

NEWS RELEASE



South Carolina One of the 1st 10 States Funded Under the Lifespan Respite Care Act

In recognition of the significant contributions and needs facing American caregivers, **The Lifespan Respite Care Act** (<http://www.archrespite.org/PublicLaw.pdf>) was authorized by Congress in 2006. In 2009, funds were made available through the US Administration on Aging to enable states to establish, enhance and expand lifespan respite systems. Respite services are those in which temporary care is provided in out of home and in home settings, depending on the needs of the family and available resources, in order to provide a break for caregivers. The term Lifespan Respite refers to programs which coordinate systems of accessible services for all family caregivers of children, adults and the elderly with disabilities and special needs. The **South Carolina Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging** (<http://www.aging.sc.gov/>), in partnership with the **South Carolina Respite Coalition** (<http://www.screspitecoalition.org/>) and **Family Connection of South Carolina** (<http://www.familyconnectionsc.org/>), is one of the first 10 states to receive a 3 year grant through this program.

Guided by a State Advisory Council made up of respite providers, advocates and consumers, South Carolina's program will work to increase public awareness and the understanding of what respite is and why it is needed. Partners will coordinate existing respite services, identify gaps in service provision and work to build capacity at both state and local levels by recruiting and training volunteer respite providers through faith based organizations and collaborations with programs such as the **Corporation for National and Community Services** (<http://www.nationalservice.gov/>). This grant will also provide outreach to family caregivers by encouraging the use of respite and connecting those in need with respite options, and work to improve information dissemination to family caregivers through existing state resources such as **SC Access** (<https://scaccess.communityos.org/cms/>), **Aging and Disability Resource Centers** (http://www.aging.sc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/CB47D012-3CC5-4B2A-B57D-C06C70E45646/0/ADRCwebpageSummer2007_Updt8Feb2008.pdf) and the **Family-to-Family Health Care Information and Education Center** (http://www.familyconnectionsc.org/programs/family_to_family/).

For more information on South Carolina's Lifespan Respite Care Program and its activities, please continue to check the SCRC website for updates. You may also email questions to screspitecoalition@yahoo.com.