

Lifespan Respite Care Program



Lifespan Respite Grantee Lead Agency: **North Dakota Department of Human Services, Aging Services Division (ASD)**

Funding Period: **2017-2020**

Primary Goal: **Improve the well-being of families by coordinating existing respite systems, providing education and training opportunities, and expanding respite services.**

Key Performance Measures	Notable Achievements
<p>Data are collected to assess changes in access to information regarding respite services and resources for caregivers, and improvements in quality of respite services. Documents include a plan for continued development and sustainability of the coordinated lifespan respite system. Products include a voucher for emergency respite, and a “job fair caregiver event.” To assist in data collection for North Dakota’s environmental scan, the grantee is developing a form to assist in identifying entities that provide respite across the lifespan. Coalition members will distribute the form to their partners and contacts, and data collected will be added to the database.</p>	<p>A form has been developed and is in use for updating the Aging and Disability Resource-LINK (ADRL) database with new agencies. The ADRL is also working to include a wide array of services and agencies in the online database with the goal of having information on services and agencies across the lifespan and for all populations.</p>

Key Objectives, Activities and Outcomes	Coalition, ADRC and Community Partners
<p>Objective 1: Increase awareness of existing respite services and resources for caregivers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADRL resources (see Objective 2) are promoted by ASD and the Coalition. <p>Objective 2: Streamline access to respite services through expanded use of the Aging and Disability Resource-LINK (ADRL).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Aging and Disability Resource-LINK (ADRL), a centralized access point for information and assistance and a beginning point for coordination of respite care and other resources for caregivers across all ages, has three components: 1) a toll free telephone information and assistance service answered by knowledgeable staff during business hours, five days per week; 2) a searchable online database (https://carechoice.nd.assistguide.net) where the public can find services available in their area; and 3) options counseling which includes a face to face visit to help consumers make decisions about their long-term care service and support needs. The North Dakota Respite Coalition, during their initial meeting, identified six focus areas and prioritized those into two focus areas, determining goals and objectives, during their second meeting. Subcommittees formed to work on each goal are tasked with developing a marketing plan to promote the Aging and Disability Resource-LINK (ADRL) and to simplify 	<p>State Respite Coalition/Organization Role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Coalition, representing individuals with disabilities or chronic conditions of all ages, family caregivers, community and faith-based organizations, and respite, social service, and health care providers, work together to promote awareness of available services as well as bring forth service needs. The Coalition plays an integral role in soliciting and providing information for continued identification of existing services, identifying training needs, promoting educational opportunities and services, and providing on-going input for administration, collaboration, and coordination of the grant activities.

access to information on caregiving and respite care; and to explore the possibility of establishing a faith-based and/or volunteer-based respite program in North Dakota.

Objective 3: Explore opportunities and provide education and training on caregiving and respite care for all ages, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

- The grantee is expanding educational opportunities through the evidenced-based “Powerful Tools for Caregivers” training and a contract with a university that already provides the training. Trainings will be expanded to serve all populations, including caregivers of children with special health and behavioral needs as research indicates caregivers experience many common concerns and stresses addressed by this program.
- ASD is also contracting to provide “Caregiver Training for Native Americans” on all tribal areas of the state. Developed by the University of North Dakota Center for Rural Health through a grant from the Administration for Community Living (ACL), trainings will expand the capacity to offer education in rural areas of the state, including tribal areas, and sustain continuation of the program after the grant has ended.
- Grant funds help support caregiver education and training efforts through provision of a caregiver track at existing conferences.

Objective 4: Develop a voucher program to provide emergency respite services.

- ASD developed a voucher system to expand and enhance existing emergency respite services. Using a simple eligibility process administered by ASD, caregivers access emergency respite in crisis situations including, but not limited to, risk of institutional or higher level placement if respite is not provided.

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Role

- The North Dakota State Unit on Aging houses the Aging and Disability Resource Link ((ADRL). The ADRL has implemented the form discussed above and is working to include a wide array of services and agencies in the online database with the goal of having information on services and agencies across the lifespan and for all populations. The Policy and Procedure manual was updated to include child-focused national agencies. The ADRL will soon be updated to a more user-friendly and mobile-friendly site focused on ADA compliance and ease of navigation. The site will include agencies and services across the lifespan. ADRL staff are working to increase knowledge of services provided to children with special needs.

State and Community Partners

- North Dakota State Respite Coalition
- AARP-ND
- In early May 2017, ASD and AARP-ND convened a caregiver stakeholder meeting to discuss caregiver needs in North Dakota and the opportunity to apply for a lifespan respite grant. The DHS-ASD and AARP-ND entered into a memorandum of understanding to coordinate the development of a Lifespan Respite Program and a State Respite Coalition.



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