

# Lifespan Respite Care Program Enhancement Grant

## PROJECT SUMMARY

**Grantee Organization:** Arkansas Department of Human Services' Division of Provider Services and Quality Assurance (DHS/DPSQA)

**State:** Arkansas

**Project Period:** September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2026

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### Project Overview:

The vision of the Arkansas Lifespan Respite Care system is to enhance current grassroots, person-centered style activities directing service provisions, easing burdens in finding respite availability, and continuing to build collaborations and partnerships strengthening our current respite status and developing a sustainability framework to assure long-term respite needs and supports for caregivers across Arkansas.

The **goal** is to continue improving the quality of life of all groups and communities of Arkansas and its' caregivers and consolidate the statewide respite system with a concentrated effort toward reaching underserved populations through education, increased awareness, resource allocation, and technological advances in a user-friendly environment.

**Project objectives:** 1) implement a robust centralized Arkansas Lifespan Respite Locator; 2) implement by-laws for the Arkansas Lifespan Respite Coalition (ALRC); 3) update statewide caregiving data; 4) identify underserved populations; 5) increase opportunity for caregiver input and feedback; 6) launch large-scale informational and educational outreach, particularly to the underserved; and 7) provide direct service opportunities and training events.

**Proposed interventions:** employ a multi-pronged and layered approach to continually improve and enhance the state's respite system; continue to provide respite voucher-direct service activities by awarding six (6) sub-grants each year to organizations with already established respite programs; strengthen collaborations and partnerships and restructure the Respite Coalition; identify

and reduce gaps in services and target underserved populations; develop and deploy a robust, enhanced Respite Provider Locator and conduct data collection and analysis by building an electronic framework for provider information; conduct outreach campaign; conduct quality assurance and quality control analysis to address barriers and develop timely action plans; and focus overall on information dissemination, service coordination, respite provider and volunteer training and recruitment, and enhanced partnership and population/caregiver interactions.

### Outcomes and Products:

**Anticipated outcomes:** 1) technological developments; 2) informational/educational materials; 3) updated census data; 4) improved caregiver well-being; and 5) increased service utilization.

**Expected products:** Arkansas Lifespan Respite Summit, annual Arkansas Lifespan Respite Awareness Day, an enhanced Respite Provider Locator, respite provider and volunteer training, and infographics and educational materials.

