Lifespan Respite Grantee Lead Agency: South Carolina Lieutenant Governor’s Office on Aging (LGOA)

Funding Period: 2014-2017

Primary Goal: To further integrate respite services into South Carolina’s long-term services and supports as part of a coordinated and sustainable lifespan respite system

Key Performance Measures

Performance indicators tracked include: increased engagement of stakeholders at the state and regional level, increased respite training opportunities at Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs); increased respite service delivery and sources of respite funding; and integration of caregiver supports into the long-term services and supports system.

Notable Achievements

South Carolina developed sustainable state and regional advisory committees that provided extensive education and outreach to a variety of stakeholders (including families, caregivers, health and social professionals, state officials, the faith community and business leaders) on the importance of respite and ways to expand respite provider capacity at the local level. The lead agency successfully advocated for the creation of a one million dollar line item in South Carolina’s state budget for lifespan respite vouchers and a process for disseminating those vouchers to traditionally underserved caregivers.

Key Objectives, Activities and Outcomes

Objective 1: Enhance lifespan respite services at state and local levels by increasing outreach and broadening stakeholder engagement, and re-evaluating and updating the Lifespan Respite State Plan through state and regional advisory committees to realize sustainability of the coordinated lifespan respite program.

- The Lieutenant Governor’s Office on Aging (LGOA) and key partners expanded and sustained an active State Committee on Respite (SCOR) and met in full committee and subcommittees to address gaps and obstacles to respite access; to increase education and outreach; to implement policy and legislation; and to develop increased respite provider capacity across the state.
- Lead grant partners fostered two sustained regional advisory councils that are championing lifespan respite in the Upstate and the Low Country. Each regional council built local partnerships and conducts public events and other outreach to provide information about respite and connect family caregivers across the lifespan with respite resources in their area.
- The LGOA and partners completed a comprehensive Lifespan Respite State Plan 2018, presented in February 2018 at a news conference at the State Capitol on Respite Awareness Day.
- The LGOA and partners conducted extensive in-person, media, and online outreach and education to increase public awareness about respite and the needs of caregivers.

State Respite Coalition/Organization Role

- The South Carolina Respite Coalition (SCRC), a statewide non-profit organization founded in 1999, co-facilitates the work of the SCOR, and leads the development and support for the Regional Advisory Committees and the work with community and faith-based organizations. The SCRC also hosts the dedicated respite website.
- In coordination with the ADRCs/Family Connection of South Carolina (FCSP) as part of the state’s Coordinated Lifespan Respite System, the SCRC manages and operates the respite voucher program for caregivers of children and adults with disabilities and works with the state Long Term Care Task Force and IHEs to build respite provider recruitment and training opportunities.

Coalition, ADRC and Community Partners
Key Objectives, Activities and Outcomes

Objective 1: Increase engagement of organizations and families as champions for and educators about respite through one-on-one meetings and presentations at conferences of organizations, business groups, and task forces concerned with the needs of older adults, persons with mental health challenges, Alzheimer’s and long-term care health and related services.

Objective 2: Increase integration by building local networks to recruit and train respite providers, including volunteers, by working through the Regional Councils and Community-based organizations, including faith communities and other forums.

Objective 3: Initiate respite recruitment and training opportunities through South Carolina’s Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs), by working through the Long-Term Care (LTC) Taskforce Development work group and directly with those IHEs.

Objective 4: Fill gaps and increase availability of respite by expanding vouchers across the lifespan, sustain and increase coordination with other voucher programs.

Objective 5: Sustain efforts and further integrate respite into the state’s Long-Term Services and Support System (LTSS) across agencies and the lifespan.

Coalition, ADRC and Community Partners

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Role

- The ADRCs are partners in the state’s Coordinated Lifespan Respite System.

State and Community Partners

- Family Connection of South Carolina (FCSC), founded by parents of children with special needs, provides direct parent-to-parent support through a network of families and area offices across the state. FCSC actively participates in the SCOR and is the lynchpin for outreach and engagement of caregivers of children.
- Aging and Disability Resource Centers
- South Carolina Respite Coalition
Key Objectives, Activities and Outcomes

For more information, contact ARCH at (703) 256-2084 or jkagan@archrespite.org

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<th>Key Objectives</th>
<th>Activities and Outcomes</th>
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<td>- Representatives from the Lifespan respite partner organizations serve on the state’s senior advocacy group called “Silver Haired Legislature,” which in the 2017–2018 session made respite services its top legislative priority.</td>
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<td>- SCRC is working with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) on the planning and implementation of a system of care for serving the state’s youth with severe behavioral health conditions.</td>
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<td>- Lead partner groups worked to incorporate short-term respite services as a benefit under the state’s Medicaid home and community-based waivers, including a Sec. 1915c Medicaid waiver for children and youth with severe behavioral conditions.</td>
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Lifespan Respite Grantee Lead Agency: **South Carolina Department on Aging (SCDOA), Community Resources Division**

**Funding Period:** 2017-2020

**Primary Goal:** Develop new public and private partnerships that further expand and strengthen SC’s coordinated lifespan respite system engaging a broader cross-section of stakeholders for future sustainability.

**Objective 1:** Expand and strengthen the involvement of key state and local public and private stakeholders from across the age and disability spectrum as full partners.

- Grant funding supports South Carolina in maintaining momentum and expanding coordination of the Lifespan Respite System by more fully engaging key public stakeholders like Medicaid, South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN), and Long-term Care (LTC) Taskforce, as well as new partners (i.e., business leaders, health care providers, faith communities, and service organizations) to build a more sustainable system of care.

- The grantee and partners are working to leverage new partnerships and to transform the State Committee on Respite (SCOR) and Regional Councils into a formal member coalition expected to continue beyond the grant. The grantee is working to broaden membership at the state and regional levels to include private and public partners. Utilizing the newly updated and released Lifespan Respite State Plan as a guide, the partners are developing a strategic plan to recruit new members to the State Committee on Respite (SCOR) to assist in implementing specific recommendations. Initial focus is to recruit leaders from business,
health care and education. Potential member organizations identified include the Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA) and Lutheran Family Services, which operates a “respite house” in the greater Columbia area for consumers of the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) as well as consumers of Community and Long-Term Care (CLTC).

- The grantee is working to strengthen the two Regional Councils and add a third in the eastern Pee Dee area to broaden outreach, develop local networks for expanded respite services, and promote lifespan respite across the state.

**Objective 2: Provide tools to increase awareness and understanding of the need and benefits of respite.**

- As specific informational tools to increase awareness are developed (see Notable Achievements), partners work through and support other organizations to infuse respite into the dialogue and garner support for development of new respite resources. Examples include: radio interviews; Memory Care classes; and coordination with SCDDSN for recruitment and training of respite providers.

**Objective 3: Develop respite services and recruit respite providers, paid and unpaid, in faith communities.**

- The grantee and partners are reviving the annual Respite Solutions Conference for Faith Communities in order to re-engage faith groups in the Lifespan Respite System. The first conference, guided by Regional Councils, is planned for Year 2 of the grant in one region, with a second conference planned for Year 3 in a second region. Conferences will educate faith communities, particularly “gate keepers” (e.g., pastoral visitors, care team leaders, parish nurses) on how to: identify family caregivers in their midst; coach family caregivers to use respite early and often; and stimulate development of respite services by sharing models of faith-based respite (e.g., voucher programs, respite co-ops, care teams, adult day care programs, respite events and inclusive child and adult care).

- Regional Councils are engaging faith communities as partners in providing the “Caregiver Respite Events” around the state.

- Mini-grants have been awarded to four (with three more to be awarded in 2019–2020) faith groups to develop Break Rooms. Two have opened and started providing respite.

**Objective 4: Fill gaps/increase availability of respite by providing vouchers across the lifespan using lessons learned to inform policy development and strategies to sustain and increase access to respite services beyond the life of the grant.**

- The LR Voucher program uses a small amount of grant funding to fill service gaps, targeting new families who have not used respite, fill in during funding shortfalls, and explore use of vouchers to increase flexibility in respite options for families. Efforts are coordinated with other voucher programs (through joint meetings, AIM reporting database, and frequent contact) to ensure efficiency and avoid duplication. Lessons learned from these interactions are being analyzed to inform policy and develop strategies to sustain these efforts.