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ARKANSAS LIFESPAN RESPITE

SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER



SPOTLIGHT: RESPITE PILOT PROGRAM SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR ALZHEIMER'S AND OTHER RELATED DEMENTIA DIAGNOSES

The Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Arkansas Lifespan Respite Coalition are proud to announce a partnership with the Alzheimer's Association-Arkansas Chapter and Alzheimer's Arkansas Programs and Services to implement a new pilot program titled the "Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregivers Respite Pilot Program," designed specifically to bring respite care supports and services to those providing care to loved ones diagnosed with Alzheimer's or other dementia related illnesses.

Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death in Arkansas with approximately \$396 million dollars on Medicaid spending being dedicated to the disease. More than 93,000 Arkansans are currently providing unpaid care for a loved one with Alzheimer's or other dementia diagnosis. This pilot program will be designed to ensure that money is invested in the families that need access to critical respite services and provide financial assistance in the way of individual caregiver grants. Families and caregivers may use these grants to assist in the cost of respite care.

DHS has budgeted and allocated \$200,000 for the pilot. This funding will be used exclusively to provide caregiver grant funding and focusing on expanding access to caregiver grants to parts of the state who are currently underserved.

COME OUT AND JOIN US! ANNOUNCING LIFESPAN RESPITE OUTREACH EVENTS ACROSS THE STATE

The Arkansas Lifespan Respite Coalition and the Arkansas Department of Human Services are very excited to be able to come out and visit with you once again, the caregivers and respite workers across the state. Upcoming outreach and

educational events can be found on our website. Check back often for updates on our events calendar on where we will be and when. We would love to meet you and discuss exciting new opportunities provided through our respite program. We would appreciate any input on how we can provide the necessary supports and services for you and your community. We are all in this together!

[Learn more](#)



Make plans to join us at events around the state. Details will be announced on the Arkansas Lifespan Respite website.

COMING SOON! INFORMATION ON DATA COLLECTION

In Phase 1 of a statewide data collection project, a survey link was sent out to targeted individuals on February 24, 2022, requesting feedback from unpaid caregivers. This survey was conducted statewide to help DHS and the Arkansas Lifespan Respite Coalition better understand where caregivers are struggling and what is needed to provide better support and services. At the close of the survey on March 11, 2022, responses had been gathered from 66 of the 75 Arkansas counties. This data is currently being analyzed and a summary report created.

Additionally, Phase 2 of the caregiver feedback is now open to the public. The survey link can be found on the DHS' Arkansas Lifespan Respite webpage for all unpaid caregivers in the state of Arkansas to also provide their feedback and let their voices be heard. If you would like to complete the survey, click the button below.

[Take the survey](#)



NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE! FREE, SELF-PACED RESPITE WORKER TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION COURSE

On January 1, 2022, DHS, along with the Arkansas Lifespan Respite Coalition, released a free, online respite care worker training and

certification course. Known as the Respite Care Provider Training (RCPT), these courses are designed for anyone interested in providing respite care to individuals with varying disabilities and ages across the lifespan. Learners work at their own pace, starting and stopping as needed to complete all 10 modules. The RCPT is designed as an entry level training program suitable for individuals who have never provided respite before, along with individuals who currently serve as a respite provider. Certification of the RCPT modules will allow individuals to request to appear as an available respite service provider on Arkansas' new respite search locator.

During the first eight weeks, 68 individuals have registered for the course while eight individuals have already successfully completed the training and received certification. To learn more about the training modules or to sign up for the courses, please click below.

[Click here for more information](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Arkansas Parent Advisory Council will be hosting the 9th Annual Famous Family Bistro Conference virtually on Friday, April 8, 2022, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come join for information, support and prizes!

Topics Include: Respite Care, Struggles to Successes, About the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, Empowering Families, Tools for a Self-Determined Life, LEND and Arkansas Resources, Arkansas Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities, the Impact of COVID on Children and Families, Feeding Struggles and Food Selectivity in Children with ASD, Providing the Ingredients to Successful Access to Care, and School-Based Mental Health Resource for Students and Families.

You must RSVP for the event. To register, click below. To learn more, contact Rodney Farley at (501) 682-1461 or CMSPAC90@yahoo.com.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

