

Lifespan Respite Care Program Enhancement Grant

PROJECT SUMMARY

Grantee Organization: Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS)

State: Oklahoma

Project Period: September 30, 2025 to September 29, 2028

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Project Overview:

The Oklahoma Human Services (OKDHS) project will improve the delivery and quality of respite services for family caregivers across the lifespan. This project is specifically designed to meet the grant's definition of lifespan respite care by bringing together federal, state, and local resources to support, expand, and streamline services for families of children and adults with special needs, regardless of age, disability, or chronic condition.

The **goal** is to establish a coordinated, statewide Lifespan Respite Care System, guided by the 2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers, to reduce caregiver burden and prevent costly institutionalization.

Project objectives: 1) launch the online Oklahoma Lifespan Respite Registry (OKLRR) as a single point of entry to a searchable provider database; 2) expand the workforce by recruiting and training up to 500 new providers annually through the OKCares Trained Respite Provider (OKTRP) program; 3) reduce financial barriers by providing respite vouchers to at least 50 new families each year; and 4) ensure long-term sustainability through data-driven advocacy for state funding.

Proposed interventions: develop statewide online OKLRR to address growing demand for caregiver services and provide a single point of entry to help families find trained respite care providers; combat critical shortage of providers by recruiting and training a diverse workforce and offering the OKCares Trained Respite Provider (OKTRP) program; provide up to 500 annual background check reimbursements to remove financial barriers for prospective providers; and extend additional financial assistance to help reduce the cost of care for eligible families.

Outcomes and Products:

Anticipated outcomes: 1) measurable reductions in caregiver stress; 2) increased access to services for vulnerable populations; 3) greater caregiver choice in providers; 4) significant multi-system cost savings for the state; and 5) strengthened direct care workforce.

Expected products: fully functional OKLRR online registry; OKTRP training curriculum and materials; expanded financial assistance voucher program; and replicable mini-grant program model to be shared nationally.



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