



# News Release

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Aug. 5, 2011**

**For More Information, Contact**

A.J. Hostetler, Public Relations Director  
aj.hostetler@drs.virginia.gov  
804-662-7372

## **VDA WINS GRANT TO SUPPORT CAREGIVER RESPIRE SERVICES NETWORK**

**(RICHMOND, Va.)** — The Virginia Department for the Aging will use a new \$200,000 grant to support a statewide network of coordinated caregiver respite services to assist Virginians with disabilities or chronic conditions and the families who provide their care.

Under the grant, VDA will work with the Virginia Caregiver Coalition to educate and inform Virginians about respite care, or short-term, temporary relief for those who are caring for family members, and the availability of services.

“The need for respite care services is universal throughout the Commonwealth,” said VDA Interim Commissioner Jim Rothrock. “Everyone at one time or another is a caregiver or care recipient. If you are responsible for caring for someone, whether young or old, you are an important person in that person’s life. When in place, this network will help provide support to those important individuals so they can continue to care for those who need it.”

Virginia is one of six states to win a grant this year from the federal Administration on Aging to implement the Lifespan Respite Care Program. Grants funded under the Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006 create programs that are coordinated systems of accessible, community-based respite care services for family caregivers of children or adults with special needs.

In addition to the federal funding for the three-year project, Virginia will provide \$66,892 to help strengthen statewide dissemination and coordination of respite care, improve access to respite programs and enhance the quality of respite care services. The ultimate goal is to reduce the strain on family caregivers so they can continue to provide care for their loved ones.

“In addition to better coordinating existing respite care services, this program provides the opportunity to raise public awareness of the critical importance and availability of these services,” Rothrock said.

To build the respite care network VDA will:

- Work with the Virginia Caregiver Coalition to strengthen its role as the state-level council advocating for respite care;
- Coordinate with VirginiaNavigator, the Commonwealth’s family of websites providing connection to services for you or your loved ones, to expand the listing of public and private respite care available to individuals of all ages with disabilities or chronic conditions;
- Train and recruit respite workers and volunteers; and
- Develop an Emergency Family Respite Care Voucher Program to support emergency respite services.

To learn more about VirginiaNavigator and available services, visit [www.virginiannavigator.org](http://www.virginiannavigator.org). For more about the Lifespan Respite Care Program, go to [www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA\\_Programs/HCLTC/LRCP/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/LRCP/index.aspx).

###

The Virginia Department for the Aging fosters the independence and well-being of older Virginians and supports their caregivers through leadership, advocacy and oversight of state and community programs and guides the Commonwealth in preparing for an aging population. Visit VDA online at [www.vda.virginia.gov](http://www.vda.virginia.gov).