

Lifespan Respite Care Program Enhancement Grant

PROJECT SUMMARY

Grantee Organization: Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES)'s Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS)

State: Arizona

Project Period: August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2027

Contact: Lita Nelson, litanelson@azdes.gov

Project Overview:

The Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), in partnership with the Arizona Caregiver Coalition (ACC) and key stakeholders, will in the course of this four-year project, expand a statewide coordinated lifespan respite system that builds on the current infrastructure. The expansion will focus on enhancing the Arizona state systems and capacities to deliver respite care and related services to family caregivers of children and adults across all age groups who are caring for care recipients of all ages.

The **goal** is to improve the delivery and quality of respite services available to all families across all populations, regardless of age, disability, or chronic condition of the care recipient, by expanding and coordinating existing respite services in Arizona using the 2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers as its framework.

Project objectives: 1) expand the existing Lifespan Respite Programs infrastructure to include nontraditional services; 2) increase outreach and awareness about caregiving and respite services; 3) strengthen services to underserved communities, including, but not limited to LGBTQ+, Hispanic, and tribal communities; 4) expand the Arizona Respite Network; and 5) improve caregiver needs assessments and program evaluation.

Proposed interventions: continue and further refine successful respite services, including Adult Day Center Respite and Respite Vouchers; enhancing the emergency respite component to Respite Vouchers; identify respite service gaps

and conduct outreach to reduce those gaps; expand LCRP statewide to offer consumer-directed respite care in areas where those programs do not exist; development of a new program aimed at expanding our network of service providers and non-licensed day center programs, broadening our coverage across a larger geographic area; implementation of a dynamic new program that offers mini-grants to both community and faith-based organizations; and expand the Arizona LCRP by establishing a dedicated workgroups to disseminate information and coordinate activities, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the Arizona respite system.

Outcomes and Products:

Anticipated outcomes: 1) caregivers have greater understanding of respite options and increased access to respite services regardless of age and disabilities/chronic conditions; 2) providers will demonstrate increased ability to offer respite services through a variety of existing funding sources; 3) demands on family caregivers will be reduced by having more consumer-directed services available; 4) increased availability of trained respite workers, including volunteers; and 5) increased sustainability of respite services due to the development of a strategic plan.

Expected products: updated marketing and outreach materials, universal referral and assessment forms, caregiver/volunteer training guidelines, a decision tree, a Respite Locator database, and a strategic plan for family caregiving to help shape future efforts.

