

**Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Office of Families and Children
Adult Protection Services**

**Policy and Practice Guidance Document #011
American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: Grants to Enhance Adult Protective Services
August 05, 2021**

Background

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, allowing for the establishment of the “American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: Grants to Enhance Adult Protective Services” by the Administration for Community Living (ACL). This grant provides funding to enhance and improve Adult Protective Services (APS) provided by state and local governments and provides one-time funding for APS services totaling \$86,060,000 across all 50 US states and territories. The project period for these awards begins August 1, 2021, with an end date of September 30, 2023. There is no required match for the funding, awards are provided to the agency or unit of state government having the legal responsibility for providing adult protective services within the state (i.e., the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), and funds are to be utilized at the discretion of that agency.

Ohio has been awarded \$3,042,896.00, of which \$2,000,000.00 will be distributed to the county Departments of Job and Family Services (CDJFS) equally. Funds received under this grant are intended to supplement, not replace, existing funding for APS that are currently provided by states and local government. Existing funds for an existing project or activities may not be displaced by federal funds and reallocated for other organizational expenses. The funding through this opportunity must add to current funding levels, not be used to replace funding. Funding under this opportunity may be used to serve any APS client who meets Ohio's statutory criteria for client eligibility for APS services. All funds must be spent in ways consistent with the Elder Justice Act Section 2042(b), the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and guidance provided by ACL and ODJFS.

This document provides practice and policy guidance regarding how funding can be used by the CDJFS.

Procedures

Activity Plan

To ensure that Ohio adheres to grant guidelines, each CDJFS is requested to provide a written activity plan to ODJFS regarding how funds are anticipated to be spent. The plan should also include the name of a person who can be contacted regarding the use of grant funds, a list of items and/or projects the CDJFS plans to spend the funds, and an initial description of how the funds will impact APS in the county.

Because this is one-time funding, the CDJFS should plan accordingly. There are also special considerations related to requests for individual purchases over \$5,000.00, which must be submitted to and approved by ODJFS and ACL.

The county plan and any separate requests for individual purchases over \$5,000.00 can be completed on the two attached forms (APS ARPA County Plan Form and APS ARPA ACL Large Purchase Request Form). All forms and any questions regarding them can be sent to Heidi Turner-Stone, ODJFS/OFC/APS Section Chief at Heidi.Turner@jfs.ohio.gov.

Use of Funds

ODJFS will partner with the Office of Fiscal and Monitoring Services to allocate Ohio's grant funds to county agencies using the current allocation methodology used for providing state APS funding. Grant funds will be distributed equally to each CDJFS; each county will receive the same amount of funding regardless of the size of its population. Grant activities must be completed by the CDJFS within the project period timeframe (i.e., spent, have an expense incurred against it, and/or be obligated) by September 30, 2023.

ACL requires that funds awarded under this opportunity be utilized to enhance, improve, and expand the ability of APS to investigate allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Examples of activities consistent with the purposes of the statute include:

- Establishing or enhancing the availability for elder shelters and other emergency, short-term housing and accompanying “wrap-around” services for APS clients (i.e. financing contracts with local providers).
- Establishing, expanding, or enhancing state-wide and local-level elder justice networks for the purpose of removing bureaucratic obstacles and improving coordination across the many state and local agencies interacting with APS clients who have experienced abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
- Improving or enhancing existing APS processes for receiving reports, conducting intakes and investigations, planning/providing for services, making case determinations, documenting and closing cases, and continuous quality improvement.
- Improving and supporting remote work, such as the purchase of communications and technology hardware, software, or infrastructure in order to provide adult

- protective services (i.e. laptops, tablets, protective cases, printers, WiFi hotspots, Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Pro, etc.).
- Costs associated with establishing new, or improving existing, processes for responding to alleged scams and frauds (i.e. printing and distribution of educational materials, events to build relationships and to educate local bankers, financial advisors, retail managers, and family members, etc.).
 - Costs associated with community outreach (i.e. mailers, brochures, radio spots, billboards, etc.).
 - Costs associated with providing goods and services to APS clients (i.e. transportation to and from appointments, in-home vaccinations, costs and delivery of groceries/medications, health monitoring devices, etc.).
 - Acquiring personal protection equipment and supplies (i.e. masks, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, HEPA air filtration, etc.).
 - Paying for the hiring of temporary staff, and associated personnel costs.
 - Training costs (i.e. virtual conferences, travel for national conferences, facilitator fees for in-house trainings, etc.).
 - Costs associated with assisting APS clients secure the least restrictive option for emergency or alternative housing, and with obtaining, providing, or coordinating with care transitions as appropriate (i.e. transportation to alternative housing, basic needs supplies, deposits for alternative housing arrangements, etc.).

Reporting

The ODJFS Federal Reporting Unit will provide financial reports semi-annually to ACL based on the actual monies spent by each county.

The ODJFS APS Section will be required to provide programmatic reports to ACL annually. CDJFSs will be requested to provide updates to ODJFS every six months so that progress can be monitored, and information provided to ACL. The reporting format for CDJFSs to use in providing updates to ODJFS will be developed once the grant project period begins and will be communicated to counties once it is completed.

Contacts

- Adult Protective Services – Tia Goodlett, Tia.Goodlett@jfs.ohio.gov; or Heidi Turner-Stone, Heidi.Turner@jfs.ohio.gov.
- Office of Families and Children's APS Mailbox, APS_Mailbox@jfs.ohio.gov.



**Department of
Job and Family Services**

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor
Matt Damschroder, Director

**Office of Families
and Children**

**Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Office of Families and Children
Adult Protection Services**

**Policy and Practice Guidance Document #011-A
American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: Grants to Enhance Adult Protective Services**

County Department of Job and Family Services APS Supplemental Funding Activity Plan

| |
|---|
| County/Agency Name: |
| Contact Person: |
| Anticipated use of grant funds: |
| How the use of grant funds will impact APS in the county: |

For questions, and to submit the County Plan, email Heidi Turner-Stone at Heidi.Turner@jfs.ohio.gov.

30 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215
jfs.ohio.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Large Purchase Request Form

(Required by the Administration for Community Living for requested individual purchases over \$5,000.00 under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: Grants to Enhance Adult Protective Services – Supplemental Funding)

| | |
|--|--|
| Date: | |
| Organization (County): | |
| Contact Name: | |
| Contact E-mail: | |
| Grant Number: | |
| Attach 3 cost estimates for the piece of equipment you are requesting and indicate here which bid you are choosing. Cost estimates can be bids from vendors/dealerships or print outs of cost from sellers. | |
| Describe the purpose/intended use of the equipment and how the equipment will benefit the program. | |
| What percentage of the total cost of the equipment/supply will these funds cover? If other funding is available, please identify the source and amount. For instance, if the total cost of the item is \$10,000, and the grant program is responsible for \$5,000, and state/territory funds will be used for the remaining \$5,000 write 50% in this space. If grant funds will be used to for the full cost of the purchase, write 100% in this space. | |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>What is the estimated percentage of time the equipment will be used by the APS program?</p> <p>If this purchase is being shared with other programs, indicate the percentage of time that the program will use this item. For instance, if you're purchasing a vehicle partially with APS grant funds and partially with state/territory funds, and your program will only have access to the vehicle 50% of the time, write 50% in this space. If the APS program will have access to the purchase 100% of the time, write 100% in this space.</p> | |
| <p>Include an analysis of lease and purchase alternatives to determine which would be the most economical and practical procurement.</p> | |
| <p>Buy American Requirement: attach information indicating the equipment is produced in the United States.</p> | |