



**Urge your U.S. Representative to sign Bipartisan Congressional Letter calling for increased Lifespan Respite Care funding in FY 2027**

**TAKE ACTION**

- ➔ **FY 27 FUNDING REQUEST:** In a bipartisan request, Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-6<sup>th</sup> MI) and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-1<sup>st</sup> PA) are circulating a Dear Colleague letter for sign-ons from House Members asking Congressional appropriators for \$20 million for the Lifespan Respite Care Program in FY 2027.
- ➔ **ACTION: CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE!** Find contact information for [House Members](#) or call the Capitol Switchboard at 202-225-3121 to connect.
- ➔ **MESSAGE to U.S. HOUSE MEMBERS:** In a bipartisan request, Rep. Dingell and Rep. Fitzpatrick are circulating a [Dear Colleague letter](#) requesting \$20 million for the Lifespan Respite Care Program in FY 2027. **Please sign the [Letter to Congressional appropriators](#)**, and support Lifespan Respite Care Program funding – a cost-effective, family-centered solution that helps caregivers stay healthy, supports the workforce; and reduces costly long-term care. The **deadline to sign on is March 23rd!**

*Feel free to use the talking points on the next page and make your message personal – why is respite care important to you and the family caregivers in your state.*

**The Lifespan Respite Care Program (LRCP):** The U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL) provides competitive grants to state agencies working with Aging and Disability Resource Center/No Wrong Door Systems and state respite coalitions. The program's purpose is to make quality respite readily available to family caregivers regardless of age or disability through direct services, a well-trained respite workforce, and coordinated State Lifespan Respite systems.

**Funding:** Funding for the LRCP is \$11 million in FY 2026.

**Program Status:** Thirty-nine states and DC have received LRCP grants from the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL) since 2009.

## Respite Reaps Cost Savings and Supports Families

- **Family caregiving is invaluable.** In 2021, unpaid caregiving for adults in the U.S. was valued at **\$600 billion**, surpassing all out-of-pocket health care spending (\$433 billion). Families caring for children with special health needs provide nearly **\$36 billion in care annually**.
- **Respite saves money and delays costly care.** Just a few months' delay in nursing home placement for someone with a chronic condition or Alzheimer's disease can save **tens of thousands of dollars** for Medicaid, insurers, or families.
- **Respite strengthens the workforce.** U.S. businesses lose **\$17–34 billion annually** due to employee absenteeism, presenteeism, and stress from caregiving responsibilities.

## Lifespan Respite Grants Deliver Results

- The **Lifespan Respite Care Program (LRCP)** provides planned and emergency respite, ensuring services are **family-centered, accessible, and affordable**, especially for underserved caregivers. See [\*Key Accomplishments of Lifespan Respite Grantees\*](#).
- Grantees **deliver care** and **help families pay for respite**, including individuals with Alzheimer's, MS, ALS, or intellectual/developmental disabilities; those on Medicaid waiver waiting lists; grandparents raising grandchildren; rural households; and families who don't qualify for other public funding.
- Grantees are addressing the **direct care workforce crisis** by supporting **provider training, recruitment, and innovative volunteer and faith-based respite programs**.
- Program evaluations show significant caregiver benefits: **reduced stress, anger, anxiety, and health problems**, along with improved **financial well-being** and **daily functioning**.

## Respite – A Critically Necessary and Beneficial Family Support Service

- **63 million family caregivers** provide the vast majority of long-term services and supports for children and adults with disabilities or chronic conditions living at home. Yet **87% do not use respite services** due to barriers like cost, availability, or limited awareness.
- **Respite is consistently the most requested support service** among family caregivers. It reduces stress and social isolation, improves caregiver health and well-being, helps sustain marriages, and can help **prevent or delay costly out-of-home placements**.
- Evidence from the **U.S. Administration for Community Living** shows that caregivers receiving **4+ hours of respite per week report lower burden**. As respite hours increased, so did the likelihood that caregivers felt better able to **continue providing care at home**.