Project Overview:

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services, in partnership with Respite Care Association of Wisconsin (RCAW) and other stakeholders will build a sustainable system, increasing the reach of respite programs statewide, expanding on existing programs that were enhanced by the 2020 Lifespan Grant.

The goal of this project is for the Wisconsin Lifespan Respite System to expand and strengthen the availability and accessibility of high-quality, person-centered respite services for caregivers, regardless of the age, race/ethnicity, or special needs of the care recipient.

Project objectives: 1) develop the Wisconsin Emergency Respite System; 2) expand the RCAW Caregiver Respite Grant Program (CRGP); 3) develop and implement Train-the-Trainer model for the Bringing Respite to Your Community (BRYC) Workshop; 4) implement regional BRYC Workshops; 5) provide funding for new respite programs; and 6) provide tools and resources for communities to determine interest and feasibility of direct support professional co-op model with a focus on respite in their community.

Proposed interventions: build on progress made during the previous Lifespan grants by focusing on enhancing key components of the Wisconsin respite system; create partnerships with respite stakeholders such as ADRCs and other long-term care providers; create new respite agencies and programs and set up the groundwork to explore a respite co-op model to help address the need for more respite providers; provide new funding for direct respite care for underserved populations; and look at building an emergency respite system, including funding for emergency respite situations.

Outcomes and Products:

Anticipated outcomes: 1) increased number of direct respite hours provided to underserved populations and in emergency situations; 2) the creation of new respite agencies and programs throughout the state; and 3) a framework and financial support to explore the need and feasibility of establishing respite worker co-ops in the state.

Expected products: Wisconsin Emergency Respite System; Emergency Caregiver Respite Grant Program Funds Process; Bringing Respite to Your Community (BRYC) Train the Trainer Program; Bringing Respite to Your Community (BRYC) Seed Grant Program; new respite programs throughout the state; and a comprehensive toolkit for communities to explore a respite worker co-op model.