Expectations for Participating in the ARCH Sustainability Learning Collaborative

In February 2017, ARCH hosted a webinar, *Sustaining Lifespan Respite and Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement*. During the webinar, we launched a **Sustainability Learning Collaborative** that meets by phone on a periodic basis (every 2 months or so). We also meet in-person at the Lifespan Respite Grantee and Learning Symposium held in conjunction with the National Lifespan Respite Conference every 12-18 months for those who are able to attend. It is not a requirement to attend the in-person meeting. We invite all current and former Lifespan Respite grantees and primary partners to join the Learning Collaborative and welcome you even if you are new to sustainability or just beginning your work in sustainability planning.

The Learning Collaborative offers participants guidance and support around the sustainability planning process for your Lifespan Respite activities and state respite coalitions. The goals of the Learning Collaborative are to help participants identify what it is they would like to sustain and to take steps toward developing long-term sustainability plans.

The Learning Collaborative involves peer-to-peer learning facilitated by experienced state leaders who participated in the Finance Project’s Sustainability Technical Assistance effort. They are: MaryJo Caruso from Pennsylvania, Sharon Johnson of Nebraska, Amy Nazaire of Massachusetts, and Cheryl Smith from Alabama. Susan Janko Summers with ARCH provides staff assistance.

The Learning Collaborative centers on states’ actual work in sustainability planning. We expect the Learning Collaborative to be highly interactive, with opportunities to engage with other grantees who are successfully navigating, and have made some progress in, the sustainability planning process. The Collaborative works together to share sustainability resources and be fully engaged in discussions about successful sustainability strategies as well as challenges.

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We appreciate and understand that everyone has time limitations. To ensure that the time is well spent, and that the process is as meaningful as possible for all participants, we request that Learning Collaborative members agree on the following expectations for Collaborative participation:

- Participate in as many of the conference calls of the collaborative as possible;
- Review resources and tools shared by facilitators and ARCH staff and be prepared to offer feedback or ask questions;
- Be fully engaged and participate in discussions and respond to inquiries; and
- Be willing to share sustainability materials and resources that you and your coalition or grant partners develop.

Visit the webpage for the ARCH Sustainability Learning Collaborative at [https://lifespanrespite.wildapricot.org/Learning_Collaborative](https://lifespanrespite.wildapricot.org/Learning_Collaborative). If you are interested in joining or have additional questions, please contact Susan Janko Summers at cssummers@earthlink.net.