

Lifespan Respite Care Program



Lifespan Respite Grantee Lead Agency: **South Carolina Department on Aging (SCDOA)**

Funding Period: September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2021

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Primary Goal: **Develop new public and private partnerships that further expand and strengthen SC's coordinated lifespan respite system engaging a broader cross-section of stakeholders for future sustainability.**

Key Performance Measures	Notable Achievements
<p>To measure the impact of this Lifespan Respite Project, the grantee utilized both quantitative and qualitative sources including: documentation from all project activities; surveys of the State Committee on Respite; surveys of caregivers; and focus groups with Respite Breakroom leaders. A formal evaluation plan identified measurable indicators for each objective and sources of funding that supported, and/or will continue to support objective-associated activities.</p>	<p>At the end of Year 1 funding, SCDOA received a supplemental award that allowed them, in partnership with the South Carolina Respite Coalition (SCRC), to expand their work with faith communities and to develop the Respite Breakroom model. This model encourages faith communities to provide respite to family caregivers during religious services and/or organized events through supervision, socialization, and care for loved ones while caregivers participate in congregational activities.</p>

Key Objectives, Activities and Outcomes	Coalition, ADRC and Community Partners
<p>Objective 1. Expand and strengthen the involvement of key state and local public and private stakeholders from across the age and disability spectrum as full partners in the continued design, implementation, and evaluation to further develop and sustain SC's coordinated lifespan respite system (<i>State Plan Recommendation 1</i>).</p> <p>Notable Partnerships and Sustainability Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Carolina's Coordinated Lifespan Respite Program brings together Federal and State funding to create more seamless access to respite, particularly respite voucher resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The state-funded State Voucher Program, initially established in SFY2014 as part of the SC Department on Aging budget, stabilized in SFY2018 at an annually recurring amount of \$2.4 million. ▪ Coordination of voucher distribution continued to improve during the grant period with common data being entered and tracked in the SC Department on Aging's AIM and QuickBase databases. • The State Committee on Respite (SCOR) and primary partners met quarterly to implement the recommendations in the Lifespan Respite State Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A third Regional Advisory Council was established in the PeeDee region providing local representation to three quarters of the state. 	<p>State and Community Partners</p> <p>A major strength of the SC Lifespan Respite Program is that its foundation is built on solid and long-term relationships among its three primary partners: SC Department on Aging, SC Respite Coalition (SCRC) and Family Connection of SC (Family Connection). The experience and expertise of these partners combine to ensure that the needs and perspectives for all family caregivers across the lifespan are addressed. Through monthly meetings, primary partners met to plan strategies and coordinate activities to implement goals and objectives as well as identify challenges and modifications needed.</p>

- All Regional Councils met quarterly, as well.
- Substantial progress made during the grant period was largely due to the collaborative feedback process that allowed for adjustments, as needed, based on lessons learned along the way.
- There was increased coordination across respite information resources that started in previous grants and improved significantly with the development of the SCDOA's *GetCareSC* [website](#) and the new [SCRC website](#).

Objective 2: Integrate a respite/caregiver focus to change systems by providing tools to increase awareness and understanding of the need and benefits of respite by caregivers, health care and human service personnel, community members, faith community, and business leaders in order to identify family caregivers and connect to respite services (State Plan Recommendations 2, 3, 4).

Notable Respite Integration Activities

- Because even professional organization leaders do not always understand how respite might be a need of their constituents, the SC Department on Aging and SCRC tackled this challenge through the following activities:
 - The grantee made presentations at related conferences, spoke to professional groups, and regularly participated in a diverse group of meetings of health and long-term care professionals.
 - The grantee directed outreach and sent materials to primary care practitioners emphasizing their role in identifying family caregivers in their practice, educating them about respite, and referring caregivers for respite.

Objective 3: Expand promising practices to increase awareness, develop respite services, and to recruit and train respite providers, paid and unpaid, in faith communities (State Plan Recommendation 5).

Notable Expansion Activities

- The grantee developed a Respite Breakroom model for faith communities.
 - Six Respite Breakrooms were established during the project period, four that opened before closure due to COVID, and two that are preparing to open once church is back to full operations.

Objective 4: Fill gaps and increase availability of respite providing vouchers across the lifespan and using lessons learned to inform policy development and strategies to sustain and increase access to respite services beyond the life of the grant.

Notable Performance Outcomes

- A coordinated respite voucher system worked to address gaps in respite services, and a growing number of family caregivers across the lifespan received respite vouchers during the project period..
 - In SFY2018, 410 caregivers received 12,787 hours of respite through SCRC Lifespan respite vouchers.
 - The number of caregivers served increased to 575 families receiving 20,637 hours of respite in SFY2020.
- Through attention to long-term and diverse funding, the sustainability of the South Carolina Lifespan Respite System was strengthened by the grantee and partners.

State Respite Coalition/Organization Role

The South Carolina State Respite Coalition is a key partner in working on sustainability and developing a long-term State Respite Plan.

Aging and Disability Resource Center Role

ADRCs are partners in the state's Coordinated Lifespan Respite System. The Family Caregiver Support Program, State Voucher Program and state funded Alzheimer's respite funds are all administered through the AAA/ADRC Family Caregiver Advocates, with SCRC managing Lifespan grant vouchers and State vouchers to younger and mid-life families or those without other respite sources.

- The grantee maintained the \$2.4 million recurring state dollars in the Department on Aging budget specifically for lifespan respite.
- The grantee maintained the \$900,000 in state legislative appropriations through SCDMH to SCDOA for respite care for caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's, avoiding a shortfall of \$128,000.
- The grantee maintained funding for eight non-emergency overnight respite beds (two at each of four DDSN residential facilities).
- SCRC received a grant from SC Physicians Care Charity for \$50,000 to support respite vouchers for family caregivers.
- SC Medicaid (SCDHHS) and SCDDSN changed state respite policy to increase the reimbursement rate for respite from \$12.40/hour to \$16.24/hour which will make a significant difference in recruitment of individual respite providers and in workforce development.

Program Flexibilities and Supports Introduced in Response to COVID-19

- SCRC adapted to pandemic closures by employing virtual meetings with stakeholder groups, virtual webinars and respite events, Caregiver Open Houses for support, graphics and technological alternatives for videos, virtual trainings for Breakrooms, and a series of webinars in lieu of the Faith Conference.



For more information, contact ARCH at (703) 256-2084