

Lifespan Respite Care Program Enhancement Grant

PROJECT SUMMARY

Grantee Organization: Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities (IDHS, DDD)

State: Illinois

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

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Project Overview:

The Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities (IDHS, DDD), the Illinois Respite Coalition (IRC), and additional state and local partners will build essential partnerships, coordinate statewide lifespan respite efforts, reduce duplication of respite services, and ensure meaningful involvement of family members, caregivers and care recipients.

The **goal** of this project is to build upon emergency respite funding to focus on a sustainable, streamlined, coordinated statewide lifespan respite system in Illinois.

Project objectives: 1) provide Emergency Respite Care funding; 2) enhance, improve, and strengthen current lifespan respite coordination; 3) build stronger partnerships at the state and local levels; 4) create a statewide respite 800 number; 5) develop public awareness campaign; 6) identify service gaps through existing survey tools; 7) create virtual training opportunities; 8) publish online respite programming tool; and 9) organize statewide respite taskforce.

Proposed interventions: continue to enhance the IRC's Emergency Respite Care (ERC) Voucher Program that provides emergency respite care program to assist caregivers in emergencies or crisis situations; supplement the ERC Voucher Program with additional supports such as the Lending Library, virtual activities, a respite taskforce, quarterly provider meetings, virtual training opportunities for volunteers, workers and caregivers, as well as developing a designated 800 number to allow for easily accessible respite information and referral across the state, ages and disabilities; and incorporate lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic by creating room for virtual respite opportunities through the activity page, lending library, 800 respite phone number and online training activities.

Outcomes and Products:

Anticipated outcomes: 1) reduced unmet needs of caregivers across the lifespan through the emergency respite care voucher program; 2) decreased duplication of services and improved streamlining; 3) increased sustainability planning; 4) higher satisfaction in locating appropriate respite services at no cost; 5) minimized gaps in services; 6) increased provision of respite services and training provided with an equity lens in desert areas across ages and disabilities; and 7) improved respite infrastructure through free online respite training and creation of volunteer and worker database.

Expected products: marketing and outreach materials; asynchronous and synchronous virtual programming; online volunteer and respite worker training and database; 800 statewide respite number; data collection statewide tools; and Emergency Respite Care voucher program.

