

Massachusetts Lifespan Respite Coalition



The Massachusetts Lifespan Respite Coalition is supported and sponsored by the Federal Lifespan Respite Grant and a broad interagency coalition including but not limited to:

MA Department of Developmental Services; MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs; Children's Hospital, Boston; MA Office of Medicaid; National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater New England Chapter; The Seven Hills Foundation, and many more.



How to join:

It's **FREE** to become a member of the Massachusetts Lifespan Respite Coalition. Call Joan Rafferty, Project Coordinator, at (781) 693-5156, or visit our website for registration information. You will receive updates, coalition meeting information, advocacy events, and much more!

Website coming soon !!

Our Mission:

To promote and support access to quality respite care options that enhance the lives of individuals and families with special needs throughout the lifespan.

Our Vision:

Throughout Massachusetts, every individual, caregiver, or family needing respite services will have access to a seamless, statewide system that provides quality, individualized respite services that meet their needs.

“Each of us, at some point in our lives, will find ourselves being a caregiver for a loved one.”

It is by joining voices that we can make a difference!



What is lifespan respite?

You or someone you know is a caregiver. Caregivers provide around the clock assistance for a family member, loved one, or other individual with a disability, chronic illness, or life changing injury. Respite services provide caregivers with a needed break from their ongoing responsibilities, enabling them to keep their family unit intact and healthy. Lifespan respite acknowledges that families looking for respite services share a common need regardless of the age or diagnosis of the individual that requires care.



Who We Are:

- Parents * Children * Elders**
- * Veterans * Advocates ***
- Educators * Religious Groups ***
- * Diagnostic Specific Groups ***
- State Agency Representatives**
- Physicians * Insurers ***
- Paid Providers * Volunteers**

Our Guiding Principles:

- Every family is entitled to a highly qualified, trustworthy respite provider.
- Every respite provider should aspire to respect and embrace cultural diversity.
- Respite services should support families in building strength and maintaining unity.

Our Goals:

- ~To build and strengthen the Coalition by bringing together all family caregivers statewide to unite around the common need for respite services.
- ~To improve statewide dissemination and coordination of respite care by developing a comprehensive, accessible directory of services
- ~To enhance and expand the availability of Lifespan Respite Services in Massachusetts by improving training and recruitment of providers, and developing a strategic plan and List of Policy Recommendations
- ~To capitalize on the power of many voices to advocate for awareness of the need for respite services and funding to support them.



MASSACHUSETTS LIFESPAN RESPITE COALITION

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