

# Adult Protective Services Training Institute

Rutgers School of Social Work  
Office of Continuing Education

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The Adult Protective Services Training Institute, coordinated by the Office of Continuing Education (CE), has been the sole source for statewide training to Adult Protective Service (APS) workers since its inception in 1991. This training program consists of a sixteen-day education series in which the new APS worker becomes familiar with the many demanding facets of protecting the fragile populations of older adults and disabled adults in New Jersey.

This program began in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division on Aging Services in 1991 as a response to the need for a standardized training program for APS workers. In 1993, the program received the Brookdale Best Practices Training Award. Today, the Department of Human Services (DHS), New Jersey's designated State Unit on Aging, is charged with the responsibility of establishing the State supervised and county administered APS program. The responsibility for implementing, monitoring, and supervising the APS program is delegated to the Division of Aging Services.

The Adult Protective Services Training Institute, which is rooted in research and best practices, employs many different instruction modalities to achieve the goal of successfully training new APS workers. Strategies such as videotaped instruction and simulations, classroom lectures, and homework assignments are all part of the curriculum design to increase knowledge and awareness. The curriculum is regularly updated to stay current with new trends in practice, current research and from feedback provided by program participants. The Institute also provides specialized training for supervisors and advanced APS workers and conducts an annual executive forum to provide further outreach within the field.

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