

**Priority:** Safety  
**Program Offer Type:** Innovative/New Program  
**Related Programs:**  
**Program Characteristics:** Joint Offer

**Lead Agency:** County Human Services  
**Program Contact:** Mary Shortall

**Executive Summary**

The Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) is a joint offer with the District Attorney and Sheriff's Office to test a national best practice that improves investigations and prosecution rates for financial abuse/exploitation of seniors and persons with disabilities. This offer purchases a part time coordinator, adds funding to obtain the expertise of a forensic psychiatrist, forensic nurse and forensic accountant. It will result in increased probability of criminal prosecution and/or will recoup victim's lost property or funds.

**Program Description**

The crime of financial exploitation is growing in Multnomah County. Adult Protective Services (APS) investigated 685 cases of financial exploitation against seniors and adults with disabilities last year, an increase of 37% in less than two years. In order to prosecute these cases it must be proven that the victim lacked capacity to make financial decisions in a consensual manner. This program would provide needed forensic evidence to prosecute or substantiate abuse. These crimes involve pressuring seniors to give their assets to strangers, caregivers or family members. Legally, this is referred to as "Undue Influence." To prove that "undue influence" was committed and a crime has occurred, APS investigators must show evidence that the victim has cognitive deficits. A team of forensic experts will evaluate the victim to determine if a crime occurred and if there is a need for guardianship or conservatorship to safeguard victims and their assets. Financial abuse does not happen in isolation and in many occasions it may be coupled with other forms of abuse such as physical abuse, abandonment, neglect, verbal abuse or sexual abuse. In this case, medical personnel will assess any medical issues associated with the abuse.

**Program Justification**

This program protects vulnerable adults from financial abuse and exploitation and links with Safety Outcome Priority strategy by holding offenders accountable for their actions through collaboration with law enforcement such as Portland Police, the District Attorney's office, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), the public guardian/conservator, and financial and medical institutions. Multi-jurisdictional collaboration will promote safety for seniors and persons with disabilities by providing community trainings on financial abuse. This program supports the County's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness by protecting seniors and persons with disabilities from losing their homes and resources. Seniors are often tricked into transferring assets or selling their homes at very low cost. With additional forensic expertise the team will be able to: 1) Better assess reported victims' ability to make financial decisions. 2) Have better documentation for the DA, guardian/conservators and others involved. 3) Use the legal system to hold perpetrators accountable. 4) Stop current and prevent future abuse. 5) This program will seek to improve and streamline the investigations effort involving the Sheriff's Office in partnership with city and federal resources.

**Performance Measures**

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY05-06)	Current Year Purchased (FY06-07)	Current Year Estimate (FY06-07)	Next Year Offer (FY07-08)
Output	Financial abuse cases requiring forensic intervention	0	0	0	48
Outcome	Cases with forensic intervention resolved	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	80.0%
Outcome	Dollars restored to financial abuse victims due to team intervention	0	0	0	1,500,000
Output	Investigations receiving technical assistance by team	0	0	0	230

**Performance Measure - Description**

These are new measures.

## Legal/Contractual Obligation

The investigation responsibility is mandated and funded by the State of Oregon. There is legal obligation to do investigations of financial abuse under OAR 411-020-0000 through 411-020-0002 (c). Also, under ORS 410.020 (3) and 410.040 (9)

## Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2007	2007	2008	2008
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$36,635	\$0
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$155,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$1,071	\$0
Internal Services	\$0	\$0	\$6,612	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$199,318</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$7,928	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$23,367	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$31,295</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Total GF/non-GF:	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$230,613</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Program Total:	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$230,613</b>	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00
<b>Program Revenues</b>				
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## Explanation of Revenues

The funding for the neuropsychologist, coordinator and forensic accountant will be County general fund. Other team participants are funded through other program offers.

## Significant Program Changes

### Last year this program was:

This is a new program prompted by the growing incidence of financial abuse/exploitation particularly around the need to determine whether there was undue influence on the part of the reported perpetrator. The protective services part and collaboration with law enforcement and DA will stay the same. The design of the team will change in that a coordinator will create criteria for the team to operate, will need to re-allocate protective services workers to this unit by creating a financial abuse specialist team to streamline the program. This will serve as pilot to branch out to include all forms of abuse to expand to a Vulnerable Adults Abuse Specialist Team.