

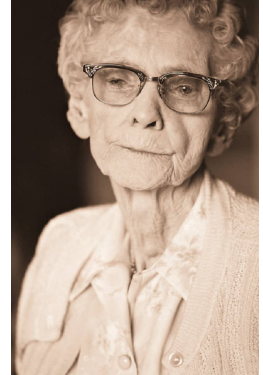


# Protective Services

## **Protective Services: Line item: 9110-1636**

The elder protective services program investigates and resolves elder abuse and neglect, and deals with very complex and volatile family situations. These are reports of:

- physical violence against our seniors,
- financial exploitation by scam artists,
- mental and verbal abuse at the hands of family and caregivers,
- and cases of self-neglect.



Since 2008, reports of elder abuse **rose 31%** but the FY11 funding fell by 9%. Protective Service programs receive **54 new reports each day** and a study shows for every 1 incident reported, 24 acts of abuse go unreported.

The protective services programs, which are housed in designated Aging Services Access Points (ASAPs), have had to use other funds over the years to cover the structural deficits in the protective services line item. They have drawn from other sources to continue providing services not funded by the state, including legal services to handle cases that end up requiring court involvement.

**Every hour 2 reports of elder abuse are filed in Massachusetts.**

As a direct result of declining funds, reports of elder abuse are now being “triaged,” a diplomatic term for addressing only those cases that on the surface seem to be the most extreme. However, this is a tremendous gamble. Without fully investigating each situation we cannot avoid or address a potential future tragedy. Historically, services addressing elder abuse have been **disproportionately funded** compared to other categories of abuse. When elder protective services were first created in FY84, a total of 1,529 reports were investigated. This year, abuse reports are projected to reach **19,554 people**. This means that every hour of every day another 2 reports of abuse are filed in Massachusetts. Professionals in the elder services field have requested **\$17.2 million** in funding for this account.

**For every incident reported, 24 acts of abuse go unreported.**

**Stop The Cuts, Invest In Our Communities.  
Protect the most vulnerable in our society from abuse.  
Support \$17.2 million Line item: 9110-1636**