

Frequently Used Acronyms in Adult Protective Services

Part of the **New APS Administrators Toolkit** located at <https://apstarc.acl.gov/toolkits>.

This document lists frequently used acronyms in adult protective services administration.

Acronym	Meaning	Definition
ACL	Administration for Community Living	Part of the US Department of Health & Human Services, the mission of the Administration for Community Living (ACL) is to maximize the independence, well-being, and health of older adults, people with disabilities across the lifespan, and their families and caregivers. <i>(Source: https://acl.gov/about-acl)</i>
APS	adult protective services	The term adult protective services (APS) means such services provided to adults as the Secretary [Secretary of Health and Human Services] may specify and includes services such as: (A) receiving reports of adult abuse, neglect, or exploitation; (B) investigating the reports described in subparagraph (A); (C) case planning, monitoring, evaluation, and other case work and services; and (D) providing, arranging for, or facilitating the provision of medical, social service, economic, legal, housing, law enforcement, or other protective, emergency, or support services. <i>(Source: Elder Justice Act Subtitle B-Elder Justice Sec. 2011. [42 U.S.C. 1397j] (2))</i>
APS TARC	Adult Protective Services Technical Assistance Resource Center	Funded by ACL, the APS TARC works with state and local APS programs to improve reporting of data through the National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System (NAMRS), conducts evaluation and identifies promising practices, supports communities of practice among ACL grantees, and provides technical assistance to state APS programs. <i>(Source: https://apstarc.acl.gov/)</i>
DOJ	Department of Justice	The mission of the Department of Justice (DOJ) is to uphold the rule of law, to keep our country safe, and to protect civil rights. <i>(Source: https://www.justice.gov/about)</i>
EJI	Elder Justice Initiative	Part of the Department of Justice, the mission of the Elder Justice Initiative (EJI) is to support and coordinate the Department’s enforcement and programmatic efforts to combat elder abuse, neglect and financial fraud and scams that target our nation’s older adults. <i>(Source: https://www.justice.gov/elderjustice)</i>
FFY	Federal Fiscal Year	The fiscal year that runs from October 1 to September 30 of each year.

Acronym	Meaning	Definition
MDT	Multidisciplinary Team	MDTs are defined as a group of people (comprised of representatives from three or more disciplines who work collaboratively), bound by a common purpose (the MDT has a shared goal and shared definition of the problem they are addressing), and is characterized by five elements: shared decision-making, partnership, interdependency, balanced power, and process. (Source & for more info: https://www.justice.gov/elderjustice/1-introduction-multidisciplinary-teams)
NAMRS	National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System	The National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System (NAMRS) is a data reporting system established and operated by ACL for the purpose of better understanding the phenomena of adult maltreatment in the United States. Currently, the data collected is submitted by APS programs. (Source: https://namrs.acl.gov/)
NAPSA	National Adult Protective Services Association	A non-profit membership-based organization, its mission is to strengthen the capacity of APS at the national, state, and local levels, to effectively and efficiently recognize, report, and respond to the needs of elders and adults with disabilities who are the victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, and to prevent such abuse whenever possible. (Source: https://www.napsa-now.org/)
NATC	National APS Training Center	The National APS Training Center (NATC) serves as a source of quality education for APS professionals on topics related to providing protective services during the pandemic; investigating cases of abuse, neglect and exploitation; reducing risk for people who have experienced abuse, neglect and exploitation; supervising and leading the modern APS workforce; and responding to people with culturally responsive, strengths-based and person-centered approaches. (Source: https://natc.acl.gov/)
NCEA	National Center on Elder Abuse	Funded by ACL, the NCEA provides the latest information regarding research, training, best practices, news and resources on elder abuse, neglect and exploitation to professionals and the public. (Source: https://ncea.acl.gov/)

Acronym	Meaning	Definition
OEJAPS	Office of Elder Justice & Adult Protective Services	Part of ACL, OEJAPS provides grants and contracts with organizations to support the development of systems and programs that prevent abuse from happening, protect people from abusive situations, support people who have experienced abuse to help them recover, and preserve and promote their independence, choice, and financial security. (Source: https://elderjustice.acl.gov/success)
SSBG	Social Service Block Grant	The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) is a flexible funding source that allows states and territories to tailor social service programming to their population’s needs. (Source: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/ssbg)
VOCA	Victims of Crime Act	The VOCA Fund was created by Congress in 1984 to provide federal support to state and local programs that assist victims of crime. This federal law, passed by Congress in 1984 and amended in 1988, established OVC and created the Crime Victims Fund, which provides funds to states for victim assistance and compensation programs that offer support and services to those affected by violent crimes. Guidance provided for the victim assistance and compensation grant programs is in accordance with VOCA. (Source: https://ovc.ojp.gov/program/victims-crime-act-voca-administrators/laws-policies)