



Dear [Click or tap here to enter text.](#),

I wanted to personally Thank You for referring caregivers to the Lifespan Respite Voucher Program. Without referrals, the program would not be the success that it is. I would like to share a few tidbits of information with you that I hope you will find informative and encouraging.

- From the beginning of the voucher program in August 2015 there have been 434 different caregivers that have received a respite voucher.
- There are currently 234 caregivers with open vouchers that may be used to get a break!
- We have a very active coalition that helps with planning and promoting activities of the Lifespan Respite Program.
- We have an email network that keeps interested Montanans up to date on anything related to Lifespan Respite.

(If you are interested in being on the coalition or on the email list, please let me know and I will get you connected.)

- There are several Aging Horizons shows that feature Lifespan Respite and are a great source of information about the program. The address to watch any of these shows is: www.youtube.com/montanaDPHHS and search for Lifespan Respite.
- Within the next year we will be recruiting and offering training to respite providers that are interested in having their names on a database that caregivers will be able to access when looking for a respite provider. More information will be sent through our email network.

Below are some things that I have noticed that may not be clear when referring a caregiver to the Lifespan Respite Voucher Program:

- A Caregiver Strain Index is part of the application process and must be completed and returned with the application. It can be found on the respite.mt.gov website. I have included it in this packet.

- An application is not complete unless **ALL** of the items listed on page 5 of the application are included. Missing any of these items will delay processing and approval of the application. The list includes:
 - ✓ Proof of Primary Caregiver's Address (**only** if living separate from the care recipient)
 - ✓ Proof of Care Recipient's Age (birth certificate or ID)
 - ✓ Income Verification (Tax return, bank statement, check stubs, Social Security letter, etc.)
 - ✓ Medical Expense Verification (if any. If the care recipient is under 18 or the spouse of the caregiver, the entire family's medical expenses can be used.)
 - ✓ Modified Caregiver Strain Index (mentioned above)
- Families with more than one child do not get separate vouchers for each child. One voucher can be used for all of the children.
- We cannot pay the respite provider directly.
- We cannot pay the primary caregiver for taking care of their loved one.

I have included the FAQ sheet about the Lifespan Respite Voucher Program along with our brochures, my business card and since we have changed our application over the years, I have included the current version, which can also be found on the website www.respite.mt.gov.

I am also including the application, FAQ sheet and survey for our Dementia/Alzheimer's Voucher Program. This program is for care recipients that have some form of memory loss. It is paid from a separate grant, funded by the Administration for Community Living. The application is simpler and there is a different survey that accompanies the application. With this program, caregivers may request a one-time \$150 to purchase items that help make respite possible such as ID bracelets, door alarms, simple cameras or specific transportation for example. Using this funding source for those with memory loss frees up money in the Lifespan Respite budget for more recipients in other populations. The FAQ sheet provides the criteria for use of the Dementia/Alzheimer's voucher program.

Thank you again for referring caregivers to our respite voucher programs and please feel free to call me with questions about either program, I am happy to help!

Sincerely,

Vicki Clear
Montana Lifespan Respite Voucher Coordinator