

Lifespan Respite Care Program Enhancement Grant

PROJECT SUMMARY

Grantee Organization: North Dakota Department of Human Services (DHS), Aging Services Division (ASD)

State: North Dakota

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

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Project Overview:

The Department of Human Services (DHS), Aging Services Division (ASD), in partnership with the North Dakota Respite Coalition (NDRC) and key stakeholders, will, within the five-year project period, build on advancements made under the current North Dakota Lifespan Respite Care Program to further expand and enhance respite care services to family caregivers across the lifespan.

The **goal** of this project is to improve the well-being of families by coordinating existing respite systems, providing education and training opportunities, and expanding respite services.

Project objectives: 1) increase awareness of existing respite services and resources for caregivers; 2) explore opportunities and work to expand and strengthen the respite care workforce; 3) explore opportunities and work to provide education and training on caregiving and respite care for all ages, particularly in rural and underserved areas; and 4) expand the utilization of the voucher program to provide respite to more family caregivers across the lifespan.

Proposed interventions: utilize the newly formed NDRC to address all objectives through collaboration, identification of existing services, identifying training needs, promoting educational opportunities and services, and ongoing collaboration; utilize the Aging and Disability Resource-LINK (ADRL) as the centralized access point for information and assistance; increase awareness of respite services and resources for caregiver services for all ages; expand educational opportunities including developing culturally sensitive web-based education materials; and increase the quality and quantity of providers by providing increased support for home providers.

Outcomes and Products:

Anticipated outcomes: 1) streamlined access to information regarding respite services and resources for caregivers; 2) improved quality of respite services; 3) improved access to respite services; and 4) more family members benefiting from respite provided with the vouchers.

Expected products: caregiver training; respite provider support and training; marketing and outreach materials; and respite voucher program.

