

ARCH Voucher Learning Collaborative

February 10, 2021



Agenda

- Introductions and Polling Questions
- Future Discussion Topics
- Changes to State Respite Voucher Programs due to COVID-19
- Discussion of new Respite Voucher Survey
- Breakout rooms for peer support
- Report Back

Welcome to the Voucher Learning Collaborative

Learning Collaborative Leaders:

Nadine Walter, Lifespan Respite Grant Manager, Aging Services, OKDHS

Robyn Boswell and Ronelle Baker (for Aietah Stephens), Sooner SUCCESS, OK

Tracy Kahlo, PAVE and Lifespan Respite Washington

Voucher Learning Collaborative Archived Calls, Webinars and Resources

<https://lifespanrespite.wildapricot.org/Voucher-Learning-Collaborative>

2018 Voucher Survey Results

[https://lifespanrespite.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Voucher Learning Collaborative/National%20Respite%20Survey%20Report.pdf](https://lifespanrespite.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Voucher_Learning_Collaborative/National%20Respite%20Survey%20Report.pdf)

Polling Question #1

Are you currently implementing a respite voucher program to help family caregivers pay for in-home or out-of-home respite?

- YES
- NO
- Under consideration
- In the planning stages



Future Discussion Topics

- *See Practical Considerations for Respite Voucher Programs*

[https://lifespanrespite.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Voucher Learning Collaborative/Sept%2020%20Call%20-%20Practical%20Considerations%20for%20Voucher%20Programs.pdf](https://lifespanrespite.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Voucher_Learning_Collaborative/Sept%2020%20Call%20-%20Practical%20Considerations%20for%20Voucher%20Programs.pdf)

Polling Question #2:

Please identify
your top 2 issues
for future
discussion. Select
only 2.

- **Caregiver and Care Recipient Eligibility**
- **Type of Voucher Program** (e.g., consumer-direction; reimbursement to family caregivers or providers; requiring family caregivers to be employers; use of licensed/vetted agencies only; allow family, friends and support networks to be providers, etc.)?
- **Respite provider requirements/qualifications** (e.g., age limitations, training requirements, background checks, etc.)
- **Administrative Issues** (e.g., use of fiscal management agency; policy and procedures manuals; data collection tools; case management; staff training, etc.)
- **Liability and Fraud Prevention**
- **Tax Issues**
- **Program Changes due to COVID-19 Pandemic** (e.g., hours, duration, eligibility)
- **Other** (please describe in the chat)



CHANGES TO RESPITE

VOUCHER PROGRAMS DURING COVID-19



Medicaid HCBS Waivers: Appendix K Amendments

- Allow states to add respite if they didn't provide it previously
- Change who can provide respite, e.g., hire a relative of a waiver participant to provide services
- Pay family caregivers
- Temporarily increase payment rates to maintain provider capacity
- Increase or provide for unlimited hours of respite
- Expand allowable HCBS settings where services may be provided
- Expand self-direction
- Read more <https://archrespite.org/Covid-19-Respite-Resources#Medicaid>

Lifespan Respite Grantees and Partners

Alternative Respite Opportunities

- **Alabama** – live Facebook education and support sessions
- **New York** – Robotic pets to reduce social isolation
- **Tennessee** - Mini-grants for caregivers wishing to take a self-care break through exercise, reading or films; and distributed computer tablets for those families needing technology to access online resources and support.
- **Wisconsin** – Training for Caregivers on the New Normal; care package delivery

Lifespan Respite Grantees and Partners

Respite Voucher Program Modifications

- ❑ **Oklahoma** - increased voucher amount; expanded provider eligibility to include someone who lives with the caregiver and care recipient; and lifted household income requirement.
- ❑ **North Dakota** - waived requirement that provider cannot reside in the same household as the care recipient; allowed virtual respite; made funding available regardless of how much respite caregiver is receiving from other public funding sources; and increased flexibility in the application process.
- ❑ **Nevada** - offered options for eyes-on respite including virtual respite, front porch/fresh air respite, and constructing interior barriers to allow respite to continue in families experiencing additional caregiving stress due to Covid-19.
- ❑ **Nevada, Colorado and Virginia** extended time limits for voucher use to maximize flexibility in meeting family caregiver needs.
- ❑ **New Case Studies**
<https://archrespite.org/national-respite-guidelines-for-covid-19#Cases>

Polling Question #3

Which changes did you make, if any, to your respite voucher program as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Please check all that apply.

- Changes to Caregiver/Care Recipient Eligibility (e.g., income requirements, disability type)
- Changes to who can provide respite (e.g., provider residing in the home; provider age or relationship to care recipient, etc.)
- Changes to dollar amount of the respite voucher
- Changes to respite voucher duration (e.g., extending the time period for use)
- Changes to allowable respite locations
- Changes to respite definition
- No Changes
- N/A
- Other (please describe in the chat)

A magnifying glass is positioned over a bar chart. The chart displays data for four quarters: Q1, Q2, Q3, and Q4. Each quarter has two bars, one blue and one green. The blue bars are consistently taller than the green bars. The magnifying glass is centered over the Q2, Q3, and Q4 data points. The text 'Voucher Respite Survey' is overlaid in white with a drop shadow across the center of the image. A '1,000' label is visible on the right side of the chart's vertical axis.

Voucher Respite Survey

Purpose

- Update Voucher Implementation Approaches among Lifespan Respite Grantees
- Document changes due to COVID-19

Survey Categories

- Demographics, numbers and eligibility of populations served
- Respite provider qualifications
- Voucher implementation issues, such as
 - Funding
 - Process for verification of caregiver income
 - Working caregiver eligibility
 - Reimbursement of caregiver or provider
 - Administrative time spent per voucher or caregiver
 - Liability and fraud prevention issues
 - Case management
 - Written guidelines for planned or emergency vouchers
 - Data collection methods

Completing the Survey

- ❑ Only one person per state please. Should be the primary person responsible for voucher program administration.
 - Lifespan Respite state agency lead,
 - Representative from state respite coalition, or
 - Organization that administers the vouchers on behalf of the grantee.

- ❑ Please complete online by March 15, 2021 at:
<https://bbmc.ouhsc.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=M83YC99K9Y>