

LIFESPAN RESPITE FUNDING ALERT



Urge Congress to Pass Funding Increases for Lifespan Respite and Family Caregiver Support in Omnibus FY 2022 Appropriations Bill

The Lifespan Respite Care Program (LRCP): The Administration for Community Living (ACL) awards competitive grants to state agencies working with Aging and Disability Resource Center/No Wrong Door Systems and state respite coalitions. The program's purpose is to make quality respite available and affordable for family caregivers regardless of age or disability through direct services, worker recruitment and training, and coordinated State Lifespan Respite systems.

Funding: Funding for the LRCP was \$7.1 million in FY 2021. Congress has reached agreement on a FY 2022 Omnibus Appropriations bill that includes a \$1 million increase for Lifespan Respite.

Program Status: Thirty-seven states and DC have received LRCP grants from the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL) since 2009 (see archrespite.org).

➔ ***FY 22 FUNDING:*** The NRC supports \$8.1 m for the Lifespan Respite Care Program--an increase of \$1 m over FY 2021, the increase of \$6 million for the National and Native American Family Caregiver Support Programs, and increases for additional caregiver respite and support in the FY 2022 Omnibus Appropriations bill (H.R. 2471).

➔ ***IMMEDIATE ACTION:*** Call your Representative and Senators at 202-224-3121. When connected, ask for your Rep's or Senator's office. Ask for health or disability staff. If you don't reach them, leave a message! Thank them for supporting family caregivers in the Omnibus Appropriations bill and urge them to VOTE YES and pass the bill without delay!

➔ ***MESSAGE:*** Thank you for recognizing family caregivers! VOTE YES on the Omnibus Appropriations package (H.R. 2471) that includes increased funding for the Lifespan Respite Care Program, the National and Native American Family Caregiver Support Programs, Care Corps, and the RAISE Act National Family Caregiving Strategy. The pandemic cast a harsh light on the severe lack of support for family caregivers, who remain socially isolated and at risk for poor physical and emotional health. Respite may be their only link to needed supports.

Lifespan Respite Grants Make a Difference

- The LRCP provides planned and emergency respite services to family caregivers, ensures services are person and family-centered, and makes respite more available and affordable to underserved families. See the NEW [Key Accomplishments of Lifespan Respite Grantees](#).
- Grantees deliver services and help families pay for respite, including adults with Alzheimer's disease, MS, ALS, or I/DD; people on Medicaid waiver waiting lists; grandparents raising grandchildren; rural family caregivers; culturally diverse groups and others with unmet needs.
- Grantees are addressing the workforce shortage through provider training and recruitment and funding innovative volunteer and faith-based respite programs.
- Caregivers in **NE's Lifespan Respite Network** reported significant decreases in stress levels, fewer physical and emotional health issues, reductions in anger and anxiety, and reported being in a better financial situation when receiving respite. **AL Lifespan Respite's** voucher program found a substantial decrease in the percentage of caregivers reporting how often they felt overwhelmed with daily routines after receiving respite.

Respite – A Critically Necessary and Beneficial Family Support Service

- More than 53 million family caregivers of children and adults provide the vast majority of long-term services and supports to individuals of all ages living at home, yet 86% of those caring for adults, and a similar percentage caring for children, have not received respite services.
- Respite, the most requested service by family caregivers, has been shown to reduce stress and social isolation, help improve caregiver health and wellbeing, bolster family stability, keep marriages intact, and help avoid or delay costlier out-of-home placements or hospitalizations.
- In an evaluation by the U.S. Administration for Community Living, caregivers who received 4 or more hours of respite care per week had a decrease in self-reported burden over time. As respite hours per week increased, so did the probability of a more favorable response regarding caregivers' perception that services helped them continue care at home.

Respite Reaps Cost Savings

- The economic value of respite is exceptional. Delaying nursing home care for just one individual with a chronic condition for several months can save thousands of dollars.
- University of Pennsylvania researchers studied the Medicaid records of over 28,000 children with autism who were enrolled in 2004. They found that for every \$1,000 states spent on respite services in the previous 60 days, there was an 8% drop in the odds of hospitalization.
- American businesses lose \$17.1 to \$33.6 billion annually in lost productivity costs related to employees' caregiving responsibilities and related stress.