



What is respite (res-pit)?

Respite is short, temporary breaks from providing hands on care for a loved one with a significant disability, special need or chronic illness.

How does the SCRC Voucher Program work?

The focus of the Voucher Program is **CAREGIVER RELIEF**. The SCRC awards vouchers in the amount of \$500 to eligible family caregivers. These vouchers may be used, for example, to pay an in-home agency, an Adult Day Center, or a private individual to provide respite. SCRC staff works with each approved family to find the best respite option for their situation.

Vouchers are only used to pay for breaks from hands on caregiving. They may not be used to:

- Pay the family caregiver directly for the care he/she is providing
- Pay a family member who currently resides in the home to provide care
- Pay for care of a loved one while the caregiver goes to work
- Pay for care that occurred before the voucher was issued
- Pay medical bills or purchase medical supplies
- Offset the cost of paid care already in place

Vouchers are valid for 3 months and may be extended up to 6 months upon request and at the discretion of SCRC staff. Eligible family caregivers may receive 2 vouchers yearly, as program funds are available.

Who is eligible?

Family caregivers providing unpaid care for a loved one with a significant disability, special need or chronic illness, requiring 24/7 care. The SCRC serves all ages of caregiver and care receiver but does focus on parents of children (young or adult) with special needs and family caregivers of disabled or terminally ill adults under the age of 60. Caregivers of elders over the age of 60 may be referred to their county's Area Agency on Aging (AAA)*.

How to apply?

Please call the SCRC office at 803.935.5027 and ask to speak to the Voucher Program Coordinator with any questions or to request an application.

**Coordination with Area Agencies on Aging*

The SCRC works closely with the 10 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) across South Carolina. AAAs, which operate under the SC Department on Aging, are generally the best source of support for caregivers of an elder. If you are caring for an elder and have not applied for respite with the AAA serving your county, the SCRC can provide you with the correct contact information.