



Eligibility Information

Welcome to the Lifespan Respite Washington Voucher Program, that began on March 14, 2014! With additional funding, we have the ability to continue to provide a limited number of vouchers as a resource for unpaid family caregivers of all ages who have no access to respite care and other supports through current systems. (Eligibility requirements are noted below.)

Goal. Respite—or short breaks—is valuable in keeping family members together while reducing social, economic, and health issues that affect family relationships and employment. Thanks to continued federal funding* from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Administration on Aging, this program offers respite to partially fill gaps in current services in Washington State.

Instructions. Attached is the program application for unpaid family caregivers who have not used a voucher through this program for a year or more. (Those who have used a past voucher can also apply if after one year, but priority will be given to those who have not already received a voucher.) Fill it out and return the application as soon as possible by fax or mail. If you provide care to more than one care receiver, simply print out page two for each care receiver/family member. There will be only one award granted per household. You may **fax or postal mail** your application, as noted on the bottom of page two.

Qualifications. It is possible that caregivers of individuals who need support with personal care, supervision, and monitoring will find themselves in need of respite (or short breaks) from time to time, no matter the age, condition, or geographical region in Washington State. The purpose of this federal grant is to meet planned respite needs for *unserved* and *unpaid* family caregivers. Respite occurs for “caregivers” through respite provider agencies (RPA)—but not individual providers. The following criteria must be in place for the family needing care:

1. The **unpaid** family caregiver provides care for a family member, friend, or neighbor (broadening the definition of “family”); both live in Washington State.
2. The caregiver lives with/provides care for **40 or more hours per week**, including supervision, monitoring, meeting personal needs (e.g., transportation or errands) or direct personal care.
3. The family member providing the care/supervision for the child or adult with a special need is **not paid for their services**.
4. The care receiver is of **any age** from across the lifespan.
5. The needed respite care is **not emergent** (crisis-related); some time needs to be allowed for planning the respite event/episode.
6. The caregiver may not sign up for respite with a provider agency without **first being notified in writing** by Lifespan Respite Washington/Easter Seals Washington.

*Grant #90LI0017-01-00, “Building Integrated and Sustainable Lifespan Respite Care Programs”, administered through the Washington State Aging & Long-Term Support Administration, AL TSA. AL TSA contracts with Easter Seals Washington as host to the Lifespan Respite Washington coalition and its voucher project.



- 7. The care receiver has a “special need”.
- 8. The family is not the recipient of in-home or out-of-home services through other **publicly-funded** programs that give caregivers a break, such as those provided through the Veterans Administration (VA), Community Options Program Entry System (COPEs), Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver, Family Caregiver Support Program, Foster Care, or the like.

However, the family caregiver can receive a respite voucher if the caregiver is on a wait list and **not scheduled to receive services** from a formal respite care program within the next six months.

- 9. The caregiver has not received respite through Lifespan Respite Washington for a period of one year.
- 10. The caregiver is applying for this no-cost program because s/he **does not typically have the means to pay** for respite services independent of this program. Caregivers need to provide generalized family income information on the application.
- 11. Caregivers are **not guaranteed** the maximum number of dollars available; some may receive smaller vouchers based on the type of respite requested.
- 12. Caregivers must agree to work **with authorized Respite Provider Agencies (RPA)**. Individual (independent) providers—including other family members, friends, or registered providers—may not be used for this respite voucher system. However, some areas in the state may not have a contracted provider. A caregiver may suggest an agency to use that is not currently being used. Efforts may be made to contract with this agency if they meet eligibility requirements and time constraints to serve the family.
- 13. Vouchers will be awarded to meet grant requirements, which could be on a first-come, first-served basis, according to geography, or other factors. Criteria for awards and use of the vouchers are subject to change to best meet the needs of a varied group of caregivers.

SPECIAL NEED: As described by the Lifespan Respite Act of 2006, “special need” means:

Adult. An individual 18 years of age or older who requires care or supervision to:

1. Meet the person’s basic needs;
2. Prevent physical self-injury or injury to others; or
3. Avoid placement in an out-of-home, long-term care setting.

Child. An individual less than 18 years of age who requires care or supervision beyond that required of children generally to:

1. Meet the child’s basic needs; or
2. Prevent physical injury, self-injury, or injury to others.

For additional and/or updated information about this respite voucher system (definitions, selected/contracted respite provider agencies, other helpful links and information), please check out the website, www.lifespanrespitewa.org. If you do not have access to the internet and no-one to print it off for you, please contact the Lifespan Respite Program Coordinator, lporter@sssc.org.



11627 Airport Road, Suite B
Everett, WA 98204

For additional information or to return application, contact:

Program Coordinator
LIFESPAN RESPITE WASHINGTON
www.lifespanrespitewa.org

Phone: 425.740.3788, x 125, or 1.800.422.2024 (messages are date/time-stamped)
FAX: 425.290.5445