

Lifespan Respite Care Program Enhancement Grant

PROJECT SUMMARY

Grantee Organization: Alabama Department of Senior Services

State: Alabama

Project Period: July 1, 2021 to August 31, 2026

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Project Overview:

The Alabama Department of Senior Services (ADSS), in partnership with Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network™ (Alabama Lifespan Respite), a program of United Cerebral Palsy of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley, Inc. (UCP), the Alabama Respite Coalition, and established stakeholders, proposes to continue expanding Alabama's lifespan respite care initiatives for caregivers.

These organizations share a united **goal** – to enhance and expand the delivery of existing planned and emergency respite services and supports to family caregivers across the lifespan. The goal and objectives presented will allow ADSS and Alabama Lifespan Respite to *increase access to and availability of high-quality respite resources for all caregivers in Alabama.*

Project objectives: 1) increase the consistency of planned respite to promote caregiver well-being; 2) establish a basic respite provider training opportunity for unskilled, in-home respite providers to be better prepared to deliver planned and emergency respite services; and 3) enhance collaborations with state and local agencies, as well as public-private partnerships, to address gaps in service and leverage resources across various funding streams and partners to sustain and expand available resources to caregivers.

Proposed interventions: collect data through an existing voucher respite reimbursement program for both planned and emergency respite that documents the total respite reimbursement award dollar amount, provider hourly rate, and total number of respite hours provided; establish an online respite provider training initiative, maintain enrollment data and track progress, including certificate completion, through a paid subscription with the third-party

online platform that includes reporting capabilities; and establish a community of practice forum providing quarterly caregiver education opportunities with resource-specific topics, and create an online statewide caregiver resources webpage that will be updated at least monthly.

Outcomes and Products:

Anticipated outcomes: 1) amount of planned respite will increase annually from an average of 42 hours to at least 84 hours per caregiver served through the Universal respite reimbursement program, thus doubling the consistency of planned respite and decreasing the need for emergency respite by 5 percent; 2) establish a free respite provider training opportunity for 25 eligible individuals per month who will complete basic respite provider training through a third-party online platform; and 3) increase collaborative partnerships to reach underserved populations across the lifespan through the establishment of a CARE (Caregiver and Agency Resource Exchange) community of practice forum.

Expected products: quarterly planned respite reimbursement awards; an online respite provider training initiative; and a collaborative partner community of practice forum.

