



Two Family Caregiver-to-Caregiver Peer Support Pilots to be funded through NC's Lifespan Respite Care and Money Follows the Person Projects

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Funding to support two family caregiver to caregiver peer support pilots has been awarded to two agencies serving older adults, people with disabilities and family caregivers in Orange and Rockingham Counties.

The Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services provided this competitive grant opportunity to eligible organizations across the state in collaboration with the Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) through the Lifespan Respite Care and Money Follows the Person Projects.

Family caregivers have often been called the backbone of America's long-term care system. In order to better support these caregivers, each pilot program will develop a volunteer "family caregiver-to-caregiver support" project. Individuals trained as caregiver peers will build a one-on-one relationship with participating family caregivers in order to serve as a source of information and guidance.

Proposals from the following organizations were recommended for awards of up to \$25,000 per year for a possible two-year period:

Aging, Disability & Transit Services of Rockingham County, Inc.

Aging, Disability & Transit Services of Rockingham County, Inc. is a private, nonprofit agency that has been operating in Rockingham County since 1973. Their mission is to enhance the quality of life for all Rockingham County Citizens, with primary focus on senior adults, people with disabilities and their families.

The funding will be used to train and empower caregivers and build an ongoing one-on-one relationship with the caregivers of senior adults and adults with disabilities.

Orange County Department on Aging

Orange County Department on Aging has been a major provider and facilitator of services to older adults in Orange County for over 30 years. With this funding, the organization will develop and implement a Chinese language peer-to-peer caregiver support program targeted at older adult Chinese immigrants and their families. Orange County has experienced a large increase of Asian-American immigrants, reflecting an 85% increase statewide between 2000 & 2010 (2010 US Census Report). And according to the OC Department on Aging, large numbers of Asian families have dependent older adults with few support resources.

Grant monies awarded for this project come from the NC Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Fund. It is a restricted fund for the states to increase home and community-based services (HCBS) or build infrastructure that will lead to an increase in HCBS. MFP and DMA staff, in partnership with the NC MFP Rebalancing Fund Steering Committee, manages these funds.