

## Improve coordination of civil and criminal investigations to better protect vulnerable adults

### Issues:

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- The Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center (MAARC) is a 24/7 service for reporting suspected maltreatment of vulnerable adults. Members of the public and mandated reporters, people who are required to report suspected maltreatment, use MAARC. Reports can be made by phone or online.
- More resources would help MAARC:
  - Improve counties' and tribes' responses to vulnerable adults who have been abused, neglected or exploited.
  - Better coordinate civil and criminal investigations. Ensure reports are handled efficiently.
- When someone reports suspected maltreatment, MAARC is required by law to immediately notify:
  - Law enforcement, to refer allegations that may also require a criminal investigation.
  - Counties, to fulfill emergency needs for adult protective services for the vulnerable adult.
  - The medical examiner and Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, to report a suspicious death.
  - The lead investigative agency, which may be a county, the Department of Human Services or the Minnesota Department of Health.
- Lead investigative agencies and law enforcement must coordinate civil and criminal investigations, provide adult protective services to maltreated vulnerable adults.
- Right now, tribes don't receive state funding for or provide adult protective services.

### Proposal:

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Governor Tim Walz proposes:

- Expanding county grants and adding new tribal grants to support investigations into suspected maltreatment and to provide adult protective services.
- Improving MAARC operations:
  - Better data sharing between MAARC and law enforcement will eliminate duplication and preserve resources for responding to vulnerable adult victims.
  - Geographic information system (GIS) mapping of 340 law enforcement agencies will allow MAARC to identify the agency with proper jurisdiction over reported allegations.
  - 24/7 system and application IT support will be available for MAARC web systems.
  - Creating a MAARC dashboard will allow for real-time operations management.

## Benefits:

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- Adult protective services will improve and be more consistent, no matter where a vulnerable adult lives.
- Timely, accurate notification of law enforcement will lead to better coordination between law enforcement and responsible lead investigative agencies.
- Real-time data management supports more timely protection, referrals and response to reports.
- Tribes providing services and investigations improves culturally appropriate responses.

## Fiscal impact (state share only):

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- Total state budget impact of \$10.24 million in FY 2020-23, comprised of:
  - \$7.205 million in FY 2020-23 for state grants to counties and tribes for adult protective services and suspected maltreatment investigations
  - \$806,000 in FY 2020-23 for data transmission between MAARC and law enforcement
  - \$600,000 in FY 2020-23 for 24/7 MAARC systems and applications support
  - \$812,000 in FY 2020-23 for management dashboard
  - \$817,000 in FY 2020-23 for law enforcement notification and GIS mapping.

## Related information:

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- Revised Governor's Budget Recommendations for FY 2020-21: <https://mn.gov/mmb-stat/documents/budget/2020-21-biennial-budget-books/governors-revised-march/human-services.pdf>
- DHS vulnerable adult protection and elder abuse webpage: <https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/adults/services/adult-protection/>

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