

State of Minnesota Adult Protective Services (APS) Operational Plan, September 2026

State	State of Minnesota, Department of Human Services, Aging and Adult Services Administration
APS Contact Information	Mary McGurran, LSW, Adult Protection Manager

Grants and Timeline

Award	Amount
Elder Justice Act Grants – 2024 Grant 2401MNEJAP	\$240,616
Elder Justice Act Grants – 2025 Grant 2501MNEJPS	\$220,905
Elder Justice Act Grants – 2026 Grant 2601MNEJPS	\$220,493
Elder Justice Act Grants – 2027 Grant 2701MNEJPS	\$ TBD

1) Vision	Vision Minnesota's Adult Protective Services exists so that all 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.
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2) Mission Statement	Mission Adults who are vulnerable and those who support them receive assistance they need to identify, prevent, report, stop, and minimize the risk for abuse, neglect, and exploitation through tribal, state, and county partnerships.
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3) Guiding Principles/Core Values	Goal 1. Adults who are vulnerable to maltreatment and referred to APS have equitable access to protective services. • Racial and ethnic groups are screened out more frequently than white people. • County discretionary decisions may pose a risk to objective and equitable APS decision-making. • Services are not equitably accessible among all disability types. • County of residence impacts screen-out rates. • Screening and intake lack consistency. Goal 2. Adults who are vulnerable to maltreatment and referred to APS experience person-centered, culturally appropriate, and trauma-informed assessment, services, and supports to reduce risk and recover from maltreatment. • The system is not culturally responsive. • Stakeholders don't understand reporting system. • The VAA isn't focused on prevention. Goal 4. APS workers across the state have equitable access to resources to meet client needs to reduce risk for adults who are vulnerable to maltreatment. • Adult protection is under-resourced, resulting in funding inequities. • County discretionary decisions may pose a risk to objective and equitable APS decision-making. • County of residence impacts screen-out rates. Goal 5. Tribal, state, and county partnerships in program management and evaluation of outcomes for adults who are vulnerable are enhanced. • There are not enough options for resolving reports of maltreatment. • Data and good measures don't drive continuous improvement projects
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data sharing restrictions hinder collaboration and trust-building, but privacy is also important |
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4) Environmental Scan Issue	Annual SWOT	
Internal	Strengths • 2020 Vulnerable Adult Act (VAA) Redesign stakeholder engagement project informed vision, mission, core operating principles and redesign of APS policy. • 2022 Chartered partnership with the Minnesota Association for County Social Services Administrators (MACSSA). • 2023-25 Improved data sharing authority for safety and wellbeing of the adult. • 2024-25 Learning Management System (LMS) on-demand foundational e-larnings. • 2025 State and local agency performance measure and goals established. • 2025-26 Evaluation and updates to standard decision-making tools to improve consistency and equality. • 2026 APS policy under VAA recodified and aligned with Federal Rule.	Challenges • The system is not culturally responsive. • Racial and ethnic groups are screened out more frequently than white people. • Screening and intake lack consistency. • Adult protection is under-resourced, resulting in funding inequities. • County discretionary decisions may pose a risk to objective and equitable APS decision-making. • Services are not equitably accessible among all disability types. • County of residence impacts screen-out rates. • There are not enough options for resolving reports of maltreatment. • Stakeholders don't understand reporting system. • Data and good measures don't drive continuous improvement efforts. • Data sharing restrictions hinder collaboration and trust-building, but privacy is also important. • The VAA isn't focused on prevention.

External	Opportunities • Expanded training for workers and supervisors for improved compliance, engagement and outcomes for adults referred to APS. • Community input. • Improved partnerships for coordination of service interventions to stop, reduce risk and prevent maltreatment reoccurrence. • Continuous quality improvements for outcomes in the APS system. • Technical system improvements for case management to align with policy goals and support ease of navigation by workers. • Project for improvements to the online reporting system to encourage reporting and support intuitive use by the public and mandated reporters. • Federal funding to support improvement projects.	Threats • Increasing number of adults reported and referred to as vulnerable and maltreated. • Insufficient resources to support APS program administration. • Stresses on the service system impacting APS partnerships and service availability for interventions to prevent and stop maltreatment. • Competing priorities across the state, local and tribal human services agencies. • Assuring APS Rule compliance in a state supervised, county administered system. • Outdated technical systems for case management. • Limitations to software and technical resources to update the reporting system.
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5) Goals for Program Improvement

Goal 1. Adults who are vulnerable to maltreatment and referred to APS have equitable access to protective services.

- Racial and ethnic groups are screened out more frequently than white people.
- County discretionary decisions may pose a risk to objective and equitable APS decision-making.
- Services are not equitably accessible among all disability types.
- County of residence impacts screen-out rates.
- Screening and intake lack consistency.

Goal 2. Adults who are vulnerable to maltreatment and referred to APS experience person-centered, culturally appropriate, and trauma-informed assessment, services, and supports to reduce risk and recover from maltreatment.

- The system is not culturally responsive.
- Stakeholders don't understand reporting system.
- The VAA isn't focused on prevention.

Goal 3. Tribal nations are supported in development of agreements with the state to assume administration of adult protection program duties.

- Racial and ethnic groups are screened out more frequently than white people.
- County discretionary decisions may pose a risk to objective and equitable APS decision-making.

Goal 4. APS workers across the state have equitable access to resources to meet client needs to reduce risk for adults who are vulnerable to maltreatment.

- Adult protection is under-resourced, resulting in funding inequities.
- County discretionary decisions may pose a risk to objective and equitable APS decision-making.

- County of residence impacts screen-out rates.

Goal 5. Tribal, state, and county partnerships in program management and evaluation of outcomes for adults who are vulnerable are enhanced.

- There are not enough options for resolving reports of maltreatment.
- Data and good measures don't drive continuous improvement efforts.
- Data sharing restrictions hinder collaboration and trust-building, but privacy is important.

6) Targeted Improvement Projects	2401MNEJAP* Project 5. Administration and Quality • Activity: Staff and administrative expenditures to support APS Operational Plan goals. • Outputs: Continuous quality improvement projects • Operational Plan Goals: 1,2,3,4,5 Project 6. Continuous Improvement • Activity: Establish metrics to evaluate and improve consistency in application of standard tools for APS intake decisions. • Outputs: Metrics for program evaluation, case reading tool, training • Operational Plan Goals: 1,4,5 *Projects remaining from approved spending plan 2501MNEJPS * Project 2: APS Role in Social Services System • Activity: Facilitation for the chartered group of state and county APS professionals appointed by the Minnesota Association of County Social Services Administrators (MACSSA) to work on projects meeting goals under the APS Operational Plan. • Outputs: County engagement and partnership in continuous improvement projects. • Operational Plan Goals: 1,2, 5 Project 3: Learning Management System • Activity: Structure for APS professionals to access state APS training
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	• Outputs: LMS system, APS training modules • Operational Plan Goals: 2,4 Project 4. Statewide compliant, consistent and quality APS • Activity: Staff and administrative activities to support APS Operational Plan goals. • Outputs: Continuous quality improvement projects • Operational Plan Goals: 1,2,3,4,5 Project 5: Continuous Improvement • Activity: Establish metrics to evaluate and improve consistency in application of standard tools for APS intake decisions • Outputs: Metrics for evaluation of program and case level decisions, case reading tool, training • Operational Plan Goals: 1,2,4,5 *Projects remaining from approved spending plan 2601MNEJPS Project 1: Update APS Operational Plan • Activity: Engage consultant in developing the state's plan to assure compliance with the APS Final Rule and update the 5-year APS Operational Plan • Outputs: Updated APS Operational Plan for program guidance • Operational Plan Goals: 1,2,3,4,5, Project 2: APS Role in the Social Services System
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	• Activity: Facilitation of chartered group of state and county APS professionals appointed by the Minnesota Association of County Social Services Administrators (MACSSA) • Outputs: County engagement and partnership in continuous improvement projects for programs and services. • Operational Plan Goals: 1,2,5 Project 3: Learning Management System • Activity: Software for APS professionals to access state APS training • Outputs: LMS system, APS training modules • Operational Plan Goals: 2,4 Project 4: Statewide compliant, consistent and quality APS outcomes • Activity: Staff and administrative expenditures to support APS Operational Plan goals • Outputs: Continuous quality improvement projects • Operational Plan Goals: 1,2,3,4,5 Project 5: Continuous Improvement • Activity: Continuous quality improvement: post intake assessment decision tool data analysis on impacts of local agency prioritization; development, training and implementation support for an APS case reading tool; training on use of standard assessment tools as a comprehensive suite used for critical decision in APS response. • Outputs: Metrics for evaluation, case reading tool, training • Operational Plan Goals: 1,2,4,5
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