

## South Carolina Respite for the Lifespan Respite Voucher Program Description & Eligibility

October 2015 – previous information is no longer valid



### WHAT IS THE SC RESPITE COALITION VOUCHER PROGRAM?

- Financial assistance for respite care (temporary, short-term breaks.)
- Help for qualifying family caregivers who are the main source of care for someone with disabilities, chronic health conditions, mental illness, other special needs, or is aging. The family caregiver is the main focus of this program.
- The SC Respite Coalition also helps families find other respite services and plan for more breaks.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Family caregivers caring for someone of any age with a special need who requires full-time care can call us. The care needs must be certified by a doctor or medical professional. Family caregivers MUST live with the care receiver and be unable to leave them alone. Priority is given to:

- Family caregivers not eligible for other vouchers or respite services;
- Family caregivers who have not received any respite from public sources \*
- Family caregivers of people ages 18 – 60;
- Family caregivers of people on waiting lists; for example: Community Long-Term Care (CLTC), Head and Spinal Cord Injury waiver, SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN);
- Family caregivers trying respite services for the first time.
- Family caregivers who have received a voucher from SCRC before may contact us again.



\* If the care receiver is served by a hospice, CLTC or DDSN (see page 3 for definitions) the family caregiver WILL be considered for specific respite needs not being met by those programs. Since these families have some services that give them breaks, they may not get as much funding as those who have no respite.

NOTE: Families who had recent funding from the Family Caregiver Support Program (including Alzheimer's funds) might NOT be considered. SCRC is working closely with them to coordinate funding and uses a common data base to track who has been served. Our goal is to serve more family caregivers statewide.

**USE OF VOUCHERS:** Family caregivers have some choice in the types of respite used, but the voucher **MUST** be used to give a break from providing care. The family caregiver's task is to get the most out of the budget.

- Vouchers may not be used to pay for:
  - direct services that do not give the family caregiver a break from providing care,
  - care so the family caregiver can go to work,
  - full-time adult or child day care (in or out of home) that is already being used,
  - your bills or adult briefs, nutritional supplies, medicine or clothing,
  - on-going, already established personal care, therapy, or home health services.
- The primary family caregiver will not be paid to provide the care.
- Extended family members not living in the home may be approved by SCRC to provide respite.
- Vouchers are good only for the dates issued. Extensions may be granted in some circumstances.
- Respite services must be provided **BEFORE** payment. Reimbursement will be to the family caregiver.
- Respite services must be provided within the dates of the voucher.

**TIME FRAME: vouchers will be given as long as SCRC has funds.**

Family caregivers who want a break for themselves should call. The main “customer” of this program is the family caregiver, NOT receiver.

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**HOW TO APPLY: We have new funding and our process has changed.**

Family Caregivers should call the office to get started. The old application has expired. IF we believe that you will be eligible, we will send out the current application. This will save everyone time.



If we cannot answer when you call, leave a clear message with your name and phone number, who you take care of, and when is a good time to call you back. Take your time on the message and say your phone number twice. Or leave your e-mail address. We’ll do our best to call you back within a day or two.

**HOW DOES THIS REALLY WORK?** It is up to the family to manage their budget to get the most break time they can. Funds will be approved for up to 3 months, with the possibility of renewal, giving additional funding for another 3 months. Vouchers will be for up to \$500 at a time. Renewal is not guaranteed. It will be determined by your need, other services you have, and how you used the first voucher.

**COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS:** To serve the most families statewide, the S.C. Respite Coalition is working closely with the Family Caregiver Support Programs at the 10 Area Agencies on Aging, Lt. Governor’s office on Aging, the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, and other state and non-profit organizations statewide. Some data is held in a common data base to avoid duplication. SCRC is trying to help the families who are “falling through the cracks,” those for whom no other respite programs exist or are waiting a long time for other respite programs.

**SOCIAL WORKERS:** You may enquire on their behalf, but otherwise, please have your families call us directly. We will not accept applications completed by anyone other than the family caregiver.

**AFTER RESPITE SURVEY:** Family caregivers who receive respite funds are expected to complete a survey after respite. Final payment may be withheld until this is sent to us by mail.

**FACES OF RESPITE:** Consider sharing your own caregiving story to be used in “Faces of Respite” products or on our website. Telling family care giving stories will help us educate the public and our state and local community leaders about respite. This is not required. There will be no penalty if you say “no.”



**South Carolina Respite Coalition**

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## South Carolina Respite for the Lifespan Respite Voucher Program

### DEFINITIONS :

**R**espite = a break for the main caregiver who takes care of someone who needs care from them 24 hours a day.

Respite is for them getting away and relaxing. It is for them to spend time with other family members or friends, doctor or hair appointments, see a movie, sit in the park, read, take a bath, or just sleep...anything that refreshes them. It is for activities they are not able to do now, without this extra funding. The vouchers are small and cannot begin to address full time, on-going care.



**F**amily caregiver = the person, any age, primarily doing the care for a person who is dependent on others 24 hours a day.

**C**are receiver = the person, any age, who needs someone to care for them or arrange for care 24 hours a day. **A statement from a licensed health professional about their need is required.**

**R**espite provider: an organization or individual who takes over doing the care while the family caregiver has a break. These are “professional caregivers.” They can be a privately paid person.



**This voucher will NOT pay the family caregiver to perform the care. It is to give the care giver time off.**

**L**ifespan respite: breaks for all family caregivers no matter their age. This means:

- Parents, grandparents and others caring for children or adults with emotional disorders and mental illness
- People caring for children or adults with disabilities.
- People caring for older adults.
- Siblings and parents in their own mid-life or old age who find themselves caring for a family member with a head and spinal cord injury or a stroke.
- Family caregivers of people with early onset dementia, ALS, MS or other mid-life disorders.
- See [www.archrespite.org](http://www.archrespite.org).

**DDSN:** S.C. Department of Disabilities and Special Needs.

**CLTC:** Community Long Term Care – the S.C. Medicaid Waiver Program that helps people, who might otherwise go to nursing homes, to be cared for in the community.

## South Carolina Respite for the Lifespan Respite Voucher Program - Types of Respite Available

**Organizations described in this section will be assigned the voucher and family caregivers will not have to pay.** SC Respite Coalition makes contracts with them. The organization will do the respite and bill SCRC.

- ❖ **ADULT DAY CARE CENTERS** – Medical model. These are SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) approved centers where adults come for socialization, activity, lunch, the occasional field trip, and exercise, if able. A nurse is there to monitor medical conditions. Many have special programming for both young adults and older adults. A few offer Saturday care. Transportation is usually offered, but family caregivers will have more days of respite if they can transport their loved one. The Coalition has cooperating adult day care programs in most of S.C.



The advantage of group respite is socialization,

- New friends – someone else to be with.
- Activity and exercise
- Transportation can be included
- Medical attention (at center)
- Lower cost – more for your voucher (and maybe in future.)



- ❖ **ADULT DAY PROGRAMS – SOCIAL MODEL.** These are similar to above, but



- Usually operate a shorter day (under 4 hours)
- Do not include nursing care,
- Most only offer 1 to 3 half days a week,
- Some, but not all, offer transportation,
- A meal and snacks are included,
- Incontinence care is given at some or help toileting,
- These are not in every community, unfortunately.

- ❖ **IN-HOME AGENCIES** -- Organizations that recruit, screen, and employ certified nursing assistants (CNAs) or experienced “sitters.” Most can find a provider for several hours or days of respite fairly quickly. Most have done an S.C. Law Enforcement check and TB test on employees. Many require their employees to know C.P.R. (resuscitation techniques.)



- The aide can to provide personal care, heat food and feed meals, while staying with the loved one.
- They might do light housework.
- CNAs are not allowed to give medications, but can help the care receiver to take medicine already counted and prepared by the family caregiver.
- Some agencies will not come for less than 4 hours; some have a minimum of 2 or 3.
- The rate is about \$18 per hour and up.
- Some agencies employ nurses for people with more medical needs. This is harder to find and quite a bit more expensive.

- ❖ **IN-PATIENT FACILITIES** such as nursing homes or hospitals that do respite can be used for overnight stays, but the voucher funds go fast and this is complicated to arrange and schedule. It IS an option.

## THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS MEAN THE FAMILY CAREGIVER IS THE EMPLOYER

They will select the provider, screen them, pay for the services and be reimbursed AFTER providing proof that the respite was given during the voucher period.

- ❖ **SUMMER CAMPS/RECREATION PROGRAMS** - special activities, sports leagues, or classes offered, usually with children or adults with disabilities in mind. The program must be completed and the leader or teacher have signed the request for reimbursement form before the family caregiver will be reimbursed for fees.



Many of these programs want payment at the time of registration, so families pay it and are reimbursed by SCRC, which does not pay for respite in advance.

- ❖ **PRIVATE IN-HOME PROVIDERS** are individuals recruited, chosen, trained and paid by the family caregiver. Family members who do not live in the home are allowed, but family caregivers are encouraged to use the voucher to try out new people, especially if they depend only on one family member for help.



- Individuals must be 18 or older.
- The maximum hourly rate allowed is \$10 per hour.
- Add up at least \$100 in expenses before a request for reimbursement is made.
- Reimbursement may take 30-60 days.

The family caregiver is the “employer” and is responsible for IRS reporting if they pay a provider more than \$1,900 in a calendar year. The family caregiver may want to add a rider to their home owners insurance to cover themselves for liability.



Some IRS web resource articles that may help you:

<http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10021.pdf> - explains what qualifies as Employer/Employee status.

[http://ehow.com/topic\\_584\\_irs frm.html](http://ehow.com/topic_584_irs frm.html) - explains what a 1099 form is.

<http://irs.gov/businesses/small/selfemployed/index.html> - explains to the employee what being self-employed means and what to do when filing taxes, since they were paid over \$1900.00 while providing service in your home.