

2023-24 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- #1 Allocate an additional \$8M in recurring funds for Adult Protective Services (APS) to address staff shortages.**
In SFY 21, APS received 32,075 reports across the state, compared to 14,001 reports in SFY 2005-2006, reflecting an increase of 129% in 17 years.

The Background

- In North Carolina, county departments of social services are mandated by General Statute 108A to evaluate reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults through their Adult Protective Services (APS) programs.
- In North Carolina, the state does not allocate funds for APS. The federal Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) provides 21% of the funding for county DSS staff and counties provide the remaining 79% of funding.
 - In addition to APS, SSBG provides funding for several other county DSS departments, resulting in disparities in availability of APS resources across counties.
 - SSBG funds earmarked for APS are often depleted by mid-year.

The Issues

- The New York State Elder Abuse Prevalence Study reports that for every 1 case that is reported, 24 cases go unreported.
- With the growth in the older adult population, county departments of social services APS staff are simply overwhelmed by the increased demand.
- Counties report they need an average of two additional full-time APS staff to address the protective services needs of their citizens.

The Solution

Allocate an additional \$8M in recurring funds from the state budget to augment the federal funding to provide adequate staff to effectively handle the increasing volume of APS reports.