

Legal Risk Detector is Helping Spot Issues that put the Elderly at Risk

There are more than 25 million Americans over age 60 considered economically insecure and few of them receive the civillegal assistance they need.

Low-income seniors face legal risks that can have a profound impact on their well-being, including maintaining safe and affordable housing, overcoming debt or financial scams, and navigating health care or other public benefits.

The Legal Risk Detector, developed by Pro Bono Net, is a web-based legal health “check-up” tool designed for use by elder care professionals. By combining high-tech technology with high-touch human support, the Legal Risk Detector enables medical personnel, social workers and other allied professionals to screen elderly individuals, including the homebound, for legal needs and refer them to legal services.

User friendly and intuitive, the application is designed for use on tablets, laptops and mobile devices. The Risk Detector enables non-legal professionals to complete a guided interview covering financial exploitation, consumer debt, housing, abuse, health care matters, and other often undetected and underreported legal issues.

The Risk Detector was developed in 2016 by Pro Bono Net in partnership with JASA/Legal Services for the Elderly, the Center for Elder Law & Justice and Georgetown University Law Center.

With plans for growth in 2020, the detector app is in use in five regions (New York, Northern California, Maine, Montana, Alaska and the Tampa Bay, Florida area). It was used to conduct more than 2,500 legal screenings in 2019.

The Legal Risk Detector is part of a suite of tools developed and maintained by Pro Bono Net, which for more than 20 years has worked with legal aid agencies and industry experts to leverage technology to close the access to justice gap. Pro Bono Net’s reach is unmatched, with more than 200 partners nationwide.



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Visit probono.net/programs to learn more about the Legal Risk Detector and other Pro Bono Net Initiatives. Or contact Pro Bono Net Program Director Liz Keith at lkeith@probono.net