

Lifespan Respite Care Program Enhancement Grant

PROJECT SUMMARY

Grantee Organization: Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

State: Montana

Project Period: July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2026

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Project Overview:

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, in partnership with the Montana Lifespan Respite Coalition, the Aging Disability Resource Centers and the Aging Services Bureau will expand and maintain a statewide coordinated lifespan respite system that builds on the infrastructure currently in place.

The **goal** is to enhance Montana's Lifespan Respite system and the capacity to deliver respite care and related services to family caregivers of adults or children with disabilities.

Project objectives: 1) increase access to services through training and recruitment efforts for respite providers and volunteers throughout the state; 2) increase respite options for family caregivers through the self-directed respite voucher program by expanding hours of respite available; 3) expand outreach to and access for underserved populations including Veterans, indigenous populations, caregivers affected by Alzheimer's/dementia and populations not currently served adequately by other respite programs and were also disproportionately affected by COVID-19; 4) promote community-based supports for caregivers either virtually or in-person; and 5) ensure systemic framework/infrastructure is aimed at furthering the long-term continuation of statewide respite care.

Proposed interventions: enhance respite.mt.gov website content; increase number of trained respite providers registered on the resource directory; increase referral source communications; add new Coalition partners; improve voucher experience with additional funding; support alternative types of respite and training; explore

a multiuser database; add Coalition members who can create additional referrals through their networks; replicate what has worked on multiple Native American reservations; effectively use outreach channels; pilot and fund innovative ideas responsive to caregiver needs; fund innovative local projects; use online venue to break down barriers, increase access, and broaden supports; share lessons learned with broader respite community and build statewide capacity; pursue legislative inclusion in state budget; utilize the *ARCH Sustainability Toolkit*; strengthen Coalition; and host summits to facilitate learning and connection.

Outcomes and Products:

Anticipated outcomes: statewide capacity to improve respite services; access to respite information; and a sustainable coordinated statewide system of community-based respite.

Expected products: outreach materials; caregiver and respite provider training; caregiver online community; access to trained individual respite providers utilizing the existing resource directory; annual respite summits; and an expanded respite voucher program.

