

Applicant Organization: St. Tammany SALT Council, Inc.
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1. Describe the need. What gaps exist in the community? What problems have emerged? How would a **new** elder justice network help in responding to these gaps/problems?

St. Tammany Parish (county) is on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, 24 miles from New Orleans. ***There is no multi-disciplinary team to address the many components of Elder Abuse.*** This is the “gap” we seek to close.

The estimated population of the parish is 240,000, with about 30,000 ages 60 or above (“Seniors”). This number increased significantly following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 as Seniors were forced to relocate from the New Orleans area due to the damage caused by the hurricane and flooding. In this time frame, there was no significant increase in the number of Elderly Protective Services investigators, and the St. Tammany Council on Aging was significantly reduced in capacity due to loss of personnel and facilities. All social service agencies were similarly affected. The stresses placed on organizations committed to addressing Elder Abuse were exacerbated by the population increase and the concurrent reduction in available services.

Elder Abuse investigation and resolution is primarily the responsibility of the Region IX Elderly Protective Services (EPS) office that includes a supervisor and 2 ½ full-time investigators. This same office is responsible for Elder Abuse investigations in four other parishes. Because of the limited personnel, they have not been able to resolve problems with financial institutions, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and other organizations that are necessary for EPS to be as effective as they should be.

Currently the only consistent working relationship between organizations is the District Attorney’s Elder Abuse Protection Unit and EPS. The DA’s unit was implemented in the late summer of 2005, and through the direct interaction with EPS investigators, significant improvements have been made in the capacity to address the justice-based component of the Elder Abuse battle. However without a similar social service component, EPS is left to find solutions with limited time and support.

An elder justice network (which we will dub the “Elder Abuse Support Team” - *EAST*) will offer expanded resources to address the needs of the actual and potential victims of Elder Abuse. This support team will supplement the EPS investigators by providing information, interventional personnel, directed expertise, and options to allow EPS to be more successful in the permanent resolution of Elder Abuse cases.

EAST will also expand the support in the justice-based component by offering expanded expertise in identification of criminal conduct, improved cooperation by banks and other financial institutions, and providing a basis for expanded training of law enforcement personnel. It will also offer the tools to train EMS personnel and enhance training for medical and social work professionals.

The St. Tammany SALT Council intends to develop a program that can be replicated easily and efficiently throughout Louisiana. If successful, this grant could lead to a quantum expansion of Elder Abuse awareness that ultimately would enhance prevention and prosecution.

2. What role would your agency play in the network? If as the lead organization, describe how you will staff the initiative.

The lead organization will be the St. Tammany SALT Council, Inc., known as “Seniors And Law enforcement Together,” and informally as the St. Tammany SALT Council. The Council is a Louisiana non-profit corporation with IRS 501c3 status. In addition to volunteers, every law enforcement agency is a participant through the TRIAD program for which the SALT Council is a consultative body. The Council also includes members from the following organizations:

St. Tammany Council on Aging
Volunteers of America
Louisiana Elderly Protective Services
Louisiana Attorney General
Lakeview Regional Medical Center
Peoples Health Insurance Company

St. Tammany District Attorney
St. Tammany Parish Government
St. Tammany 9-1-1 Center
Louisiana Adult Protective Services
Regions Bank
American Red Cross

The SALT Council also is represented on the following groups and organizations:

Louisiana Region IX Elderly Protective Services Advisory Council
Volunteers of America RSVP Advisory Council
St. Tammany Social Services Network
St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce

The necessary staffing for the initiative will be provided by the SALT Council volunteers; however we will have support from the professional members of the Council, as well as those listed on Page 4 of this document. We are fortunate to enjoy great support from our professional members, and we will be able to call on them for a variety of staffing needs.

The SALT Council has secured direct and immediate support for this effort from the first two organizations listed on Page 4: the Capitol Area Agency on Aging (CAAA) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and the Louisiana Region IX Elderly Protective Services Advisory Council. As noted above, the SALT Council Chairman is a member of the EPS Advisory Council, and has direct involvement with the Elderly Protective Services office for St. Tammany Parish. With a direct commitment from the CAAA director and the EPS Advisory Council, the SALT Council will have assistance in staffing the necessary elements for the EAST concept, including training, agency coordination, public information, and EPS activities. Furthermore, the Director of Elderly Protective Services in the Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs is a contributing participant and consultant to existing Elder Abuse efforts presented by the SALT Council. She has committed her support in making this project successful. As the project develops, additional staffing will be added from the participants in the project. No actual costs to the team are anticipated for this support.

3. What specific, quantifiable outcomes will result from your initiative?

The goal of the Elder Abuse Support Team is to provide resources to more effectively address the needs of potential and actual victims of Elder Abuse. To do so, in addition to the grant requirements, the following objectives are established to accomplish the goal:

- A. Establish a Financial Abuse Advisory Board comprised of financial services professionals
 - o Action Plan: Recruit bank and investment company security and operations personnel to develop cooperative system in support of EPS investigators

- B. Establish an Elder Abuse Support Group with oversight by trained professionals
 - Action Plan: Establish program using trained professionals and then provide Senior groups, residences, and programs with information and materials about the Group
- C. Establish a Training Team for professional and public Elder Abuse education
 - Action Plan: Expand existing SALT Council training resources to provide Continuing Education training for professionals, and outreach educational resources for the public
 - Action Plan: Develop and distribute to law enforcement and EMS personnel DVD-based training programs on Elder Abuse identification, recognition, and mandatory reporting requirements
 - Action Plan: Provide online training/information resources for law enforcement, EMS, medical, social work, health care, home care, and other effected professionals
- D. Establish an Event Planning Board to present information and education programs
 - Action Plan: Between November 1, 2009, and May 1, 2010, present a minimum of three two-hour Continuing Education classes for social workers, and/or nursing facility administrators, and/or professional counselors, and/or licensed nurses, and/or attorneys.
 - Action Plan: Between November 1, 2009, and May 1, 2010, present a minimum of three one-hour educational seminars to Seniors
 - Action Plan: Between November 1, 2009, and May 1, 2010, present a minimum of four brief (no more than ½ hour) public information programs to civic and/or church groups
- E. Establish a Media Liaison Group to develop local media contacts
 - Action Plan: Incorporating assistance from the St. Tammany Parish Director of Cultural & Governmental Affairs and a local media consultant, establish a working relationship with local media outlets to improve and assure support and publication of the Elder Abuse Support Team
 - Action Plan: Develop locally-produced Elder Abuse PSA's for local television and radio
- F. Develop consensus and plan for post-grant continuity and support
 - Action Plan: Develop permanent core membership, organizational structure, planning model, and necessary fund-raising for EAST activities

NOTE: Other goals, objectives, and action plans may be created to address the needs of the Elder Abuse Support Team.

4. How will you maintain and sustain the network beyond the grant period?

As noted in Paragraph 3.F., part of the EAST will include a component for self-perpetuation. The SALT Council intends to remain at the core of the team as a long-term commitment, and consequently, there will continue to be support from the organizations that support the Council. As a non-profit organization, SALT (and other non-profit groups listed on Page 4) has the capacity to raise funds where appropriate to continue the team. Furthermore, SALT has committed to assisting other parishes to develop and fund Elder Abuse Support Teams.

The SALT Council has established a statewide reputation for developing effective public information programs and presenting highly effective professional training. The 2009 annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day seminar attracted Mr. Paul Greenwood from the San Diego County District Attorney's Office as a presenter. That seminar included presentations by the local Assistant District Attorney who supervises the Elder Abuse Protection Unit, the Director of Louisiana Elderly Protective Services, the Assistant Director of Louisiana Adult Protective Services, and the In-Service Elder Abuse Training Coordinator for Lakeview Medical Center in Covington, Louisiana. These instructors presented classes that earned Continuing Education credits for attorneys, social workers, professional counselors, and nursing facility administrators.

The members of the St. Tammany SALT Council are confident that we have the personnel, support, and capacity to develop an effective Elder Abuse Support Team, with the assistance this grant will provide.

Elder Abuse Support Team Planned Participants

Capitol Area Agency on Aging
Louisiana Region IX Elderly Protective Services Advisory Council
American Red Cross
Case Management Society of New Orleans
Humana Insurance Company
Lakeview Regional Medical Center
Local EMS agencies
Local media
Louisiana Adult Protective Services
Louisiana Attorney General
Louisiana Bankers Association
Louisiana Board of Examiners of Nursing Facility Administrators
Louisiana Counseling Association
Louisiana District Attorneys' Association
Louisiana Elderly Protective Services
National Association of Social Workers – Louisiana Chapter
Peoples Health Insurance Company
Regions Bank
St. Tammany 9-1-1 Center
St. Tammany Council on Aging
St. Tammany Council on Aging
St. Tammany District Attorney (Elder Abuse Protection Unit & Victim Assistance Coordinator)
St. Tammany Parish Government
St. Tammany Social Services Network
St. Tammany TRIAD (all law enforcement agencies in St. Tammany Parish)
St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce
Volunteers of America
Volunteers of America RSVP Advisory Council

Note: Other agencies and organizations will be added based on need and interest.

Elder Abuse Support Team Proposed Budget

Item	Purpose	Cost
Internet Web Site, including ISP and development costs	Online Repository for Educational and Information	\$500.00
Development and preparation of written training materials, including printing costs	Handouts and training resources for all trainees	\$1,500.00
Continuing education certification fees	Grant continuing education credit to professionals for specific CE programs	\$750.00
DVD & CD Media	Training program distribution	\$250.00
Facility rental	Presentation of continuing education programs for professionals	\$1,050.00
Facility rental	Presentation of public educational seminars for Seniors	\$600.00
Media consultant fee	Professional support for development of media relations for EAST	\$350.00
Development and preparation of written public education materials, including printing costs	Public brochures and information sheets, materials for Senior-related businesses and organizations	\$1,500.00
Postage and shipping	Routine communications and distribution of materials necessary for attaining objectives	\$500.00
Advertising	Improve public and professional awareness of educational and training programs	\$750.00
Seminar support materials, including bottled water, light snacks, etc.	Improve comfort of attendees to enhance retention of information	\$250.00
End of grant reserve	Fund unplanned expenses and provide initial post-grant continuation of EAST	\$2,000.00
	TOTAL =	\$10,000.00