



Credit Unions prepare ahead of Elder Abuse Awareness Month

June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month. Each year, it serves as an important reminder that financial exploitation is one of the fastest-growing threats facing older adults. For credit unions, this issue is deeply connected to the members and communities we serve every day.

Credit unions are on the front line of defense against financial fraud. With over 180,000 suspicious cases involving older adults reported by financial institutions recently—totaling more than \$6 billion in activity—the need for actionable resources has never been greater.

To support the mission of service, the American Association of Credit Union Leagues (AACUL) Elder Exploitation Prevention Toolkit is now available. This resource is designed specifically for credit unions to help their team recognize red flags, start difficult conversations, and respond with care.

What's Inside the Toolkit?

- **Staff Guides & Checklists:** Streamline internal processes and empower front-line staff to identify suspicious activity.
- **Conversation Starters:** Practical tools to help teams talk about elder fraud with confidence and sensitivity.
- **Posters & Handouts:** Ready-to-use materials for branches to keep protection top-of-mind for members.
- **Social & Digital Content:** Pre-made assets to help spread awareness across digital channels.

The toolkit can be accessed at <https://aacul.com/elder>.

In addition to the toolkit, the Illinois Credit Union Act was amended last year to authorize credit union employees to contact trusted advisors or family members on members' accounts when financial exploitation is suspected. The trusted advisor provision has been in effect since January 1, 2026.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Ashley.Sharp@icul.com.