

# Lifespan Respite Care Program Enhancement Grant

## PROJECT SUMMARY

**Grantee Organization:** Oklahoma Department of Human Services (ODHS), Aging Services

**State:** Oklahoma

**Project Period:** September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2023

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### Project Overview:

The Oklahoma Department of Human Services (ODHS), Aging Services will focus on the advancement of the lifespan respite infrastructure statewide. The most predominate stakeholder is the Oklahoma Caregiver Coalition (OCC) with approximately 70 Oklahoma partnering agencies. Valued partners include the Oklahoma Aging and Disability Resource Center/No Wrong Door; State Representative Carol Bush; AARP; Area Agencies on Aging; Developmental Disabilities Services; and OKDHS Tribal Affairs Liaison.

The **goal** of this project is to enhance Oklahoma's systems and capacities to deliver respite care and related services to family caregivers of adults or children with disabilities.

**Project objectives:** 1) enhance a statewide and sustainable lifespan respite care system; 2) enhance the delivery of respite services; 3) build statewide collaborations to provide supportive respite; 4) expand the availability of respite providers; 5) identify underserved populations to reduce gaps in respite; and 6) evaluate and disseminate program outcomes.

**Proposed interventions:** use strategic plan to move forward in addressing gaps in respite care services; use public and private partnerships to recruit and train employees, employers, retired individuals and others who may or may not currently be in caregiving roles; administer, collaborate and coordinate respite care services. OCC Executive Team will develop, distribute, and evaluate needs assessment survey to determine need for caregiver provider registry, gaps in respite services, and if the OKCares.org website is user friendly and includes valued resources.

### Outcomes and Products:

**Anticipated outcomes:** 1) respite vouchers will be more easily accessible and manageable; 2) caregivers and providers will have a better understanding of the benefits of respite and where to access; 3) caregivers will have more options in choosing respite providers; 4) increased awareness of caregiver needs will nurture sustainability; 5) increased opportunities for caregivers to rate their satisfaction with respite programs; and 6) increased variety of funding sources for respite.

**Expected products:** refreshed, informed caregivers; user-friendly access to respite; an easy to use online resource database; valuable project data; productive public/private partnerships; caregiver and provider trainings; increased respite support; and a comprehensive final program report.

