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## **Arizona Adult Protective Services Receives Administration for Community Living Grant \$1.276M to Enhance Training for APS Investigators**

**PHOENIX – (September 12, 2019)** The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Adult Protective Services (APS) announced it was recently awarded a three-year federal grant from the Administration for Community Living (ACL), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to enhance APS investigations. The \$1.276 million grant will enable APS to use enhanced training as a strategy to recruit and retain staff to create a professional development program.

“APS is dedicated to the safety and security of our most vulnerable individuals and families,” said DES Director Michael Traylor. “In order to meet the needs of the communities we serve, we continuously look for opportunities to improve. This grant will enable us to further invest in our teams to enhance their skills, knowledge and ability to investigate allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation.”

This funding will enable APS to continue to develop and maintain a high-performing workforce by implementing a variety of strategies to improve upon the skillsets and performance of its investigators. The enhanced training, including forensic interviewing, is expected to assist investigators in assessing the growing number of complex situations faced by vulnerable adults; increase the ability to evaluate client risk; develop quality case plans for identified victims and assist clients with additional services and benefits as needed. The enhanced training includes curriculum and certification from the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA), an organization that works to strengthen the capacity of APS systems throughout the country.

“This is a huge win for Arizona APS,” said Jennifer Kirchen, Deputy Assistant Director for APS. “Enhanced training and national certifications through NAPSA with the opportunity for continuing education will serve to strengthen the APS program and align to national best practices as it seeks to protect Arizona’s vulnerable adults.”

ACL awards more than one billion dollars in grants, primarily to state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education and small businesses. It awards grants to states and organizations that provide services and supports for older adults and people with disabilities, conduct research, and develop innovative approaches to doing both.

Arizona was awarded an ACL grant in 2018 to link APS, Aging and Disability Services and local Area Agencies on Aging databases to enhance data collection and reporting and use predictive analytics to improve planning and budgeting for service needs. In 2016, it was awarded an ACL grant to improve the central intake process, case planning and information collection.

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