

Lifespan Respite Care Program Enhancement Grant

PROJECT SUMMARY

Grantee Organization: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Office of Healthy Aging (OHA)

State: Rhode Island

Project Period: July 1, 2020 to August 31, 2023

Contact: Aleatha Dickerson, aleatha.dickerson@oha.ri.gov

Project Overview:

The Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Office of Healthy Aging (OHA), in partnership with the Family Caregiver Alliance of Rhode Island, United Way of Rhode Island, which houses the statewide Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) known as the Point, and other key stakeholders, will work to enhance and improve a statewide Lifespan respite care system of services.

The **goal** of this project is to further integrate and enhance a sustainable statewide system of Lifespan respite services.

Project objectives: 1) enhance the Rhode Island student nursing workforce development initiative among higher education nursing programs in the state; 2) continue to enhance the framework of the State's respite program through the incorporated Caregiver Alliance; and 3) improve awareness about respite services and access to respite service, to include continued funding of the CareBreaks respite program that was implemented under a previous Lifespan Respite grant.

Proposed interventions: enhance and improve Workforce Development Initiatives through volunteer nursing student respite initiatives at Rhode Island College (RIC), the University of Rhode Island (URI), New England Institute of Technology (NEIT), Salve Regina University (SRU), and the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI); expand Family Caregiver Alliance (FCA) and outreach efforts including FCA website features and annual statewide family caregivers training and resource conference; and improve awareness about and access to respite services using partnerships with the POINT network (Rhode Island's ADRC), Family Caregiver Alliance, and Healthcentric Advisors.

Outcomes and Products:

Anticipated outcomes: 1) an enhanced statewide system to support a sustainable respite provider workforce; 2) improved access to, and awareness of, available respite support and services in the State for families and/or caregivers; and 3) a strengthened Caregiver Alliance that will advocate for expansion and sustainability of respite services in the state.

Expected products: maintain a current nursing student respite training toolkit for replication; continuous dissemination of the State Plan for Caregiver Support; statewide Caregivers Conference; peer support tool to be deployed on the Caregiver Alliance website; and respite locator tool on the Caregiver Alliance website, with link from the UWRI and OHA websites.

