

Lifespan Respite Care Program Enhancement Grant

PROJECT SUMMARY

Grantee Organization: Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)

State: Wisconsin

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

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Project Overview:

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services, in partnership with the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin (RCAW) and key stakeholders, proposes to expand and strengthen the state's respite care infrastructure by building enhancements developed under the previous Lifespan Respite Care Program grant.

The overarching **goal** is to sustain a coordinated, accessible, and high-quality respite system that supports family caregivers across the lifespan, reduces caregiver burden, and improves health and well-being for both family caregivers and care recipients.

Project objectives: 1) enhance caregiver well-being and access to respite services by expanding person-centered, family-directed grant programs, increasing awareness through statewide outreach, and implementing data-driven strategies to address gaps in underserved regions; and 2) strengthen the respite care workforce by expanding the provider registry, increasing National Respite Care Provider Training (NRCPT) for Wisconsin training completions by 25% annually, and ensuring consistent access to qualified, trained professionals across the state.

Proposed interventions: build upon existing infrastructure to improve respite care coordination and engagement to create a more cohesive, accessible lifespan respite system; bolster the Wisconsin Respite Registry; expand NRCPT/W training utilization; integrate respite referrals into ADRC and managed care intake systems; conduct outreach and engagement activities; develop care navigation tools; expand pool of trained respite care workers, with an emphasis on under-resourced communities that struggle to meet the respite needs of family caregivers due to geography, transportation, limited workforce, etc.

Outcomes and Products:

Anticipated outcomes: 1) improved caregiver and care recipient well-being; 2) greater access to respite services; 3) expanded and strengthened respite workforce; 4) data-driven system improvements; and 5) sustainable and coordinated system infrastructure.

Expected products: annual program impact/outcome report; program evaluation briefs; data dashboards; regional gap analysis report; awareness campaign materials; community fact sheets; outreach and advocacy tools; training and provider support materials; strategic planning framework; and impact testimonial compilation.



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