

Lifespan Respite Care Program Enhancement Grant

PROJECT SUMMARY

Grantee Organization: Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS), Division of Aging and Adult Services

State: Mississippi

Project Period: October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2023

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Project Overview:

The Mississippi Division of Aging and Adult Services (MDHS), in partnership with the Mississippi Family Caregiver Coalition (MFCC) and key stakeholders, will expand and maintain a statewide coordinated lifespan respite system that builds on the current infrastructure.

The **goal** of this project is to expand and enhance community awareness and access to wider options of respite information and services across the age and disability spectrum by expanding and coordinating respite systems in Mississippi.

Project objectives: 1) organize a hub of trained respite providers from which family caregivers may ensure training and certification; 2) strengthen the statewide capacity of the respite workforce and volunteers by creating modernized training options; 3) increase access to and usability of respite vouchers; 4) create and disseminate commercials and infographic materials for use in social media, television, newspapers, and other outlets; 5) improve coalition effectiveness by more regular meetings; and 6) create a forum of public and private organizations that meets and creates a blueprint for assisting working caregivers.

Proposed interventions: respond to needs identified during State Lifespan Respite Summits, and include input by MFCC members, evidence-based practice recommendations, and insights identified in caregiving data collected during previous years; continue partnerships with the Mississippi Family Caregiver Coalition, Mississippi Access to Care (MAC) network, and Mississippi's No Wrong Door for long-term care services and supports; increase awareness and access to respite information and services; increase respite voucher amount and include limited number of emergency vouchers; and expand respite workforce through training and certification.

Outcomes and Products:

Anticipated outcomes: 1) a synchronized, sustainable statewide coalition working to expand and enhance respite care resources that serve the lifespan; 2) increase in trained respite care workers and volunteers within a central hub; 3) increased caregiver knowledge regarding available respite and support services through different forms of media; and 4) a working, regularly-scheduled meeting forum for public and private organizations to discuss and formalize plans for bolstering caregivers through alternate means of supporting respite.

Expected products: marketing and outreach materials; respite worker trainings; hub of certified respite providers; and an improved respite voucher program.

