash Compensation Benefit

- The money stolen does not have to be from one of the qualifying benefits. The intent is to help individuals who are on a fixed income, regardless of the source of the actual money stolen as long as their primary source of income is a qualifying benefit.
- In 2022:
  - Avg payout per claim = \$1,560.21
  - Avg payout per claim for victims 60 or over = 1,720.94
  - Avg age of victim = 69
  - Avg age of victim for 60 or over = 73

## ▶ Stolen Cash Compensation Benefit

- When VCAP started paying stolen cash claims, most of the incidents were of individuals who were robbed after cashing a check or taking money out of the ATM.
- Over the years, the types of incidents have changed to mostly be sweepstakes/lottery scams, computer tech support scams, grandparent scams, or romance scams.



# Stolen Cash Compensation Benefit

- Sweepstakes/lottery scam - scammers call an older adult to tell them they've won a lottery or prize of some kind. If they want to claim their winnings, the older adult must send money, cash, or gift cards up front to cover supposed taxes and processing fees.
- Computer tech scams - A pop-up message or blank screen usually appears on a computer or phone, telling the victim their device is damaged and needs fixed. When they call the support number for help, the scammer may either request remote access to the older person's computer and/or demand they pay a fee to have it repaired.
- Romance scams - Romance scammers create elaborate fake profiles, often on social media, and exploit older adults' loneliness to get money.

# ▶ Stolen Cash Compensation Benefit

- In 2022, VCAP paid \$663,188 in stolen cash reimbursements.
- Must deduct that amount on Victim Compensation Certification form since it's not an eligible benefit under federal guidelines.
  - Cannot claim 75% return

## The Department's Elder Justice Activities:



Federal Law Enforcement Activities



Providing Support to Older Victims



Enhancing State and Local Elder Justice Efforts



Raising Public Awareness

### JUSTICE NEWS

May 22, 2023  
Press Release

U.S. Law Enforcement Disrupts Networks Used to Transfer Fraud Proceeds, Taking Over 4,000 Actions in Fifth Campaign

May 12, 2023  
Press Release

Former Mental Health and Community Residence Facility Director Sentenced for Financial Exploitation of a Vulnerable Adult and Elderly Person

May 3, 2023  
Press Release

The United States Attorney for Puerto Rico, FBI San Juan, and



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Thank You

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