

Lifespan Respite Services Program & NE Lifespan Respite Network

Division of Developmental Disabilities
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

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Lifespan Respite Services Program

To be eligible for the Lifespan Respite Subsidy, the individual is someone who requires additional assistance and must:

1. Have a special need (without regard to age or type);
2. Be a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien;
3. Reside in the State of Nebraska;
4. Reside in a non-institutional setting;
5. Meet income and resource criteria; and,
6. Inform the Department of everyone who lives in household regardless of relative status.

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Lifespan Respite Services Program

Family Caregiver Requirements:

1. Be providing care or supervision of the individual with special needs without reimbursement or payment.
2. Need respite services.
3. Reside in the same home as the client or be providing care to the recipient in the recipient's home for a minimum of 4 hours per day Sunday through Saturday.
4. Caregivers may not use respite services while engaging in employment activities.

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Lifespan Respite Services Program

Income and Resource Eligibility

Family Size Gross Monthly Income (312% Federal Poverty Level)

1	\$4,085
2	\$5,424
3	\$6,837
4	\$8,251
5	\$9,665
6	\$11,078
7	\$12,492
8 or more	\$13,905

Maximum Resources Limits

\$35,000 for one person

\$50,000 for two or more people

Resource Disregards (not an exclusive list):

1. Qualified Disability savings account (ABLE);
2. Educational savings accounts if child is not college age; and
3. Retirement accounts if owner is not SSA retirement age

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Lifespan Respite Services Program

How much do eligible clients (respite recipients) receive?

- The program will provide up to \$125 per month for planned respite per client per eligibility period (12 months).
- Up to an additional \$2,000 per eligibility year for qualified Exceptional Circumstances, including crisis respite.
- Separate funding application requests must be submitted for Exceptional Circumstances Respite and be program-eligible.



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Lifespan Respite Providers

Who provides respite?

- Network screened respite providers can be located at respite.ne.gov.
 - Click on “**Find a Provider**”.
 - These providers have completed background checks, provided references and completed a new provider orientation.
- Family members, friends, or neighbors can be utilized as paid providers after becoming Network screened.
- Other possibilities include organizations, agencies, camps, local volunteer-led organization or group, equine program, faith-based or other approved activities.

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Nebraska Lifespan Respite Network

Mission: supporting the efforts of families and caregivers to care for individuals at home is efficient, cost-effective, and compassionate.

Families receiving occasional respite services are less likely to request admission of an individual to a nursing home, foster care, or other out-of-home care at public expense.

Respite services reduce family and caregiver stress, enhance family and caregiver coping abilities, and strengthen family and caregiver ability to meet the challenging demands of caring for family members.

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Nebraska Lifespan Respite Network History

A statewide conference was held in August 1997, establishing a statewide initiative. DHHS committed to help form the infrastructure for a permanent Coalition and in the spring of 1998, a request for proposals was issued by DHHS.

The request for proposals was to convene a statewide initiative to promote respite, develop permanent funding, and caregiver supports.

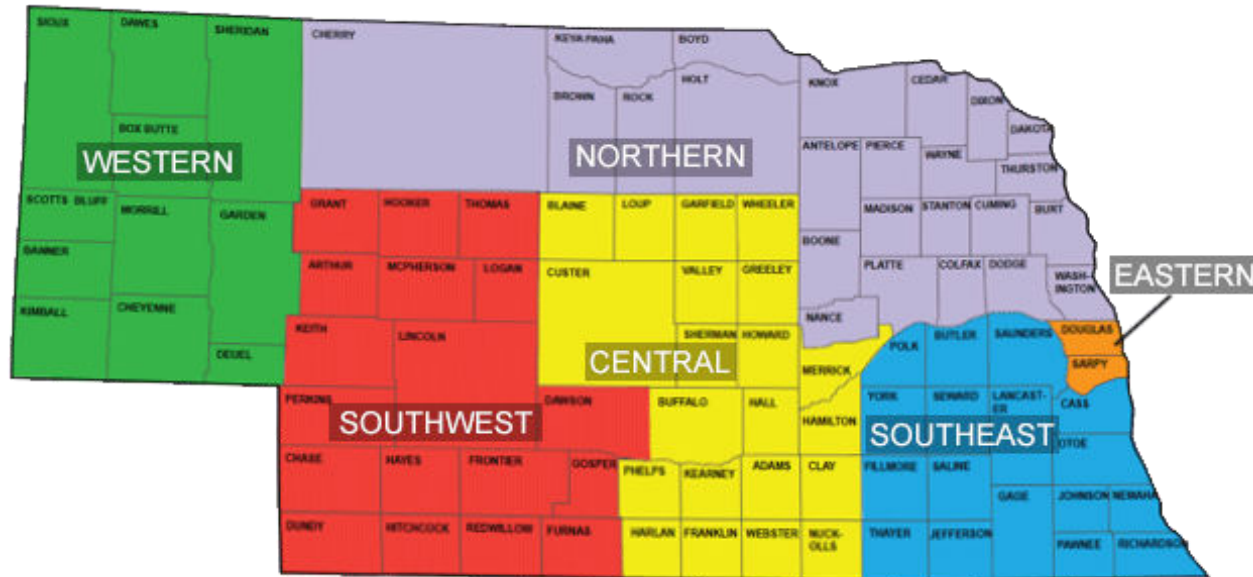
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Six NE Lifespan Respite Network Regions



Based on this legislation, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) established six Lifespan Respite Service Areas to coordinate respite resources across Nebraska.

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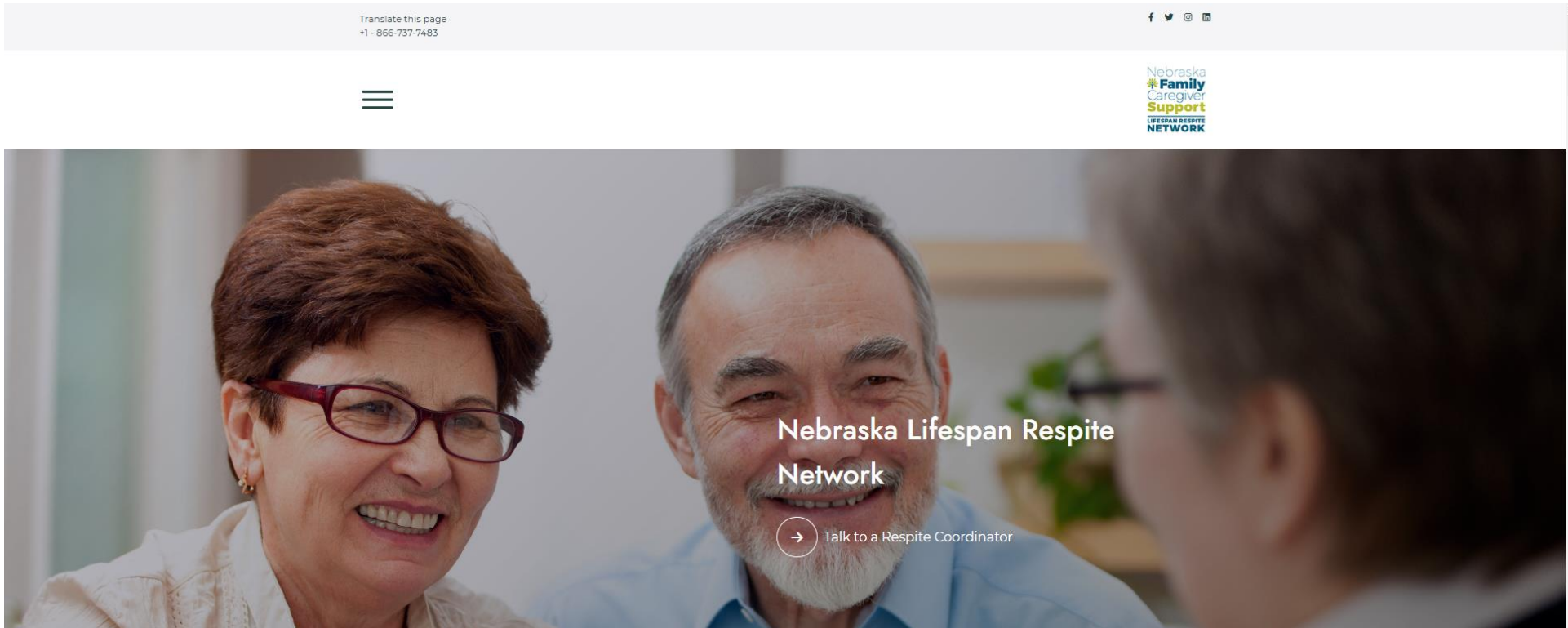
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Nebraska Lifespan Respite Network

- ▶ **The Nebraska Lifespan Respite Network (NLRN) was established to:**
- ▶ Create a single point of contact within each Service Area to provide information and referral regarding respite resources;
- ▶ Increase the public's awareness of respite and provide community outreach;
- ▶ Increase access to respite resources by recruiting appropriate providers and promoting the expansion of respite services;
- ▶ Ensure training is available for both program participants and providers by coordinating existing training resources and recruiting additional resources to meet the training needs;
- ▶ Ongoing evaluation of providers, caregivers, and the respite system to determine unmet needs.

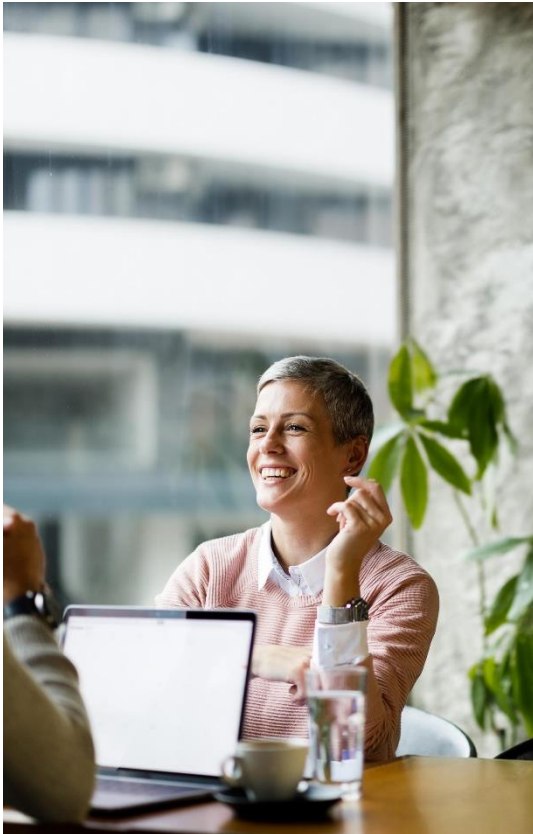
Nebraska Lifespan Respite Network Website



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Respite Coordination



The NLRN currently consists of:

- ▶ Six Respite Coordinators are centrally located in each of our service areas.
- ▶ One Employment Engagement Coordinator
- ▶ Messiah Respite Project Coordinator
- ▶ Technical Support Team

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NLRN Coordinators

Participant Case Management

- Respite Coordinators provide ongoing support to program participants, caregivers, and providers.
- Through a grant, the Coordinators complete, at minimum, monthly contacts with all participants and/or their caregivers.
- Coordinators also assist with submitting billing documents to the program for payment.

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NLRN Coordinators

Provider Recruitment, Training, and Retention

- Coordinators also continually work to recruit and train respite providers.
- Recruitment includes:
 - Resource Fairs
 - Job Fairs
 - Sharing information with local colleges
 - Contacting local Community-Based Organizations
 - Respite Events



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NLRN Growth and Sustainability

- Coordinators, along with the Lifespan Respite program, work diligently to share information with families, community groups, and stakeholders.
- The Network hosts monthly NLRN Learning Virtual Learning Series
 - Network Respite Events
 - Community involvement through Advisory Committees, Caregiver Coalition, and local groups
 - Coordinating care and referrals with other government programs



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Continual Improvement & Growth

- ▶ Updates to application process
 - ▶ Including maintaining “low-tech” options
- ▶ Accessibility to providers
- ▶ Connecting caregivers

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