



Lifespan Respite Grant (2017-2020) **Report highlights - 9/1/17-2/28/18**

The goal of the Lifespan Respite Grant (2017-2020) is to build upon prior and current Lifespan Respite initiatives by engaging key stakeholders to increase and expand access to respite services statewide and enhance partnerships for education, outreach, and service provision to advance development of a Lifespan Respite Care System. Accomplishments made thus far include:

NYSOFA/NY Connects

- NYSOFA reconvened its consumer-directed work group previously formed under the 2014-2017 Lifespan Respite initiative. This work had been postponed until the NYSOFA Caregiver Program Coordinator Position was filled. Work is now well underway in developing a formal “caregiver-directed” respite services model using funds under the Older American Act (OAA) Title III-E (III-E) program, also known as the National Family Caregiver Supports Program. This optional model for Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), but once complete, will offer greater flexibility with a person-centered approach for caregivers to identify and help address their respite needs. NYSOFA work group members have convened twice during the reporting period, and the group will continue to meet monthly until formal policies are fully developed and disseminated. This work will assist New York in achieving its objective of expanding available respite services statewide through formalizing a caregiver-directed respite model.
- NYSOFA assisted in outreach efforts to RSVP programs in targeted geographic areas to further expand the nationally recognized, evidence supported REST model across the state. These efforts generated an informational call with Suffolk County RSVP, where the NYSCRC Director provided an in-depth overview of the REST model and its associated benefits.
- NY Connects is New York’s No Wrong Door (NWD) “hub” to provide consistent, comprehensive, locally-based information on long term services and supports to consumers, caregivers, and families to help them make informed choices, as well assistance in linking to services across service systems. According to NY Connects reports, during this Lifespan Respite grant reporting period, an average of 4,000 caregivers contact NY Connects for assistance each month, with more than half of these caregivers receiving information on available respite services. Additionally, reports show that caregiver supports continues to rank in the top third of topics being requested in NY Connects.
- NYSOFA’s Caregiver Program Coordinator, also program lead for the Lifespan Respite grant, coordinates monthly Webinars with various topics related to caregiving and respite for AAAs under OAA III-E. NYSCRC continues to be a standing agenda topic each month, offering opportunity for continual integration,

