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THE FOLLOWING IS A BROADCAST EMAIL TO ALL OVS FUNDED VICTIM  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

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Dear Colleague,

Please see the attached announcement for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2017.

On behalf of the New York State Office of Victim Services, thank you for your commitment to providing the highest quality services to innocent victims of crime in New York State.

**Emma Graham**

Supervisor, Contract Administration

**New York State Office of Victim Services**

Alfred E. Smith Building

80 South Swan Street, 2nd Floor

Albany, NY 12210

Phone: (518) 485-0943 | Fax: (518) 485-9294 | [emma.graham@ovs.ny.gov](mailto:emma.graham@ovs.ny.gov)

[www.ovs.ny.gov](http://www.ovs.ny.gov)

## **WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY 2017**

Thursday, June 15, 2017 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This event is designed to bring global attention to the critical problem of the abuse of older adults. This includes, physical, financial, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse as well as neglect and exploitation, of one of our most vulnerable populations.

Older adult victims are a vastly underserved demographic, a fact which becomes more alarming as our population ages. Estimates indicate that in the next 30 years, those over the age of 60 will exceed the number of younger people. Perpetrators often include those persons who should be taking care of our seniors – their children, other relatives, spouses, as well as staff at assisted care facilities. In fact, estimates are that almost 60% of elder abuse and neglect cases are committed by a family member.

Estimates are that one in ten Americans over the age of 60 have experienced some form of abuse. Disturbingly, most cases are not reported to authorities, either Adult Protective Services or law enforcement.

What makes our older adults vulnerable to abuse? Certainly, physiological reasons such as dementia, Alzheimer's, waning health and other disabilities are serious factors. Moreover, seniors are often afraid to come forward in order to protect their loved one, because of shame or because they are unaware of the resources available for them.

The effects of elder abuse are serious. Those who have been abused have a 300% higher risk of death! Elder abuse costs older Americans \$36.5 billion per year.

This is a public health, financial and criminal justice issue.

What can we do? Educate seniors, caregivers, and the public that abuse of older adults is real and serious. Provide information and resources for reporting. Provide support for caregivers and those who report abuse. Engage all partners in the medical, law enforcement, social services, and faith communities as well as government and financial entities. Stay alert to the signs of elder abuse and provide assistance or alert authorities when necessary.

There are many resources for older adult victims. The NYS Office of Victim Services is just one of those resources that can be a safety-net for some senior victims and assist them in locating a local victim service provider. In addition, for more information, contact the New York State Office for the Aging, NYS Adult Protective Services, the National Center on Elder Abuse and the National Coalition on Aging.