

STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2024



INTRODUCTION

After 15 years as a demonstration project of the Vera Institute of Justice, Project Guardianship spun off as an independent nonprofit in 2020 — at the same time as the world was, and continues to be, dramatically changed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

High death rates among nursing home residents and decisions about the deployment of resources shined a bright light on ageism and the prioritization of young people in our society. The pandemic also proved that keeping people in their own homes can be safer and that much work is needed to ensure human dignity is at the center of how we care for people facing difficult times. In addition, the financial repercussions of the pandemic translated into major cuts in funding for direct social services as state & city spending was redirected.

In response to the current situation, **Project Guardianship's goal** is to reduce the overall need for guardianship and, when all else fails, ensure that those who require guardianship are supported by high-performing guardians who have the resources to provide person-centered care that promotes autonomy and guarantees the person is in the least restrictive setting possible.

We envision a world where our older neighbors and those with disabilities are celebrated and provided with the support and care they need to thrive and live with pride.

Project Guardianship's mission is to provide person-centered care for older adults and individuals living with disabilities and mental illness who need help making decisions and to transform the systems that support them to ensure safety, promote independence, preserve dignity, and advance racial and social justice.

We will pursue this mission over the next four years with strategic investments in advocacy, awareness, and alliances to ensure quality decision-making supports and good guardianship for all who need it; provide education and training to build local capacity for good guardianship, alternative protective arrangements, and supports for older adults and individuals living with disabilities and their caregivers; and prove and provide a comprehensive, supported guardianship model to better address current and future needs of individuals who need help making decisions.

Achieving these ambitious goals will require investments in Project Guardianship's internal capacity, including but not limited to: building out our advocacy team; investing in internal infrastructure such as expanded administrative support, human resources, and development and communications; and bolstering our data and analysis capacity.

We are guided in this endeavor by our strategic plan, detailed on the following pages.

VISION STATEMENT

We envision a world where our older neighbors and those with disabilities are celebrated and provided with the support and care they need to thrive and live with pride.



MISSION STATEMENT

Project Guardianship provides person-centered care for older adults and individuals living with disabilities and mental illness who need help making decisions. We also transform the systems that support them to ensure safety, promote independence, preserve dignity, and advance racial and social justice.



OUR VALUES



Project Guardianship
Strategic Plan 2020-2024

Dignity

We believe in dignity for all, regardless of ability. We work every day to identify ways to restore and preserve dignity through decision-making supports, improved systems, and better guardianship.

Compassion

We believe in recognizing and honoring the worth of every individual, regardless of current circumstances. We approach our work — from direct service to pursuit of systems-solutions — with empathy and personal kindness.

Equity

We believe in recognizing, addressing, and advancing equity and justice and act in ways that promote respect and equitable treatment and opportunity for all.

Excellence & Integrity

We excel through constant learning and collaboration, drawing on our collective talents to provide optimal solutions to hard problems and bring joy to the lives of others.

Leadership

We propel systems and individual actors to embrace innovation and realize better approaches to building a society that cares for all people equally.



OUR GOALS WORKING TOGETHER



GOAL 1

ADVOCACY, AWARENESS, AND ALLIANCES

Ensure access to quality decision-making supports and, when necessary, good guardianship by influencing the public agenda and increasing resources and accountability.



Objective 1

BUILD STRATEGIC ALLIANCES AND CONNECT STAKEHOLDERS TO IMPROVE GUARDIANSHIP, PROMOTE ALTERNATIVES TO GUARDIANSHIP, AND INCREASE NEEDED SERVICES.

Work with coalitions and advocacy groups to add guardianship and supported decision making to their policy agendas.

Build and convene the guardianship network to promote greater dialogue and problem solving.

Articulate a policy agenda.

Objective 2

INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT POLICIES THAT STAND TO IMPACT HOW GUARDIANSHIP AND PROTECTIVE ARRANGEMENTS ARE RESOURCED AND PROVIDED.

Increase awareness and advocate for federal funding of state guardianship.

Increase awareness and guardianship funding support amongst city and state legislators.

Make a case for the cost efficiencies realized with good guardianship.

Objective 3

INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF GUARDIANSHIP, GUARDIANSHIP ALTERNATIVES, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE AGING ALONE, AND INJUSTICES IN THE CARE SYSTEM.

Design and launch a citywide campaign



GOAL 2

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Build local capacity for good guardianship, alternative protective arrangements, and supports for older adults, individuals living with disabilities and mental illness, and their caregivers.



Objective 1

INCREASE RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS AND CAREGIVERS TO PROMOTE GREATER ACCESS TO GOOD GUARDIANSHIP AND AVOID UNNECESSARY GUARDIANSHIP.

Increase allies of the guardianship system.

Raise awareness of guardianship resources among existing and potential lay guardians.

Design and launch a lay guardian support program.

Increase the capacity of lay guardians to provide quality guardianship.

Objective 2

FORMALIZE AND GROW PROJECT GUARDIANSHIP'S TRAINING AND EDUCATION SERVICES.

Articulate an education and training plan.

Increase reach and impact of PG's Training & Education efforts.

Create targeted outreach and training materials for prioritized audience groups.



GOAL 3

DIRECT SERVICE MODEL

Prove and provide a comprehensive, supported guardianship model to better address current and future needs of individuals who need help making decisions.



Objective 1

ENSURE ACCESS TO QUALITY GUARDIANSHIP FOR OLDER ADULTS AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITY AND MENTAL ILLNESS, REGARDLESS OF ABILITY TO PAY AND COMPLEXITY OF SITUATION, THROUGH DIRECT SERVICE.

Increase efficiency and maximize Project Guardianship's team approach.

Guarantee quality outcomes for Project Guardianship Clients.

Maintain and increase number of individuals served by Project Guardianship as public contracts allow.

Expand to include one new service line.

Objective 2

BUILD CREDIBILITY AND AWARENESS OF PROJECT GUARDIANSHIP'S MODEL.

Codify and monitor the model.

Evaluate the model.

Share the model.

Build case for nonprofit guardianship.

