



Adult Protection Services Summary

Background

“Minnesota’s Adult Protective Services exists so that 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. Goals of APS are to improve the safety, dignity, and quality of life as defined by the adult who is vulnerable, through trauma informed, person-centered engagement, assessment, safety planning and service interventions to stop, reduce risks and prevent maltreatment reoccurrence.” (Minnesota Adult Protection Policy Manual Revised September 2023).

Statewide Reporting System

Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center (MAARC) is the designated statewide single common entry point (CEP) for accepting reports of suspected maltreatment of adults who are vulnerable under MN Statute 626.555 Subd. 9. The statewide common entry point was implemented July 1, 2015.

County Role – Lead Investigative Agency (LIA)

County Social Services is the LIA for all reports alleging a vulnerable adult (VA) has been maltreated (abused, neglected or financially exploited) and the person alleged responsible was not the provider or employee of a facility or service/program required to be licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health or Department of Human Service. Responsibilities of the county as the LIA include:

- Respond to Emergency Adult Protective Services (EPS) reports
- Make initial disposition (screening decision) within 5 business days of report
- Respond to the reports screened in for assessment, within 24 to 72 hours after initial disposition
- Coordinate with other system partners including law enforcement, service providers, family members, hospitals, the court system, guardians, etc.
- Complete assessment within 60 calendar days
- Coordinate adult protective services for the adult who is vulnerable; may continue past the 60-day time frame.

Legal Authority

Minnesota Statute 626.557 Vulnerable Adult Act

Minnesota Statute 626.5572 Definitions Minnesota Statute 626.5571

Policy Guidance

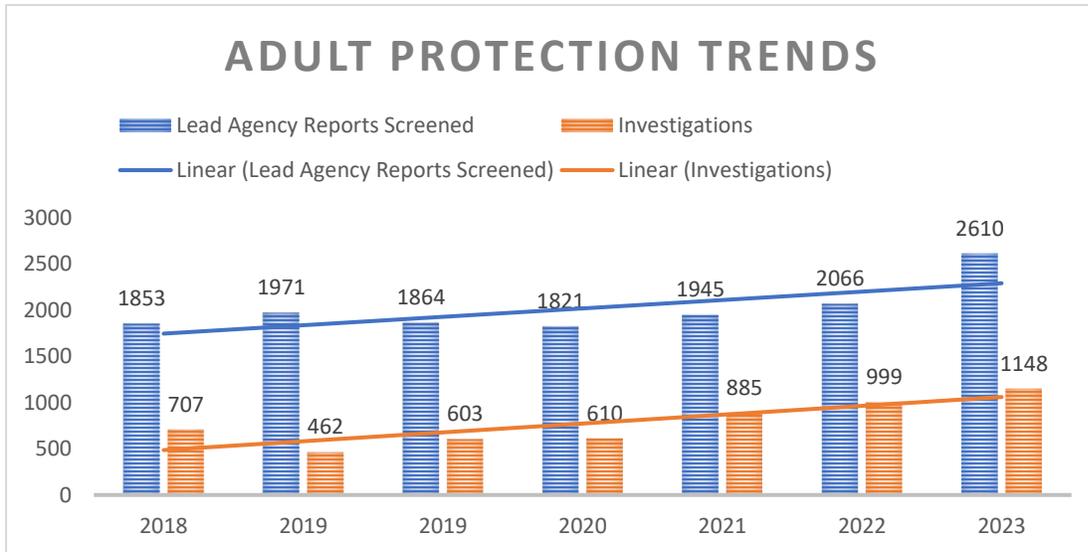
Counties’ roles and responsibilities for delivering APS services are laid out in a 93-page [Adult Protection Manual](#).

Trends

How much?

Volume and complexity of Adult Protection cases continues to increase with aging population, direct care workforce shortages and lasting impacts of the pandemic (see **Figure 1** below). To further illustrate growth trends, in 2013 there were 602 lead agency reports and 216 investigations.

Figure 2. LIA Reports and Assessments/Investigations, Dakota County



How well?

- In CY 2022, 90% of initial screening dispositions completed in 5 days or less (Goal: 100%)
- In CY 2022, 82% of assessments/investigations completed in 60 days (Goal: 80%)
- Exceeding peer county rate of cases screened in for assessment
- Achieving equitable screening decisions based on race, ethnicity, and disability status.

Figure 2. Screen In Percentage for Assessments, as Compared to Peer Counties

Dakota County’s higher screen in rate indicates that more vulnerable adults have access to assessment and service coordination to address maltreatment or risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

County	% of Total Screened In, CY 2022
Dakota	48%
Anoka	28%
Scott	14%

Washington	27%
Ramsey	12%

Is anyone better off?

- 99% of vulnerable adults with maltreatment determinations who have no subsequent determinations of the same type within 6 months
- 87% of cases closed where the VA is considered safe or conditionally safe at the time of case closure

Dakota County Adult Protection Team

Dakota County’s Adult Protection team currently consists of 1.0 FTE Supervisor and 9.0 FTE Social Workers which is not sufficient to handle the increasing volume of work in areas of screening, case assignment, assessment, investigation, consultation and arranging of protective services.

County Funding for APS

Vulnerable Adult and Child Act (VCAA) Funding

The VCAA grant includes both state and federal XX funds. The funds are allocated to each county based on a formula, with one factor being the number of vulnerable adults that are subject of reports under Minnesota Statute.

Adult Protection Grants

In recognition of growing need, increasing demand and mandates on counties to provide Adult Protection investigation and protective services, the Department of Human Services (DHS) allocated additional funding to counties that must be used (non-supplanting) to provide increased response. Dakota County’s SFY 2024 base allocation is \$278,423 which is slightly less than Dakota County’s CY 2023 allocation, and \$93,511 more than Dakota’s CY 2022 allocation.

DHS allocated Minnesota counties *additional* one-time grant funding for APS for SFYs 2024-2027 (July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2027). Funding was made available in Chapter 61, Article 2 Section 7 2023 Regular Session. Dakota County’s one-time allocation for SFYs 2023-2027 is \$365,175, annually.

The base allocation and additional one-time grant funds are required to be spent by counties to expand, not supplant, county expenditures for APS programs. Counties are advised the majority of this funding is one time funding for allocation over four (4) state fiscal years. Current base state grant funding dedicated to APS of \$5.65 million allocated through VCAA and Adult Protection State Grant Allocation will be increased by \$866,000 following SFY 2027.

Adult Protection Grant Funding Formula

Adult Protective Services funding is allocated on a SFY basis according to the following formula:

- 25% allocated based on the number of reports of suspected vulnerable adult maltreatment under section 626.557 and 626.5572, when the county or tribe is responsible for adult protective services or with jurisdiction as lead investigative agency
- 75% allocated based on the number of screened-in reports for adult protective services or vulnerable adult maltreatment investigations under sections 626.557 and 626.5572.

Dakota County's high percentage of cases screened in for assessment as well as the high numbers of LIA reports results in a high APS grant allocation, as compared to other similarly sized counties.

Proposed Spending Plan for APS Grant Funds, CY 2023-CY 2027

Duties of new positions and purchase of services budget:

2.0 Social Workers and 1.0 FTE Coordinator will provide:

Social Workers:

- Follow up calls to collaterals in the intake phase which provides additional support, coordination and services for people who may not otherwise be screened-in for assessment.
- Provide resources and service coordination to reports that do not meet criteria for maltreatment but need assistance navigating system resources
- Provide information/education to community/families and gather/request baseline information on request for options, e.g. power of attorney, benefits, guardianship/conservatorship, supported decision-making, for adults who lack capacity for decision-making
- Field calls and providing follow up to the numerous calls from the public regarding information on status of reports/why reports were not screened in and inquiries into data requests
- Complete assessments, if needed, to cover vacations/leaves or if volume is high.
- Provide short-term case management and eligibility assessments following assessment period to bridge to ongoing services and support

Social Services Coordinator:

- Screening reports from MAARC and assigning cases
- Coordinate Purchase of Service (POS) process including working with Contract Specialist and administrative staff
- Liaison with contracted service providers, including guardianship agencies
- Coordinate inter-disciplinary team efforts, including with other internal teams, e.g. Economic Assistance

Purchase of Services (POS):

- Funds to use to "bridge" service gaps while individuals wait for needed assessments to become eligible for long term funding streams
- Purchase of Services to address imminent health and safety concerns for Vulnerable Adults that could reduce or eliminate maltreatment
- POS examples include:
 - Personal hygiene supplies.

- Removal of trash, deep cleaning, pest control
- Emergency shelter costs
- Home modifications
- Home delivered meals
- Security deposits
- Specialized transportation
- Support for caregivers
- Pet care
- Skilled care to bridge to ongoing services