

**ARCH Webinar Chat Transcript: Voucher Learning Collaborative  
2/27/19**

**Jill Kagan:** Please call in on 866-546-3377; Access Code: 643869 so that you can participate by phone.

**Pam Oliason:** These programs are examples of ACL LR funded correct? Not Medicaid or OAA, correct?

**Pam Oliason:** Thanks. got it.

**Sharon Johnson:** NE answered survey strictly about state-funded Lifespan Respite Subsidy. Other respite programs have varied income requirements such as Medicaid-eligible.

**Cheryl Dinnell:** We have collected information on income, but found no evidence that high income families were applying for services.

**Sharon Johnson:** State Statute requires us to serve lifespan and all populations

**Cheryl Dinnell:** Yes, 18 is legal age for respite providers and we can contract with them.

**Cheryl Dinnell:** We have a REST training program that we can plug providers in, if caregivers want their providers to receive. Not required as a standard approach.

**Pam Oliason:** May I have a copy of the Hiring Respite Care Providers Handbook from the state that mentioned it?

**Pam Oliason:** Thank you!!!

**Cheryl Dinnell:** We ask about employment status but it has no basis on eligibility. We do design respite for when they are "caregivers" - not to provide respite when they are working. We do have caregivers who say the demands of care cross over to work and require them to leave to address care.

**Sharon Johnson:** NE asks about employment plus number of days missed in previous 6 months due to caregiving responsibilities. Respite not to go to work but support employee caregivers. Ongoing statewide initiative to educate employers about employee caregivers.

**Alicia Blater:** North Carolina's respite voucher also has similar guidance. We typically only provide respite in their non-working hours so they can get a restorative break for themselves.

**Pam Oliason:** It would be helpful to know how much voucher \$ are available /year to a family.

**Sharon Johnson:** \$2,500-\$3,500 per eligibility year. Can "bank" 3-4 months for planned respite to use in a single month. Plus, exceptional needs funding is disseminated per family request such as \$1,000 in one month or broken out over the eligibility year.

**Sharon Johnson:** NE monitors where [geographically] funds are being used but not to limit.

**Elle Billman:** Same - Colorado tracks location of dollars used, but it does not affect where the funds are distributed. It informs outreach and where to find new contracted provider partners

**Cheryl Dinnell:** What are you calling the voucher amount? We typically provide about \$300/mo for a 1-year contract, but the emphasis is on getting regular dosage of respite (about 4 hours per week or

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equivalent). We also pay for financial management services, subscriptions to programs like Care.com for recruitment purposes. If the care needs require it, we have the flexibility to increase the funds to meet the higher need. Most families can find respite around \$10-15/hr and that gives them 3-5 hours per week on average.

**Alicia Blater:** NC tracks the county for demographic information but we don't limit numbers per county. We also keep track of who the referring agencies are (caregivers in our state fill out a voucher application with a referring agency like a medical office, DSS, social worker, provider, school counselor, mental health provider, etc.)

**Alicia Blater:** The list of referring agents helps us know who is getting the message, who we need to target more, and where the voucher program seems to be better understood.

**Cheryl Dinnell:** Administrative time is one of the challenges reported from our state voucher programs. We split the work between our Aging & Disability Resource Centers and Program Coordinators - they handle intake and application; Program handles respite design and enrollment processes.

**Brittany Huey:** Alabama offers respite vouchers for caregivers who attend caregiver education programs as well!

**Brittany Huey:** [In relation to fraud discussion] Over the past year, we've actually been contacted by caregiver's family members/friends disclosing they were not actually providing care for stated loved one. Prior to this we haven't experienced a problem...

**Cheryl Dinnell:** This was a bigger discussion than actuality. Fraud measures working fine.

**Pam Oliason:** Great way to present this information and thanks to all for being so generous with discussion.