Grantee Organization: Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)
State: Wisconsin
Project Period: August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2023
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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, RCAW, 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.