

Lifespan Respite Care Program

Project Summary

Grantee Organization: Massachusetts Department of Mental Retardation

State: Massachusetts

Project Period: September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2013

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Project Overview:

The Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services (DDS), in conjunction with the Massachusetts Respite Coalition, seeks to create a statewide Lifespan Respite Program, the **goal** of which is to increase availability of respite for all populations by creating a centralized, comprehensive statewide information, referral and training process for respite services.

The Grant Implementation Team and the Massachusetts Respite Coalition will convene an Advisory Committee and Board of Directors to achieve this goal and the following **objectives**: develop a statewide respite coalition consisting of family caregivers, respite providers, and members of the aging, disability and health services networks; improve statewide dissemination and coordination of respite care by developing a comprehensive, accessible directory of services; and enhance and expand the availability of Lifespan Respite Services in Massachusetts by improving training and recruitment of providers, and developing a strategic plan and list of policy recommendations.

Outcomes and Products:

Anticipated **outcomes** include: 1) a more collaborative network of respite service providers; 2) an easily accessible, highly visible on-line and print-based guide to respite services; 3) a better trained corps of respite workers and volunteers; and 4) greater availability of respite services.

Products will include: 1) a three-year plan for the development of a Lifespan Respite Services Program; 2) a written assessment of respite services in Massachusetts; 3) a web-and print-based directory of respite services in Massachusetts; 4) a dedicated website; 5) a set of quality and safety guidelines for respite providers; 6) a toolkit for replication of a statewide respite program, including a cost analysis; 7) a training curriculum for workers and volunteers; and 8) a list of policy recommendations.