
The WHO Selected RISE: One of 7 interventions worldwide for global testing and scale-up, out of 89 candidates reviewed (2025)

The Problem

One in ten older Americans is abused, neglected, or financially exploited every year — harming health, autonomy, well-being, and financial security. The fallout divides families, depletes systems, & creates lasting stress for est. 30 million people who try to help. Our systems are unsupported by evidence and have structural gaps.

The RISE Response

RISE Collaborative designs, tests, and scales a more effective response to reduce elder abuse and its risk factors, improve lives and reduce burden on systems. RISE engages not just victims but caregivers and the people causing harm, reduces conflict, builds lasting social support, and treats every implementation as a chance to learn — refining the model before the next community adopts it.

Proven Results: RISE helps individuals *and* systems

- **Selected by the World Health Organization (WHO)** as 1 of 7 interventions worldwide—out of 89 candidates reviewed—for rigorous testing & global scale-up (2025).
- **Randomized controlled trial** in Ontario showed that a freestanding RISE program significantly improved well-being, social support, self-efficacy & perceived stress.
- **55% reduction** in repeat Adult Protective Services investigations among RISE cases in Maine.
- **2,000+ cases** handled by RISE advocates across all sites.
- **85% of clients** voluntarily stay enrolled in RISE.
- **9 peer-reviewed publications** so far; more in the pipeline

Where We Work

RISE has been implemented in 11 U.S. states and Canada — as county and statewide programs, replication and evaluation sites, and new adaptations into housing, health care, and victim services.

- **Maine (statewide)** — pilot in two randomly selected counties, cases referred by APS (2019-2021); based on results, expanded statewide (2021), and then written into state law and funded (2023)
- **Harris Co. & West Central TX; Cuyahoga Co., OH, Ventura Co., CA**—4-site RISE-APS replication and evaluation using implementation science (CFIR) methods and administrative data analysis
- **Rockingham Co., NH** — RISE-APS; project also studied intersection of substance use and elder abuse.
- **Montana (statewide)** — RISE embedded within APS; APS Social Services Workers (SSWs) serve APS clients *and* people under guardianship
- **Cuyahoga Co., OH** — RISE embedded in Division of Senior and Aging Services, Behavioral Health Unit.
- **NY, Bronx** — RISE adapted in affordable senior housing
- **Univ. Colorado** — RISE adapted in primary care clinics
- **NC** — RISE adapted to Family Justice Center/MDT
- **Ontario, Canada** — free-standing program; referrals through call line; Randomized Control Trial (RCT)
- **King County, WA** — Prosecutor referred elder abuse case for handling by drug court, AAA older victim services program, and RISE (one case proof of concept)

How You Can Help

General Operating Support

Invest in RISE Collaborative's ongoing contributions and supports the core team and infrastructure to support consistent growth.

Fund a New Site or Project

Support adaptation, training, launch and evaluation costs for a RISE site serving a new community, entity or system.

Sponsor Research and Data Collection

Support the data collection and research to build the evidence base and learn what works to reduce risk factors and stop elder abuse.