

Lifespan Respite Care Program



Lifespan Respite Grantee Lead Agency: **State of Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging (OHA)**

Funding Period: September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2023

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Primary Goal: **Further integrate, enhance, and sustain a statewide system of Lifespan Respite services across all populations.**

Key Performance Measures	Notable Achievements
<p>Healthcentric Advisors (HCA), a key partner, designed and deployed a student respite locator tool that collects essential information from each participating nursing student necessary for matching them with caregivers. The tool includes the following key components or characteristics: student information form; caregiver and care recipient forms for Catholic Social Services (CSS)¹ to organize care recipient information from the CareBreaks application and assist faculty in matching families with volunteer nursing students; the ability to link students, caregivers, and care recipients in the online portal; access for nursing faculty to log in and view their students and available caregivers; and user guides for CSS and nursing faculty, with step-by-step instructions for using the student respite locator tool.</p>	<p>The formally incorporated Family Caregiver Alliance of Rhode Island (FCARI) continued to strengthen its role as a resource and advocate for caregivers in the state by: disseminating the first Rhode Island State Plan to Support Caregivers and working with partners and interested organizations to advocate for the implementation of the plan; expanding membership of the FCARI’s Advisory Committee; continued maintenance and improvement of the FCARI website; planning and hosting the annual Family Caregivers Conferences; and working with OHA, United Way of RI (UWRI) 2-1-1, and the Point, the Rhode Island Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), to ensure families have access to comprehensive information and resources for respite services, caregiver training and supports, and assistance with respite application preparation.</p>

¹ Catholic Social Services of Rhode Island (CSS) used federal Lifespan Respite funds to hire a new coordinator to work directly with students and caregivers.

Key Objectives, Activities and Outcomes	Coalition, ADRC and Community Partners
<p>Objective 1. Enhance the Rhode Island student nursing respite workforce development initiative among higher education nursing programs in the state.</p> <p>Notable Products and Performance Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the grant period, the number of nursing schools participating in the initiative increased from four to five. • For each semester of all three grant years, Rhode Island College (RIC), University of Rhode Island (URI), the New England Institute of Technology (NEIT) and Salve Regina University (SRU) nursing programs placed between eight and 10 nursing students as respite providers to eligible families under the program. • For each semester in years two and three of the grant, the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) placed between eight and 10 nursing students as respite providers to eligible families enrolled in the program. A total of 80 families received respite services under the state-wide nursing student workforce initiative during the grant funding period. 	<p>State and Community Partners/State Respite Coalition/Organization Role</p> <p>During the project funding period, the Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Office of Healthy Aging (OHA), in partnership with the Family Caregiver Alliance of Rhode Island (FCARI); the United Way of Rhode Island, which houses the statewide Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) known as the POINT; and other key collaborators worked to sustain, enhance, and improve a statewide Lifespan respite care system of services.</p>

- The nursing schools at CCRI, RIC and SRU had a total of 51 nursing students providing in-home respite services during the project period, with a total of 33 families or caregivers receiving volunteer respite services with many families participating during multiple semesters.
- New England Institute of Technology (NEIT) incorporated respite into the curriculum of their new “Licensed Practical Nursing” (LPN) program.

Objective 2: Continue to enhance the framework of the State’s respite program through the incorporated Family Caregiver Alliance of Rhode Island (FCARI).

Notable Products and Performance Outcomes

- NEIT faculty participated in the grant project and FCARI meetings.
- The FCARI created a State Plan Executive Committee to collaborate, implement, and measure the goals set forth in the RI State Plan to Support Family Caregivers.
 - The FCARI convened three workgroups which met every three to four weeks to address four focus areas: Policy and Legislation; Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA); and website enhancements.
- The FCARI continued to plan and hold annual Family Caregivers Conferences.
- The FCARI continued to maintain and improve its website, including a caregiver resources home page with links to individual pages for caregivers of older adults, adults with disabilities, and children.

Objective 3: Improve awareness about respite services and access to respite services, to include continued funding of the CareBreaks respite program that was implemented under a previous Lifespan Respite grant.

Notable Products and Performance Outcomes

- The FCARI website links to resources including the CareBreaks respite program; the “Point,” Rhode Island’s Aging, and Disability Resource Center (ADRC); the “My Options RI” web site, the State of RI web site connecting older adults and adults with disabilities with “Person Centered Options Counseling” (PCOC) for Long Term Services and Supports to remain in the community; and 2-1-1 for basic information and resources.
- The University of Rhode Island (URI), School of Nursing implemented and expanded their Pediatric Group Respite Program, an on-campus weekly group respite program serving families with children with special healthcare needs.
 - Nine to 20 children participated in 43 group respite events.
- The Catholic Social Services of RI (CSS) served moderate- to low-income families by providing cost share assistance with Lifespan Respite funding under the CSS CareBreaks respite program.
 - CSS reported that 120 unduplicated families received respite services from the CareBreaks program during the three-year project period.

Program Flexibilities and Supports Offered in Response to Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic

- Each RI nursing program identified strategies to safely resume the volunteer nursing student respite services in the Fall of 2020:
 - The Salve Regina University (SRU) resumed in-home respite services, working with families who would accept nursing students into their homes. Forms about COVID-19 were provided to both families and students. COVID-19 symptoms were also reviewed at the time of each respite service visit.

Aging and Disability Resource Center Role

The Family Caregivers Alliance Rhode Island (FCARI) website provides links to resources, including Rhode Island’s Aging, and Disability Resource Center (ADRC).

- The University of Rhode Island (URI) offered group respite events during both the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters.
- OHA and CSS distributed care packages with personal protective equipment (PPE), including masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and COVID tests to families participating in the nursing student respite initiative.
- OHA, Healthcentric Advisors, and UWRI expanded the use of social media and marketing campaigns to increase awareness of caregiver services, to address the lack of in-person outreach opportunities.



For more information, contact ARCH at (703) 256-2084