Volunteers needed to participate in respite awareness video

In efforts to launch a wide scale awareness campaign, DHS is looking for anyone interested in participating by sharing their caregiver or respite stories. If you are a family caregiver who needs respite or has used respite, or if you are a respite provider, please reach out to ARLifespan.Respite@arkansas.gov for more information.
Now available: Respite Provider Search Locator

Needing respite but not sure where to find a respite worker?

To better assist family caregivers in finding qualified respite providers or independent respite workers, DHS has built an online, user-friendly search engine available on the DHS website. This search engine provides the caregiver the capability to filter their search by provider name, payment type/method, ages served, or county served. The search results will provide the caregiver with contact information for the provider, link to the provider’s website (if applicable), and any eligibility criteria the provider had for services.

Respite providers included in the search engine may be an agency, other professional entity, or a self-employed/independent individual who has successfully complete the soon-to-be-released Lifespan Respite Care Provider Certification. The search engine is not an exhaustive list with every respite provider in the state. While we strive to provide as much information as possible and as accurately as possible, it is up to the respite provider to request to be placed on the search engine for public access. Respite providers can submit their service information form directly from the search engine.

To use the search engine and find a provider near you, go to: humanservices.arkansas.gov/u/respite-search
Coming soon statewide: Free online respite provider training and certification

On January 1, 2022, DHS, along with the Arkansas Lifespan Respite Coalition, will release 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 can 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 appear as an available respite service provider on Arkansas’ new respite search locator.

Course topics include:

- What is Respite
- Disability Basics for Respite Providers
- Client Care for Respite Providers
- Medication Awareness for Respite Providers
- Safety Procedures for Respite Providers
- Caring for Challenging Moments for Respite Providers
- Wellness, Household, and Respite Activities
- Professional Ethics and Interpersonal Skills for Respite Providers
- Meeting with the Caregiver and Care Recipient
- Next Steps in Becoming a Respite Provider

The course is a product of the Respite Provider Recruitment, Training and Retention Project that Arkansas is participating in with 10 other states nationwide.
Spotlight: Arkansas Lifespan Respite Vouchers

Now taking applications!

On November 1, 2021, DHS- DPSQA’s Choices in Living Resource Center began taking respite voucher applications through the Arkansas Lifespan Respite Voucher Program. Family caregivers may apply for financial assistance in paying for respite support every 90 days, receiving $300 each quarter and up to $1,200 annually.

Click here to learn more about the voucher program or to access the voucher application.

Notable achievements and events

November 2021 was proclaimed by Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson as Lifespan Respite Awareness Month.

To review and read the proclamation in its entirety, go to ar.gov/artifespanrespite