



NAPSA Testifies to EJCC



Elder Justice Coordinating Council

On November 15, NAPSA National Policy Advisor Bill Benson testified before the federal Elder Justice Coordinating Council (EJCC) about the impact of CRRSA and ARPA funds on states' Adult Protective Services and the importance of continuing funding. The EJCC is led by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice consisting of 16 federal agencies addressing elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Benson highlighted the work being done by states to strengthen APS infrastructure, training, and client support, noting remaining major challenges such as states' ability to hire needed permanent staff. Benson concluded his remarks, "This funding could be a game-changer. Important work is being done as we speak. But if on-going, reliable, and adequate funding is not secured, this progress will likely slow and even come to a halt."

NAPSA applauds the EJCC for highlighting APS. Also testifying were Tim Jackson, Missouri APS Section Administrator, Kez Wold, Texas Associate Commissioner for APS, Heather Mutchie PhD, Purdue University, and Bob Blancato, Elder Justice Coalition National Coordinator.

Tim Jackson spoke to the impact of funding on overcoming gaps in community resources and interventions. Jackson stated, "By linking APS clients with all of the interventions they need, not just the ones for which there are community resources, Missouri APS is able to address the root causes of the abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation and fully provide wrap-around services and supports to significantly reduce the APS client's risk of future harm."

Kez Wold testified on the use of federal funding in important Texas APS program initiatives including building units specific to address exploitation, training, and partnerships. In closing, Wold stated, "It's a very exciting time to be part of APS and the efforts underway across the country will only propel our programs forward in ways we could not imagine a few years ago."

Dr. Heather Mutchie provided analysis of state APS funding operational plans required as a result of funding provided by Congress in 2021. She noted the high usage of funding to improve services to clients, technological infrastructure, and training. Mutchie concluded that continued funding is important to staffing, community resources, and public awareness.

Bob Blancato emphasized the importance of reauthorizing the Elder Justice Act to build the elder justice infrastructure. He highlighted that "An enduring part of the history of the Elder Justice Act has been the support it has received on a bipartisan basis in Congress... That absolutely needs to continue. How can one even try to rationalize allowing partisanship to interfere with the goal of achieving elder justice by the prevention of elder abuse? Let us never reach that low as a nation."

Jennifer Spoeri, NAPSA's Executive Director, notes, "The testimony before the EJCC reflects what we hear every day from NAPSA members across the country and in the territories. While the field truly appreciates and has successfully utilized this important funding, Dr. Mutchie's and Bill Benson's testimony demonstrates that APS needs ongoing funding to hire additional staff and support living wages

to continue the progress made to date.”

Watch the full meeting here:

[Elder Justice Coordinating Council Fall 2022 Meeting - YouTube](#)

Act Now for Adult Protective Services Funding!

Congress has come back into session for its pre-holiday work period. Of top priority is needed passage of federal fiscal year 2023 funding. FFY 2023 began October 1, 2022, with the federal government operating on a continuing resolution through December 16. By December 16 Congress must either extend the continuing resolution or pass new FFY 2023 funding levels. Continuing resolutions keep funding at the previous year's level which does not include the funding provided directly to states for APS programs for FY 2021-2022.

NAPSA's top priority is passage of FFY 2023 with Adult Protective Services funding.

Ask your Congressional delegation to support:

- At least \$80 million in funding for Adult Protective Services (APS) formula grants. *This is the House-proposed level. The Senate has only proposed a \$6 million increase.*
- An increase in the Social Services Block Grant

What can you do?

- **Send a message to your Representative and Senators:**
https://mstr.app/ef8d245f-f46d-4f43-9747-9ae3d64c3b08_

- **Check out the toolkit for talking points and templates:**
[Public Policy – NAPSA \(napsa-now.org\)](#)

- **Share your successes and challenges with NAPSA!**

Contact Bill Benson (bill.benson@napsa-now.org)
or Kendra Kuehn (kendra.kuehn@napsa-now.org)

SAVE THE DATE 2023 NAPSA Conference & EFE Summit August 28 - 31, 2023 Boston, Massachusetts

Over 1.34 million reports of elder abuse were made nationally in 2021 to state and local #APS programs. Under the current Senate Appropriations, 16 states will receive merely \$45,000 each in FY '23.

Visit <http://bit.ly/APSfunding23> to send a pre-written message to your representatives today.

[#APSiSALWAYSessential](#)
[#IncreaseAPSfundingNOW](#)

URGENT: APS NEEDS YOUR VOICE

TELL CONGRESS Tell your Members of Congress about the importance of Adult Protective Services today!

VISIT THE LINK OR THE QR CODE Visit the link or scan the QR Code to email a pre-scripted message or to make a phone call! <http://bit.ly/APSfunding23>



DO IT TODAY & EVERY DAY UNTIL WE HAVE THE FUNDING APS NEEDS!