



**Georgia Department
of Human Services**
Division of Aging Services

Georgia's Elderly Legal Assistance Program

Aimee Stowe, Legal Services Developer

stronger families

FOR A STRONGER GEORGIA



Division of Aging Services

— VISION —

LIVING LONGER,

LIVING SAFELY,

living well



Elderly Legal Assistance Program



Authority

- The Older Americans Act requires each state to create a state plan on aging:

"...the plan shall provide assurances that each State will assign personnel (one of whom shall be known as a legal assistance developer) to provide State leadership in developing legal assistance programs for older individuals throughout the State..."



State Agency Requirements

- **Legal Assistance Program (ELAP) – Title III**
 - Adequate proportion of funding required by the OAA
 - Free, civil legal assistance
 - Means testing prohibited
 - Programs must target priority populations and issues
- **Legal Assistance Developer (LAD) – Title VII**
 - Fulfill state agency ELAP responsibilities
 - Improve the quality and quantity of legal services provided to older adults



Program Priorities

Priority Populations

- Elders from rural areas
- Racial and ethnic minority elders
- Limited English proficient elders
- Elders with the greatest economic or social need
 - Institutionalized or at risk of institutionalization
 - Victims of A/N/E
 - Unhoused
 - At risk of guardianship or conservatorship
 - Physically or socially isolated

Issues

- Income/financial stability
- Health care
- Long-term care
- Nutrition
- Housing and utilities
- Protective services
- Incapacity planning (defense of guardianship)
- Abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- Age discrimination



Network & Partners

- **Area Agencies on Aging**

- Contract with DAS, subcontract with providers
- 12

- **Providers**

- 3



**Mark E. Franklin
& Associates, LLC**

- **State Long-Term Care Ombudsman**
- **Georgia State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)**
- **Senior Legal Hotline**



Funding

Budget for Fiscal Years 2022-2023 (as of July 1, 2022)

• Statewide		\$110,647
• Older Americans Act Title IIIB, Supportive Services (85% Federal, 15% Required State Match)		
• Area Agencies on Aging		\$1,528,030
• Designated State Funds	\$ 74,849	
• Other State Funds Designated by AAAs	\$ 147,696	
• OAA Title IIIB Supportive Services	\$ 1,302,208	
• Other Local Funds	\$ 3,277	
• TOTAL		\$1,638,677



elderly legal assistance program

Services



ELAP Services

- **Attorney, Paralegal Representation**

- Holistic
- Essential
- All levels
 - Advice, referral
 - Brief service
 - Complex litigation, jury trials
- In all civil fora

- **Community Education and Outreach**

- Rights of Nursing Home Residents
- Avoiding Scams
- Maximizing VA Benefits
- Debt Collection and Social Security
- Tenant's Rights
- Alternatives to Guardianship

- **Community Leadership**

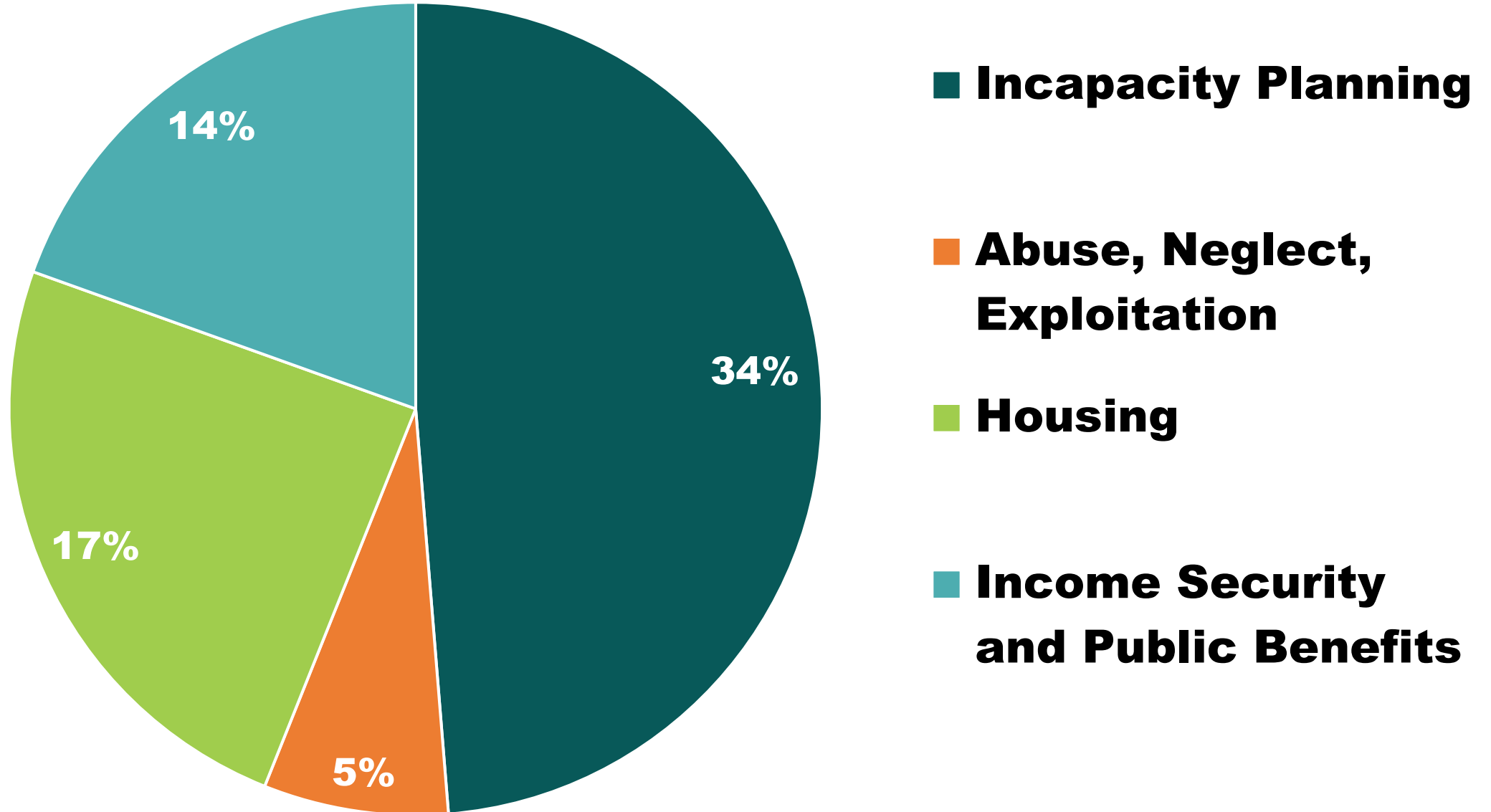
- Clinics
- Local bar projects



2022 High Priority Cases

70% of All Cases

CASES



LAD Leadership

- Provider & AAA Support
 - Grant planning, application
 - Conference, continuing legal education, and training
 - Intra-provider relations, collaboration, issue resolution
- Capacity Building
 - By number and issue, quantity
 - Quality
- Information and Referral
 - Publications
 - Outreach
 - Direct contact



LAD Community Education



-  [Benefits Guide for Older Georgians](#)
-  [Alzheimer's Disclosure Form](#) (pdf)
-  [Georgia's Law on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation](#) (pdf) 2017
-  [Georgia Advance Directive For Health Care](#) (pdf) 2016
-  [Guardianship Law in Georgia](#) (pdf) 2017
-  [Medicaid Information for Long-Term Care](#)
-  [Temporary Health Care Placement Decision Maker Booklet v04](#) (pdf) 2017
-  [Caring from a Distance](#) (pdf) 2019
-  [Alternatives to Guardianship with Advance Directives](#) (pdf) 2019
-  [Details of My Final Arrangements](#) (pdf) 2017
-  [Do I Need a Will?](#) (pdf) 2016
-  [A Guide to Funeral Homes, Crematories, and Cemeteries](#) (pdf) 2019
-  [Deceased Depositor Claim Form and Affidavit](#) (pdf) 2019



elderly legal assistance program

Impact



NUMBERS

2022



\$23,009,915



33,230



152,580



CLIENTS

- Elders from rural areas
- Racial and ethnic minority elders
- Limited English proficiency
- Persons with the greatest economic or social need
 - Institutionalized elders or at risk of institutionalization
 - Victims of A/N/E
 - Unhoused elders
 - Elders at risk of guardianship or conservatorship
 - Physically or socially isolated elders

2827

cases

57%

of clients served

737

cases

2022



LEGAL ASSISTANCE

- Mortgage fraud
- Public housing dispute
- Invalid contract
- Adoption proceeding
- Consumer debt resolution
- Banking dispute
- Medical assistance



Glad to Hear from You

Aimee Stowe

Legal Services Developer

Division of Aging Services

Department of Human Services

aimee.stowe2@dhs.ga.gov

