

Virginia Lifespan Respite Program and Virginia Caregiver Coalition

Virginia's Lifespan Respite Program is now listed on the ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center website: <http://archrespite.org/lifespan-programs>

ARCH – Access to Respite Care and Help – is a service of the Chapel Hill Training - Outreach Project Inc.

The Family Caregiver Alliance and the ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center have received funding from the United States Administration on Aging to collaborate on projects that offer assistance to the Aging and Lifespan Respite Networks for caregiver program development, including Lifespan Respite Programs. To learn more about the partnership, access training materials, receive specialized Technical Assistance for your program and practice, and sign up for the Newsletter of the Technical Assistance Centers, please go to www.caregiver.org or call 800-445-8106 or www.archrespite.org or call 703-256-2084.

In addition to its participation in the ARCH National Lifespan Respite Program via its Lifespan Respite Care Program, the Virginia Caregiver Coalition continues to be an active member of the National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC) Advocacy's Task Force – <http://www.caregiving.org>. The National Alliance for Caregiving is dedicated to being the foremost national resource on family caregiving to improve the quality of life for families and care recipients. The Advocacy Task Force is a group of 10 Coalition Representatives from 10 states (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Kansas, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Utah and Virginia) that are working with the Alliance in four key areas:

1. What's going on in states – information sharing
2. Best Practices and Strategies they have from being a coalition
3. This is a group that would be a source of technical assistance (advisory role) based on their experience and being leaders of policy
4. This group would identify priorities for national level information sharing (if there is legislation that is working great at the state level, how can it be moved forward or replicated at the national level)

The Virginia Caregiver Coalition has shared its expertise at various activities sponsored by NAC.

**Virginia Lifespan Respite Care Program
Project Summary
ARCH Technical Assistance Website**

Grantee Organization: Virginia Department for the Aging

State: Virginia

Project Period: August 1, 2011 to July 31, 2014

Contact: Ellen Nau (Ellen.nau@vda.virginia.gov)

Project Overview:

The Virginia Department for the Aging in partnership with the Virginia Caregiver Coalition, the Aging and Disability Resource Center and other key partners will implement a Lifespan Respite Care Program in the state. The **goal** of the project is to build a statewide coordinated caregiver respite system for families providing support to individuals of any age, and/or with any disability or chronic condition.

The following **objectives** will be achieved: (1) build an integrated and sustainable lifespan respite infrastructure with the Coalition at the core; (2) strengthen the ID and DD voice, embedding it into the Code of VA and fully integrating it with the ADRCs; (3) assist caregivers in obtaining information about and access to respite care services; (4) expand the ADRC database with respite services for all ages and disabilities; (5) develop the “Family Caregiver Solution Center,” with web based tools and webinars; (6) train and recruit respite workers/volunteers with a statewide campaign, webinars and specialized trainings; and (7) develop and secure funding for an Emergency Family Respite Care Voucher Program for caregivers unable to afford respite in an emergency.

Outcomes and Products:

Anticipated **outcomes** include (1) increases in respite care listings and referrals by ADRC partners; (2) increases in caregiver knowledge and preparedness to use respite; and (3) increases in volunteer preparedness to provide respite services.

Products from the project will include a survey of respite services and funding sources; “Ask an Expert” columns in statewide publications; E-Quicktips; educational/promotional flyers; caregiver and respite worker/volunteer webinars; an implementation plan, donor report and budget for emergency family respite care voucher program; and conference presentations and abstracts.