

Lifespan Respite Care Program Enhancement Grant

PROJECT SUMMARY

Grantee Organization: Colorado Department of Human Services, State Unit on Aging

State: Colorado

Project Period: July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2026

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Project Overview:

The Colorado Respite Coalition Program (CRCP), Colorado Respite Coalition (CRC), and Easterseals Colorado plan to work collaboratively to build a respite policy framework with stakeholders, expand partnerships, and leverage related resources to improve the coordination and distribution of equitable respite services for family caregivers of adults or children with disabilities.

The proposed project's **goal** is to advance the State of Colorado's systems and capacity to deliver respite care and related services to family caregivers across the lifespan.

Project objectives: 1) further advance a sustainable, statewide system for respite care services; 2) improve and expand statewide collaboration and partnerships with relevant stakeholders; and 3) further develop and deliver each of the five required and, where appropriate, three optional respite care services, as stipulated in the Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006.

Proposed interventions: improve CRCP management and grow rural regional coalition areas of the state to strengthen statewide respite system; expand work with the Aging and Disability Resources for Colorado (ADRC); expand collaboration with the Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund Program to promote trainings and to share resources with families and professionals; develop and lead Employer Engagement and Education (EEE) programming; support individual awareness and self-identification for respite care; engage with faith communities using CRCP faith community toolkit; continue to maintain and enhance the CRCP website, including an upgraded platform with a user-generated content model; spread awareness through social media channels; and expand respite voucher program to increase capacity to serve those on the waitlist.

Outcomes and Products:

Anticipated outcomes: 1) Colorado will have a stronger respite infrastructure, building upon the previous growth of the last nine years; and 2) Family caregivers will be able to access respite resources and supports more easily.

Expected products: Stress-Busting for Family Caregivers trainings to caregivers and additional certified trainers for this program; Coming Up for Air programs that combine respite and training for caregivers; training and curriculum on how to become a respite provider in rural Colorado; new user-directed website similar to a social media model where visitors have the ability to create/upload resources, events, and respite care providers; a study with reported findings on caregiving needs for 15–21 year olds; policy recommendations for businesses; Spanish translated ADL and Transfer videos; PR/Marketing reports on efforts and outreach for caregiver self-identification; more consumer-directed voucher options; COVID-19 study on best practices regarding virtual programming; semi-annual reports; final report; and outside evaluation.

