

Lifespan Respite Care Program Enhancement Grant

PROJECT SUMMARY

Grantee Organization: Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)

State: Wisconsin

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

Contact: Lynn Gall, lynn.gall@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Project Overview:

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), in partnership with Respite Care Association of Wisconsin (RCAW) and other key stakeholders will build a sustainable Lifespan Respite system, increasing the reach of respite programs statewide, and expanding on existing programs started in 2010.

The **goal** of the Wisconsin Lifespan Respite System is to expand and strengthen the availability and accessibility of free, high-quality, person-centered respite services to all caregivers, regardless of age, race/ethnicity, or special needs of the care recipient.

Project objectives: 1) establish a statewide Project Advisory Committee of key stakeholders; 2) upgrade the Wisconsin Respite Care Registry; 3) increase providers' access to training on specialty topics related to populations across the lifespan; 4) develop a training course on creating a business plan to start a respite program or agency; 5) translate the Wisconsin Respite Care Certificate Program into Spanish; 6) develop a sustainable system for ongoing assessment of respite needs in Wisconsin; 7) lead a statewide public awareness campaign; 8) provide information, resources, respite funds and new programs to underserved populations; and 9) develop and promote a volunteer-based respite service-learning University model.

Proposed interventions: enhance the collaboration between the Wisconsin DHS/Division of Medicaid Services/Bureau of Children's Services, Division of Public Health/Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources, RCWA, and the University of Wisconsin (UW) System; increase number of training and education opportunities for respite providers; translate the 10 Respite Care Certificate Program (RCCP) courses into Spanish; share on-line courses with South Carolina;

develop new respite program models; implement a business plan course for respite programs; develop toolkit for UW volunteer-based respite model; enhance current respite processes for the respite registry and database system, publish awareness and recruitment campaign, and statewide respite assessment; host annual Wisconsin Respite Summit; and provide increased respite resources to caregivers of underserved populations.

Outcomes and Products:

Anticipated outcomes: 1) increased number of training opportunities available to respite providers throughout the state; 2) enhanced sustainable, coordinated statewide system of respite resources and programs for all family caregivers; and 3) increased number of new respite programs created throughout the state.

Expected products: print and digital marketing materials; respite assessment tool; increased training opportunities for providers; creation of new programs throughout the state; and resources, programs, and respite funding to underserved populations.

