



Department of Public Health and Human Services

Senior and Long Term Care Division ♦ 2030 11th Ave., PO Box 4210 ♦ Helena, MT 59604-4210
(406) 444-4077 ♦ Fax: (406) 444-7743 ♦ www.dphhs.mt.gov

Steve Bullock, Governor

Richard H. Opper,
Director

Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee January 11, 2016

Department of Public Health and Human Services
Senior and Long Term Care Division
Kelly Williams, Administrator

Montana Lifespan Respite:

Montana was awarded a 3-year grant in August of 2011 to build the infrastructure for a Lifespan Respite program for our family caregivers. The grant's focus was to develop a Lifespan Respite Coalition (which is a diverse and active group of over 70 members and growing), reduce programmatic barriers to the provision of respite through the DPHHS funded respite programs, assess caregiver needs, increase caregivers' and the public's awareness about the need for and availability of respite, and the development of a statewide website. This grant is attached to the Senior and Long Term Care Division, Office on Aging within DPHHS.

Outcomes of this grant period include: An environmental scan of respite in Montana, a collection of all the current respite providers, a Sustainability, Growth and Succession Plan, a public service announcement and video. The PSA and video are available on the lifespan respite website www.respite.mt.gov.

Montana DPHHS, in collaboration with the Statewide Lifespan Respite Coalition and Aging and Disability Resource Center network were awarded a 3-year grant for sustainability of the Lifespan Respite program which provides respite care for all ages and disabilities. This grant period is September 2014 to August 2017; year one award amount was \$117,811 and years two and three are \$120,000 for a total amount of \$357,811. The focus of this grant is to develop a model that will simplify caregiver access to respite, reduce structural barriers to the provision of respite, increase caregiver awareness of the purpose, need for and availability of respite, develop options for caregiver training and implement the 2014 LSR sustainability, growth and succession plan.

The current grant allows funding to be used for respite care and the development of a voucher program, which includes a sliding fee cost share based on income. This program allows caregivers to access respite services no matter where they live or what their special needs might be. Through this voucher program, which began July of 2015, the coalition has budgeted \$24,500 and so far has served 22 caregivers throughout the state in 19 of our 56 counties. Through December 2015, \$8,395.87 has been paid out as reimbursements to

Montana caregivers for a total of 940.5 respite hours. See 12-31-2015 Voucher Program Progress Report.

As part of the grant work, the Lifespan Respite Coalition in partnership with DPHHS, and with support from AARP and the Montana Geriatric Education Center is planning an Annual Summit on March 9, 2016, titled "Riding the Respite Wave: Sustaining the Momentum". The event will be held at the Helena Great Northern Hotel from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. To find out more information and to register: Go to www.respite.mt.gov.

Additional outreach materials have been developed through multimedia, such as television ads, radio ads, YouTube, and materials and brochures related to the importance of lifespan respite, and that "It's OK to need it, it's OK to want it and it's OK to get it."



Voucher Program Progress Report

07/01/2015 to 12/31/15

- A total of 103 applications have been distributed
- Over 25 different agency/providers have provided information and referrals
- 48 Vouchers have been awarded
- Voucher amount awarded = \$21,300
- Cost share of those 48:
 - 13 have a 10% cost share
 - 3 have a 20% cost share
 - 1 has a 30% cost share
 - Total cost share paid to date = \$424.40

- Amount of reimbursements paid out = \$8395.87 to 22 different individuals
 - August = \$1145
 - September = \$794.15
 - October = \$1563.95
 - November = \$1579.65
 - December = \$3313.12

- Vouchers awarded to individuals in 19 counties across the state
 - Glacier
 - Custer
 - Ravalli
 - Rosebud
 - Cascade
 - Lake
 - Silver Bow
 - Treasure
 - Deer Lodge
 - Wibaux
 - Stillwater
 - Mineral
 - Gallatin
 - Lincoln
 - Sanders
 - Yellowstone
 - Lewis & Clark
 - Missoula
 - Flathead
 - Additional inquiries and information has been provided to people from Hill, Fergus, Beaverhead, Granite, Roosevelt, Richland and Big Horn counties.

- Recipients' ages range from 1 – 95
- Caregivers' ages range from 23 – 87
- \$24,500 per year is the amount dedicated to respite vouchers in years 2 & 3 of the current grant.

▶▶ *The Coalition's Definition of Respite:*

"planned or emergency care provided to an individual with need for support and supervision in order to provide temporary relief to the primary caregiver of that individual"

Montana Lifespan Respite Voucher Program
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

- Available in all of Montana
- Available to all ages (lifespan)
- There must be a primary caregiver to apply for the voucher
- Reimbursement to the caregiver
- There is a cost share based on net income after ongoing medical expenses are deducted
- Applications are for a maximum of \$400 initially
- \$200 additional may be requested within the year (\$600 max per year)
- Caregiver may choose a respite provider through an agency or hire someone privately
 - Respite provider must be at least 18 years of age
 - Respite provider cannot live in the same household as the person being cared for
- Respite Vouchers may be used to help pay for respite care in a facility
- Medical Expenses, with proof of expense, include:
 - Doctor/Clinic bills
 - Dentist bills/ other dental items
 - Vision or hearing specialist bills/devices
 - Insurance premiums, including Medicare supplements
 - Insurance deductibles
 - Prescription medicines
 - Health care facility expenses
- A satisfaction survey must be completed and returned with the reimbursement form to receive reimbursement.