

# Lifespan Respite Care Program Enhancement Grant

## PROJECT SUMMARY

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

**State:** Oklahoma

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

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### Project Overview:

The Oklahoma Department of Human Services (ODHS), Community Living, Aging and Protective Services will focus on the enhancement of the lifespan respite infrastructure statewide. The most predominate stakeholder is the Oklahoma Caregiver Coalition (OCC) with approximately 70 Oklahoma partnering agencies. The 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 tribal representatives.

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 and children with disabilities.

**Project objectives:** 1) make programmatic adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic; 2) enhance systems development; 3) strengthen collaborations and partnerships; 4) provide paid and volunteer respite provider training; 5) identify and reduce gaps in current services; and 6) target underserved populations, across the lifespan, with particular emphasis on addressing those most impacted by COVID-19.

**Proposed interventions:** offer Oklahoma Caregiver Coalition (OCC) meetings, resource fairs, and conference virtually; develop respite app for family caregivers to apply for voucher program funds; measure effectiveness of respite services using the Science of Hope Scale before and after respite; strengthen collaborations and partnership by inviting additional stakeholders representing underserved populations to be OCC partners; collaborate with Sibshops and volunteers to provide community respite programs to increase culturally competent and diverse supports and resources for caregivers; research, develop, and target training to

healthcare, social services, and allied professionals to maximize family caregiving engagement and referrals to respite services; identify and reduce gaps in current services through a Respite Care Registry including faith based organizations; and conduct outreach with diverse OCC partners to target underserved populations and increase access to respite services.

### Outcomes and Products:

**Anticipated outcomes:** 1) increased number of caregivers eligible for respite vouchers; 2) increased number of caregivers accessing online coalition meetings and conferences; 3) connecting caregivers in real-time to respite providers and applications; 4) increased supports for siblings of individuals with special needs; 5) increased opportunities for caregivers to find a respite care provider through a respite registry; and 6) increased resources for grandparents and other relatives raising children.

**Expected products:** strengthened respite voucher accessibility; respite care training and registry; an online respite app; culturally sensitive support groups for family caregivers, grandparents and other relatives raising children; and statewide Sibshops with community respite events.

