



# DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County  
Department of Human Services



**May 2021**

## **AAA participates in an event to educate older adults**

Allegheny County's Area Agency on Aging (AAA) joined the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Pennsylvania, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Pittsburgh Division for a virtual town hall event to share information on scams and financial exploitation targeting older adults. This free event was streamed on May 12.

In 2020, AAA received 1,112 allegations of financial exploitation. Of those allegations, 24% were of such a complex nature that they were referred to AAA's financial exploitation consultant, Carol Catanzaro, for additional investigative support.

Carol estimates that around 75% of the cases were allegations of exploitation by someone the older adult knew, such as a family member, caregiver, acquaintance or friend. Often, these individuals would obtain access to bank or investment accounts, debit or credit cards, checkbooks, or other funds. Carol also mentioned that nearly 20% of cases were scams, including scams focused on lottery winnings, romance or repairs.

Anyone concerned that an older adult is being financially exploited should contact AAA's Older Adult Protective Services at 412-350-6905 or 1-800-344-4319.