

Summary Table of Federal Programs that Support Respite Care

Program	Type of Assistance & Eligible Entity	Authorizing Legislation	Beneficiaries (may vary by state)	Payments to or Support for Respite Services
Medicare and Medicaid Programs				
Medicare Hospice Benefit	Fee for service entitlement to individuals	Social Security Act, Title XVIII, Section 1861	Medicare-eligible aged and disabled individuals with terminal illnesses	Payments to hospice care facilities
Medicare Advantage	Managed care health insurance plan to individuals	Social Security Act, Title XVIII; amended by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018	Individuals who qualify for original Medicare, also qualify for Medicare Advantage	Payments to respite care Providers (dependent on plan)
Medicare Advantage Special Needs Plans	Managed care health insurance plan to individuals	Social Security Act, Title XVIII, Section 1859; amended by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018	Medicare-eligible individuals who are institutionalized, dually eligible, or have certain conditions	Payments to respite care providers
Medicaid Personal Care Benefit	Formula grant to states at state option	Social Security Act, Title XIX	Medicaid-eligible individuals in states including this option in their state plan	Payments to providers of services that result in “indirect” respite care
Self-Directed Assistance Services	Formula grant to states at state option	Social Security Act, Title XIX, Section 1915(j)	Frail elders, adults with disabilities, and some children with developmental disabilities	Consumer-directed budgets can be used to pay respite providers
Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)	Capitated benefit with integrated Medicare and Medicaid financing	Balanced Budget Act of 1997	Individuals age 55 or older certified as eligible for nursing home care	Payments to providers of services that result in “indirect” respite care; payments to respite care providers
Medicaid Hospice Benefit	Formula grant to states State option	Social Security Act, Title XIX	Medicaid-eligible individuals with terminal illnesses	Payments to hospice care Facilities

Program	Type of Assistance & Eligible Entity	Authorizing Legislation	Beneficiaries (may vary by state)	Payments to or Support for Respite Services
Medicaid Waiver Programs				
Medicaid Research & Demonstration Project Waiver	Discretionary grant to states	Social Security Act, Title XXI, Section 1115	Medicaid-eligible individuals	Payments to respite care providers or consumer-directed
Medicaid Managed Care/Freedom of Choice Waivers	Waiver of Medicaid regulations	Social Security Act, Title XIX, Section 1915(b)	Medicaid-eligible individuals	Payments to respite care providers or consumer-directed
Home and Community-Based Services Waivers	Waiver of Medicaid regulations	Social Security Act, Title XIX, Section 1915(c)	Medicaid-eligible individuals	Payments to respite care providers or consumer-directed
Combined Waivers	Waiver of Medicaid regulations	Social Security Act, Title XIX, Sections 1915(b) and (c)	Medicaid-eligible individuals	Payments to respite care providers or consumer-directed
Additional Medicaid Program Opportunities				
Community First Choice Option	Formula grant to states State option	Social Security Act, Section 1915(k)	Medicaid-eligible individuals requiring an institutional level of care	Payments to providers of services that result in “indirect” respite care
Medicaid State Plan Option for Home and Community-Based Services	Formula grant to states State option	Social Security Act, Title XIX, Section 1915(i)	Medicaid-eligible individuals	Payments to respite care providers or consumer-directed
Money Follows the Person	Discretionary grant to states	Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and Affordable Care Act and Affordable Care Act	Medicaid-eligible individuals transitioning out of institutional settings	Payments to respite care providers or consumer directed

Program	Type of Assistance & Eligible Entity	Authorizing Legislation	Beneficiaries (may vary by state)	Payments to or Support for Respite Services
Programs for Children: Child Welfare and Child Abuse Prevention Programs				
Child Abuse Community-Based Prevention Grants (CBCAP)	Formula grant to states	Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, Title II	Children at risk of child abuse or neglect and their families	Support of community respite and crisis nursery programs
Foster Care Prevention Services and Programs	Entitlement program with funding to states	Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 (FFPSA) (P.L. 115-123)	Children at imminent risk of entering foster care; child's parents or kin caregivers; and pregnant or parenting youth in foster care	Payments to prevention programs and providers
Kinship Navigator Program	Formula grant to states	Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 (FFPSA) (P.L. 115-123)	Children at risk of foster care placement and their relatives	Navigator programs funded to link families to services, including respite. No direct funds for respite.
MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families	Formula grant to states	Social Security Act, Title IV-B, Subpart 2	Families and children in need of child welfare and family strengthening services	Payments to respite care providers and crisis nursery programs
Adoption Assistance	Reimbursement to States for adoption assistance expenses.	Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 (FFPSA) (P.L. 115-123)	Adopted children with special needs and their families.	

Program	Type of Assistance & Eligible Entity	Authorizing Legislation	Beneficiaries (may vary by state)	Payments to or Support for Respite Services
Programs for Children: Child Education/Health/Mental Health/Low Income Assistance				
Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers	Formula grant to states	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C	Children ages 0 to 2 with developmental disabilities and their families	Payments to respite care providers
Maternal and Child Health Block Grant	Formula grant to states	Social Security Act, Title V, Section 501	Mothers, infants and children, including children with special health care needs, particularly low-income	Payments to respite care providers
Family to Family Health Information Centers	Discretionary grant to projects	Social Security Act, Title V, Section 501(c)(1)(A)	Children and families receiving services from organizations engaged in activities for children and youth with special health care needs	Funds information centers to connect families to respite. No direct funding for respite care
Child Mental Health Initiative	Discretionary grant to states	Public Health Service Act, Title V, Section 561	Children under age 22 with a diagnosed serious emotional disturbance, serious behavioral disorder, or serious mental disorder	Payments to respite care providers
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Formula grant to states	Social Security Act, Title IV-A	Low-income families with children	Payments to respite care providers or consumer directed

Program	Type of Assistance & Eligible Entity	Authorizing Legislation	Beneficiaries (may vary by state)	Payments to or Support for Respite Services
Programs Serving All Ages				
Social Services Block Grant	Formula grant to states	Social Security Act, Title XX	No restrictions	Grants to respite care providers
Developmental Disabilities Councils	Formula grant to states	Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act	Individuals with developmental disabilities	Funds development and maintenance of provider networks. Limited payments to respite care providers
Aging and Disability Resource Centers/No Wrong Door Systems	Competitive grants to State Agency or instrumentality of the State	Titles II and IV of the Older Americans Act, as amended by Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020, P.L. 116-131, and Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, P.L. 111-111-148.	Older adults and persons with disabilities, including family caregivers	ADRCs are mandated partners in the Lifespan Respite Care program, and an important part of a state's No Wrong Door system. Information and referral to LTSS. No specific funds for respite
National Family Caregiver Support Program	Formula grant to states, Indian Tribal Organizations; public or nonprofit Native Hawaiian organizations	Older Americans Act, Title III-E and VI-C (Native American Caregiver Support Program) as amended by Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020, P.L. 116-131	Family caregivers; grandparents and relative caregivers of children; and older parents and relative caregivers of adults with disabilities; American Indian and Native Hawaiian family caregivers.	Payments to respite care providers or consumer direction
Lifespan Respite Care Program	Competitive grants to states	Public Health Service Act, Title XXIX, as amended by the Lifespan Respite Care Program Reauthorization Act, P.L. 116-324.	Family caregivers of children and adults with special needs	Payments to states for respite systems; training; information and referral; payments to respite providers and to individuals for respite.

Program	Type of Assistance & Eligible Entity	Authorizing Legislation	Beneficiaries (may vary by state)	Payments to or Support for Respite Services
Programs Serving All Age Groups				
AmeriCorps	Formula grants when applicable to Governor-appointed State Service Commissions	National and Community Service Act of 1990; as amended by Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, P.L. 111-13.	Beneficiaries identified with an application for assistance	No-cost volunteer services provided to consumers
AmeriCorps Senior Companion Program	Discretionary grant to projects	Domestic Volunteer Service Act, Title II, Part B; as amended by the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, P.L. 111-13.	Individuals age 21 and over with special needs; frail elderly	Payments in the form of stipends to volunteer companions who in turn provide no cost services to consumers
National Community Care Corps	Competitive grants to community or faith base agencies.	Appropriations set-aside. No authorizing language.	Family caregivers of children and adults with special needs	Grants to community or faith based agencies that in use volunteers to provide respite.
Programs for Adults				
Supportive Services and Senior Centers	Formula grant to states	Older Americans Act, Title III, Part B; as amended by the Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020, P.L. 116-131	Individuals age 60 and over with economic and social need	Payments to providers of services that result in “indirect” respite care
Alzheimer’s Program Initiative	Discretionary grant to States and communities.	Older Americans Act, Title IV; as amended by Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020, P.L. 116-131.	Individuals with Alzheimer’s Disease and their family caregivers as well as professional care providers.	Payments to respite care providers to support caregiver participation in program

Program	Type of Assistance & Eligible Entity	Authorizing Legislation	Beneficiaries (may vary by state)	Payments to or Support for Respite Services
Programs for Military Families				
TRICARE ECHO	Supplemental health insurance	National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2002, P.L. 107-107	Military families with an exceptional family member	Payments to respite care providers
Respite for Injured Service Members	Extended TRICARE respite benefits	National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2008, P.L. 110-181, Subtitle C, Sec. 1633.	Injured active duty service members, including National Guard/Reserve who have a serious injury	Payments to respite providers at no cost to family and no cap
Exceptional Family Member Program	Entitlement to eligible individuals		Military families with a family member who has special needs/disabilities	Payments to respite care providers; varies by branch of military service
Armed Services YMCA Respite Child Care	Entitlement to eligible individuals		Military family members with children up to age 12.	Payments to select YMCAs to provide free respite care and memberships to eligible families.
Programs for Veterans				
Veterans Affairs Health Care – Geriatrics and Extended Care	Entitlement to individuals	Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act	Veterans of all eras	Provides respite care through VA medical centers, community settings, or in-home
Aid-and- Attendance & Housebound Benefit	Entitlement to individuals		Veterans with medical needs or mental or physical disability or surviving spouses	Unrestricted payments to individuals; can be used for respite

Program	Type of Assistance & Eligible Entity	Authorizing Legislation	Beneficiaries (may vary by state)	Payments to or Support for Respite Services
Veteran-Directed Care	Discretionary grant to Aging and Disability networks, including Centers on Independent Living	Collaborative initiative between the Veterans Health Administration and the Administration for Community Living.	Veterans at risk of placement in a nursing home	Payments to respite care providers or consumer directed
VA Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers	Stipends to family caregivers, mental health services, health coverage and respite	Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act as amended by the VA MISSION Act of 2018, P.L. 115-82.	Veterans with sustained or aggravated serious injury (now includes serious illness) in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975, or on or after September 11, 2001. Veterans from all eras will be included in 2022.	Respite must be medically and age-appropriate, and include in-home care.



This table is from [Federal Funding and Support Opportunities for Respite: Building Blocks for Lifespan Respite Systems](#) prepared by the ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center, January 2021.



This project was supported, in part by grant number 90LT0002, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.