

STAAR

STOP Technical Assistance to Administrators Resource Project

Hello!

We hope you and your family are taking care and staying safe during these difficult times. We are still here for you to provide support, guidance, resources, and technical assistance. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

This newsletter includes a variety of resources for STOP grant administrators and service providers related to Abuse in Later Life.

If you have any questions about how to address this in your STOP planning and implementation, please contact us at ALSOSTAARProjectTA@also-chicago.org.

-The STAAR Project Team

[Visit our website](#)

In this newsletter:

Resources on Abuse in Later Life:

- COVID-19 Barriers and Resources
- Advocacy for Elder LGBT Survivors
- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- Tele-Advocacy
- Intersections of Victimization
- Creative Outreach Options
- New Online Forum

STAAR Project Announcements

COVID-19 Resources

- The STAAR Project is hosting **bi-weekly TA Clinics on Mondays** to receive direct support, share resources, and discuss the impact of COVID-19 on their work and the work of local programs across the country. ***The next upcoming TA Clinic is on Monday 7/6.***
- Check out our [website](#) for more information and resources related to COVID-19 for STOP Administrators and Subgrantees.
- STOP Administrators and Subgrantees can also find information from OVW regarding COVID-19 on [OVW's website](#).



**June 2020 is LGBT Pride Month
&
June 15th, 2020 was World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)**

The National Resource Center on LGBT Aging, a project of **Sage Advocacy & Services for LGBT Elders**, has a variety of resources to explore, including **Advocacy Tools for LGBT Older Adults**.

The **American Psychological Association** (APA) also has a list of resources and publications: **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Aging**.

Lift up the voices of older survivors! **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)**, was **June 15th**, and it is one of many opportunities for older survivors to share their perspectives and experiences. The **National Center on Elder Abuse** and the **National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL)** have collaborated to develop an array of materials to assist communities in creating safe and accessible virtual events for WEAAD. Learn how communities can get involved in **lifting up voices of older survivors** at a distance.

"Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, older adult victims of crime and abuse experienced unique challenges and barriers to accessing healing and justice services. The pandemic has **exacerbated these barriers** and created new challenges for older survivors in addition to the added stress and trauma of being higher risk for contracting and suffering from COVID-19. While physical distancing is required to keep everyone safe during this global pandemic, isolation is a major risk factor for abuse in later life." -NCALL

The following are some strategies and resources for supporting older survivors during COVID-19, provided by The National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL)

Safety and Tele-Advocacy

Keep connected with tele-advocacy. Now more than ever, it is important to maintain connection with older adults, including older victims and survivors. Connect in the best and safest way that works for the survivor, whether that's over the phone, via text, or video chat. Check in with survivors on how they can safely stay connected with their family and community members. Visit the **National Network to End Domestic Violence's COVID-19 Resources page** to get information on different technology tools available to have

Support for Survivors

Use an intersectional framework and prioritize the needs of folks in the margins. Use a whole-person centered approach to discussing needs when connecting with older survivors. Consider the intersections of their identities and the implications of the overlapping oppressions that are currently getting in the

safe and confidential conversations with survivors and the [National Center on Elder Abuse's Tuesday Tips](#) for information, resources, and practical tips to consider to remain socially connected with older adults while practicing physical distancing.

way of accessing supports. Visit [the National Resource Center on Reaching Victims](#) for more information on how to support survivors in the margins.

Self-Care is Critical

Program managers must be mindful of the emotional toll for professionals and volunteers who are used to being able to help, but now struggle with additional barriers to reach victims and survivors. Utilize different grounding and self-care tools to minimize the trauma impact of being a support person in the midst of a pandemic. Visit the [COVID-19 resources page](#) for the National Resource Center for Reaching Victims for different webinars on grounding tools, as well as additional tools for effectively and safely providing tele-advocacy.

Resources for Outreach

Develop safe communications and connections pathways. Strategize with people as you would while safety planning on what safe communication and connection looks like for them at this time. Rely on credible resources such as the [Elder Care Locator](#) (1-800-677-1116) to locate help in your area, such as meal delivery, transportation, or credible phone reassurance programs. Be creative in building relationships with organizations that may not usually work with victims but may be touchstones for folks in their own communities.

Call on faith leaders to connect with survivors. 89% of older adults look to faith as a source of strength, resilience, and connection. Build connections with faith leaders in your community or call on existing relationships to support faith leaders in reaching out to older adults in their communities. Email this [letter](#) to give faith leaders tangible action steps they can take to stay better connected with older adults and mitigate their risk of abuse.

Stay up to date on COVID-19 scams. Some people are leveraging the fear around the pandemic to scare, manipulate, and defraud others. [The Federal Trade Commission](#) website can help you stay up to date on the different scams popping up related to the virus. Stay informed and check often as new information arises related to scams. If you come across suspicious activity, file a report at the [FTC at ftc.gov/complaint](#).

Join a community, build knowledge, and enhance capacity. In partnership with the [OVC National Resource Center for Reaching Victims](#), NCALL recently launched an [online forum for educators and trainers](#) in the field of abuse in later life, elder abuse, and victim services. This community will work together to build knowledge and enhance capacity across the field to educate

professionals on the unique service needs of older victims. **Sign up today** to become a part of this emerging community.
