

Nebraska Lifespan Respite Network

The Nebraska Respite Network is a statewide System that houses and coordinates information regarding respite resources. The network recruits respite providers, offers training for providers and consumers, provides information and referral regarding respite resources and services, markets availability and need for respite and matches families with appropriate respite providers.

LB 148 (1999) Established the Nebraska Lifespan Respite Program.

Based on this legislation the Department established six Lifespan Respite services programs to serve the then six HHSS service areas to coordinate respite resources across Nebraska.

The Lifespan Respite Network was established to:

1. Create a single point of contact within each Service area to provide information and referral regarding respite resources;
2. Increase the public's awareness of respite and provide community outreach by involving interested stakeholders and building on existing resources;
3. Increase access to respite resources by recruiting appropriate providers and promoting the expansion of respite services;
4. Ensure training is available for both providers and consumers by coordinating existing training resources and recruiting additional resources to meet the training needs across the lifespan; and
5. Implement ongoing evaluation of providers, caregivers and the Respite system to determine unmet needs.

A Statewide toll-free number was established as a means to connect individuals with the appropriate Service Area regarding respite information. Anyone in Nebraska can dial 1-866-Respite and be automatically routed to the appropriate Service area for assistance.

The six areas have used the funds to:

1. Recruit Providers -
2. Provide Training - The Nebraska Lifespan Respite Network offers training on regular bases for providers and caregivers.
3. Market Respite Services –
Network Coordinators meet regularly with Service Coordinators from Health and Human Service System, Developmental Disabilities, Area Agencies on Aging, Independent Living Centers, and the Early Development Network to identify gaps and barriers and to recruit providers as needed. Marketing activities have included flyers, radio, television and newspaper ads along with public speaking.