RESpite:

Caring for the Caregiver
Oklahoma Caregiver Coalition

- Meets Quarterly
- First meeting Sept 2016
- 170+ partners
- Subcommittees were developed from 2016 caregiver survey needs assessment:


NEW website for Oklahoma Caregivers

www.okcares.org

Contact Nadine Walter at nadine.walter@okdhs.org

Statewide resources for caregivers across the lifespan:

- Respite locator
- Support groups
- Legal support
- Grandparents or other relatives raising children
- Advocacy opportunities
- Join the OK Caregiver Coalition
- Upcoming events
For our purposes, a caregiver is an unpaid individual who provides ongoing care for someone with a chronic health condition or a disability.

- Parent of a child with special needs
- Grandparent or other relative raising a child
- Spouse/Partner
- Friend/Neighbor
- Adult Sibling
- Child caring for parent
Service Navigation

- County Coordinators help families navigate the service systems to find, access and coordinate the services their child needs.

- County Coordinators help providers locate services outside their agencies for their clients.

- Connect families to community and state resources including application assistance.
Lifespan Respite Grant Voucher Program can help Oklahoma’s caregivers $400 to be used within 4 months;

Educational Vouchers: Caregivers attending an educational event/conference $100 full day voucher or a one time $50 half day voucher.

Emergency Vouchers available. Examples, surgery or funeral. A one time $300 voucher is available to eligible caregivers.
In Response to COVID–19

- Increased the amount from $300 to $400
- Respite Provider can reside in the home
- Lifted Income Restrictions from $90K to no household income
- Online application process for Caregivers that have access to internet and email
Quotes from Family Caregivers

“Care for my child with special needs is 24/7. I just need a break every once in awhile.”

“I feel like a person on a bungee cord, constantly being yanked back. I have little to no life and feel edgy and anxious all the time now. I now have high blood pressure.”

“I am raising my grandchild and caring for my mother. Everyday brings a new challenge. Caregiving is the most important job I have ever had.”