



# DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County  
Department of Human Services



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## Grant funding expands services for older adults

Allegheny County's Area Agency on Aging (AAA) recently received a grant designed to reduce recidivism for older adults who have been involved with older adult protective services. This funding is provided through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA).

"We receive approximately 325 protective services calls each month, and we've noticed that once investigations were closed, many of the individuals we had served would call back and need additional investigations," said Alec Finochio, protective services supervisor in AAA. "With this funding, we are able to provide longer-term support to make sure that these individuals are connected to the resources they need to stay safe."

The Older Adult Support program employs staff at both AAA and the Center for Victims to conduct intensive case management for individuals who have had an investigation conducted and closed by AAA protective services. Once the initial investigation is closed, the client is matched with an Older Adult Support specialist who conducts an ANSA (Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment) for the client. This marks the first time that the ANSA has been used with older adults.

After determining any needs the older adult may have, or barriers they may face, staff is able to connect the client to appropriate programs and services. Staff will continue to call the client once a month and conduct in-person visits quarterly to determine if there are any new needs or concerns. This ongoing support continues for a year or as determined by the older adult and their support specialist.

"This grant funding will allow us to increase the scope of our services, which will ultimately help some of the most vulnerable people in our community," Alec continued. "We are excited to offer this ongoing support, and hope to improve outcomes for seniors in Allegheny County."

The Older Adult Support program will be piloted through October 2020.

To learn more about Older Adult Support program, contact Kelly Schuetz at [Kelly.Schuetz@AlleghenyCounty.US](mailto:Kelly.Schuetz@AlleghenyCounty.US).