

Lifespan Respite Care Program

Project Summary

Grantee Organization: Oklahoma Department of Human Services

State: Oklahoma

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

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Project Overview:

The Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Aging Services Division (the ADRC), in partnership with the Oklahoma Respite Resource Network, Developmental Disabilities Services Division, Area Agencies on Aging, the Oklahoma State Departments of Health and Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and the Oklahoma Areawide Services Information System (OASIS) will implement the Lifespan Respite Care Program. The **goal** of the project is to provide respite services to the un-served and underserved caregiver population spanning the lifespan continuum in Oklahoma.

Project **objectives** include: 1) provide technical assistance and seed grants to caregiver and disability-specific support groups, private and faith-based organizations and volunteer groups to start or enhance respite care services with a focus on sustainability; 2) provide respite vouchers to caregivers not eligible for funding; 3) enhance statewide outreach and recruitment efforts through public speaking engagements and development of promotional materials; and 4) strengthen training collaboration.

Outcomes and Products:

Expected **outcomes** of the project include: 1) expanded respite services and choices for caregivers; 2) greater caregiver and care receiver independence; 3) reduction in the economic impact of out-of-pocket expense for respite services; 4) improved physical and mental well-being of the caregiver; and 5) enhanced training opportunities for caregivers and care recipients.

Products from this project will include reports, statewide marketing and information materials, a respite guidebook, training materials; a cost-benefit analysis, links to a network of statewide respite resources via expanded websites and the ADRC; and evaluation results.