



# Montana Lifespan Respite Voucher Program

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# Previously...

- ▶ Lifespan Respite Demonstration Grant
  - Develop statewide coalition
  - Develop website
  - Increase caregiver/public awareness
    - PSA
    - Video "What a Relief"



# Currently...

- ▶ Lifespan Sustainability Grant
  - Simplify caregiver access
  - Reduce barriers
  - Increase caregiver awareness
  - Implement sustainability plan

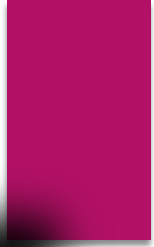




“

It's OK to need it,  
it's OK to want it,  
and it's OK to get it!

”



# Barriers for Caregivers

- ▶ Lack of funding
- ▶ Shortage of Respite providers



# Person-Centered Voucher Program



- ▶ Caregivers choose their own provider
- ▶ Caregivers may use an agency's providers
- ▶ Caregiver is reimbursed for respite received

# Application for Respite Voucher

- ▶ Demographics including email
- ▶ Veteran status of caregiver & care recipient
- ▶ Reason for need, area of need
- ▶ Living arrangement





# Application for Respite Voucher cont.

- ▶ Type of respite needed
- ▶ Other respite services received
- ▶ Financial information
  - ▶ Income
  - ▶ Medical Expense



# Additional Information

- ▶ Modified Caregiver Strain Index
  - Sent with application before respite use
  - Sent in after use of respite
- ▶ Lesson learned, changes made



# Calculating the Cost Share

- ▶ Care recipient under 18 – caregiver's income
- ▶ Care recipient over 18 – care recipient's income
- ▶ Less medical expenses paid out of income



# When Application is Complete

- ▶ Phone call to caregiver (within 2 days)
- ▶ Notification of awarded voucher & cost-share amount
- ▶ Explanation of how the process works
- ▶ Award letter, reimbursement forms, satisfaction survey & information sent



# Reimbursement

- ▶ Reimbursement form
  - Signed by both caregiver & respite provider
  - Activity of caregiver during respite
  - Satisfaction survey included
  - Check sent within 2 weeks



# All About the Money

- ▶ Vouchers usually begin at \$400
- ▶ A request for an additional \$200 may be filled out
- ▶ Maximum of \$600 per calendar year
- ▶ May receive a voucher each year



# Public Awareness

- ▶ PSA about the Voucher program
  - Radio
  - Television
- ▶ Brochures
- ▶ Article in AARP Bulletin & other newsletters



# Respite at last...



"Dad came to live with us in 2004. He had a stroke three weeks before he turned 100 (in 2013) and was in rehab for a month. I quit my job to take care of him. My daughter and husband gave me short breaks to go get groceries or run errands. We finally got respite in 2016 through the Lifespan Respite Voucher Program. It has been so nice as it gives my husband and me a chance to do a few things together."



# Thanks!



“Thanks to your program, I am able to keep my Mother in my home, to live out her years. I am grateful for the financial gift your program offers, as caregiving requires much patience. Thank you for blessing both of us!”