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**Subject:** New federal grants to bolster Adult Protective Services

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**October 8, 2015**

## **ACL announces new federal grants to bolster state Adult Protective Services systems**

In 2011, a beloved actor who spent 80 years telling others' stories shared a heartbreaking tale from his own life.

"I felt trapped, scared, used and frustrated," Mickey Rooney told a hearing room full of members of Congress, with cameras rolling. He described abuse and financial exploitation committed by his own family members and had a powerful message for other older adults experiencing abuse: "You're not alone ... and you have nothing—nothing, ladies and gentlemen—to be ashamed of."

Rooney's courageous testimony and a GAO report released hours earlier brought national attention to the fight against elder abuse.

ACL now marks a milestone in the fight against abuse of older adults and people with disabilities as it awards the first-ever federal grants specifically designated to improve states' Adult Protective Services (APS) systems.

These grants, which total up to \$2.8 million for up to two years, are being awarded to Alabama, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington.

ACL also is awarding a contract of up to nearly \$850,000 to Walter R. McDonald & Associates, Inc. to provide support to grant recipients and to manage ACL's National Adult Protective Services Resource Center. Formed in 2011, the resource center compiles and disseminates best practices and provides targeted technical assistance to APS programs across the country.

[Read the news release](#) and [find out how each state will be using their grant](#).

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