

Lifespan Respite Care Program Enhancement Grant

PROJECT SUMMARY

Grantee Organization: Washington State Aging and Long-Term Support Administration

State: Washington

Project Period: September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2023

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Project Overview:

Washington State has made progress in expanding services and providing respite supports, including developing meaningful partnerships and collaborations, but gaps in services and providers were increased by COVID-19's impact. Creative problem solving assisted in decreasing the risk, but rebuilding resources and creating new training modules that speak to new infectious disease complications became priorities. Funds requested will be used to enhance state and local coordinated respite care systems, enhance current respite successes, develop sustainable partnerships, and build statewide capacity to serve adult caregivers of adults or children with disabilities during this pandemic and address anticipated increased need during the recovery period.

The **goal** of the Washington Lifespan Respite Enhancement Program is to have Washington ATLSA (Aging and Long-Term Support Administration), PAVE (Partnership for Action, Voices for Empowerment), and Lifespan Respite WA (LRW) enhance and strengthen Washington State's respite care systems and capacities to deliver respite care and related services to adult family caregivers of adults or children with disabilities.

Project objectives: 1) Enhance statewide lifespan respite services; 2) Evaluate respite capacity, efficacy, service gaps; 3) Strengthen infrastructure and sustainability; 4) Enhance/increase direct care respite services; 5) Strengthen collaborations/partnerships; and 6) Build on advancements of the LRW program.

Proposed interventions: develop provider options in all counties to better meet the needs of diverse caregiver populations; create training modules/toolkits on internet safety to assist kinship caregivers caring for young children and for individuals with

intellectual disabilities that are waitlisted for state provided case management; coordinate and enhance ADRC capabilities to better identify and serve caregivers; increase LRW data collection through PAVE tracking systems; increase respite services by expanding provider types; improve access and utilization of LRW vouchers; increase trained respite providers, to replenish vacancies; analyze data for access, consistency, quality, satisfaction and efficiencies through provider and user surveys; create issue briefs based on analyzed data; expand technology, virtual supports and culturally attuned models; expand and enhance ADRC capacity to recognize and respond to caregiver needs; increase one public/private partnership to support sustainability; expand voucher use and the variety of provider types statewide; diversify workforce provider types by exploring the possibility of incorporating LRW into the new CDE system.

Washington will address special target populations and organizations. Family members, individuals who need care and their advocates who represent adults providing care to adults or children will be encouraged to offer their views via surveys and by attending various coalitions, advisory groups or council meetings (e.g., LRW Coalition, Indian Policy Advisory Council, TBI Council, State Kinship Care Oversight Committee, Adoptive Families Council). Limited-English speaking persons will be approached through their community networks and statewide organizations. Outreach materials (e.g., toolkits, flyers/rack cards) will be translated as needed. In addition, Washington DSHS ALTSA, in partnership with the Lummi Nation and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, will continue to reduce the identified service gap of respite services into Native American/Alaska Native communities.



Outcomes and Products:

Anticipated outcomes: 1) increased statewide respite service option(s) tailored to the needs of diverse populations across the lifespan with a focus on persons with intellectual disabilities and American Indian/Alaska Natives; 2) improved efficiency in utilization of caregiver vouchers from LRW; 3) increased caregiver outreach opportunities through trainings, toolkits and virtual access; 4) increased utilization of ADRCs to identify caregivers, refer to services and decrease duplication; and 5) one or more public/private partnership commitments will be secured to provide financial support.

Expected products: development of child on-line internet safety toolkit to support caregivers raising children; toolkit to support caregivers of individuals with intellectual disabilities; best practice Tribal lifespan respite model; increased volunteer participation by 5% each year; increased tracking of unused/unspent funding and reallocating for new voucher awards; and public/private partnership commitment for ongoing LRW services support.

