

# Lifespan Respite Care Program Enhancement Grant

## PROJECT SUMMARY

**Grantee Organization:** South Dakota Department of Human Services (DHS)

**State:** South Dakota

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

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### Project Overview:

The South Dakota Department of Human Services (SD DHS) will work with statewide partners across rural SD to reestablish the State's Lifespan Respite Coalition to help bring awareness to the respite programs offered through DHS and its partners.

The **goal** of the South Dakota Lifespan Respite Enhancement Grant is to broaden and improve access to respite services for all caregivers within the state. The vision is to increase respite options by growing the number of trained respite providers across the state while also increasing coordination and dissemination of the services.

**Project objectives:** 1) increase the availability of services across the state by training individuals in targeted underserved areas to become local respite providers; 2) enhance access to these services by streamlining and improving the process Dakota at Home uses for Lifespan Respite referrals; 3) increase direct services to caregivers using the anticipated increase in local respite providers; and 4) leverage the State Lifespan Respite Coalition to ensure that respite services are coordinated and supported throughout the state.

**Proposed interventions:** build capacity by identifying and recruiting potential respite providers through targeted outreach and education; train volunteers to provide respite; make respite volunteers available for public use and access; gather data from DAH surveys and intake and case management staff to better understand current respite intake process; analyze and develop new respite intake process and train staff; conduct outreach to consumers; strengthen Lifespan Respite Coalition—create charter, identify stakeholders and potential members, identify needs/gaps, propose interventions to gaps in services.

### Outcomes and Products:

**Anticipated outcomes:** 1) increased numbers of respite providers; 2) improved ease of access to respite services; 3) caregiver reported quality respite and improved quality of life; 4) increased utilization of lifespan respite funding; and 5) increased statewide access to respite information.

**Expected products:** Toolkit with local material including culturally sensitive modules; printed materials, informational handouts, and digital presentations distributed via multiple channels to promote respite services; information posted on the DHS-LTSS website and provided to all project partners for their own websites and dissemination; and public service announcements focused on pilot project accomplishments including expanded HCBS dementia services, caregiver resources, and community education and training.



[archrespite.org](http://archrespite.org)