

Lifespan Respite Technical Assistance Center Approved Proposal Abstract

Summary: The ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center (ARCH) in collaboration with the Administration for Community Living (ACL) will advance Lifespan Respite Technical Assistance (TA) Resource Center activities in six areas: advancing the field of respite by meeting practice needs, enhancing stakeholder involvement, ensuring sustainability, promoting best practices, research, and natural supports for respite. The overarching project goal is to develop and enhance the competence, capability and effectiveness of Lifespan Respite grantees/partners and the respite network to ensure respite is responsive to family caregivers of individuals of all ages and disabilities.

TA Center Objectives: 1) advance respite delivery and practice for all ages and special needs through training/technical assistance; 2) assure Lifespan Respite grantees work with a broad range of stakeholders in program development/design; 3) support long-term capacities and sustainability of lifespan respite programs; 4) identify and disseminate lifespan respite best practices; 5) collect, synthesize, disseminate and stimulate respite and family caregiver supports research; and 6) provide resources to address how respite can support families in their development of natural supports.

Expected Outcomes: 1) Lifespan Respite grantees/partners will experience increased performance and competence; 2) Lifespan Respite grantees will increase the number/diversity of stakeholders in state program development/design; 3) Lifespan Respite grantees and partners will develop long-term sustainability plans; 4) Lifespan Respite grantees/networks will increase awareness of Lifespan Respite best practices; 5) The research agenda of the Expert Panel on Respite Research will be advanced through formation of a funding collaborative to sponsor prospective research in accordance with panel recommendations; 6) Lifespan Respite grantees/partners will increase their awareness of natural supports and relationship to respite.

Expected products: national conference; learning symposiums and collaboratives; webinars and teleconferences; fact sheets; newsletters; best practices report; and a research funding collaborative.