

## STATE FACT SHEET

### ILLINOIS RESPITE COALITION

#### Start-Up Process

- In 1998, The Illinois Respite Coalition (IRC) started out as a grassroots organization with parents, respite providers and community leaders. Technical assistance was provided by ARCH.
- In 2001, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) received federal funding to develop six demonstration grants and funded the IRC. Lifespan respite was offered for the first time to families in Illinois.
- In 2018 to date, DHS,DDD respite grant funding received to provide respite to family caregivers of loved ones with a diagnosed intellectual/developmental disability.
- In 2021 through the Administration for Community Living with IDHS,DDD as our lead agency, the IRC will be able to provide emergency respite care funding statewide for eligible caregivers.\*

#### Structure

- The IRC has a volunteer Board of Directors that serves as leadership for the coalition.
- The IRC has bylaws, a budget, and program plans and policies that were created to carry out activities to support families and primary caregivers.

#### Staff

- For statewide assistance, please call 866-ILL-RESP, or email us at: [ilrespitcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:ilrespitcoalition@gmail.com), visit our website: [illinoisrespitecoalition.org](http://illinoisrespitecoalition.org)

#### Funding

- Federal Funding under the Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006. IRC received funding as one of the first states in the pilot program in 2009. We will continue to apply for future Federal funding as available and appropriate
- State funding received through the Department of Children and Family Services, DCFS through 2018.
- State funding received through the Illinois Department of Human Services DHS, DDD Division of Developmental Disabilities.
- Funding through Christopher Reeve Foundation, 2019.

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- The IRC is one of ten (10) states chosen to participate in a pilot training program to create virtual respite care training in Illinois. The grant is provided in partnership with the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin (RCAW), ARCH National Respite Network, and the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP).

### ***Meetings and Communication***

- The IRC Board of Directors meets four times each year.
- Trainings are offered as requested to primary family caregivers and providers.
- On-going communication is provided through a toll-free number, email, Facebook, twitter and website.
- Respite provider meetings to share and collaborate annually.

### ***Major Activities***

- The IRC provides services to any family caregiver or provider in the state of Illinois needing respite information, referrals, and resources.
- The IRC provides emergency respite support when funding is available to eligible caregivers across the lifespan in crisis/emergency situations statewide. Funding currently available.
- The IRC provides in-home respite in over 25 Counties in Illinois through a DHS funded grant to caregivers with loved ones with intellectual/developmental disabilities.
- The IRC is dedicated to increasing public awareness of the importance of “Lifespan Respite” and advocates support for universal access to quality respite services for residents of the State of Illinois.
- Federal funding through the Administration for Community Living, Administration on Aging, Lifespan Respite Care Program: State Program Enhancement Grants, with IDHS, DDD as lead agency five-year statewide enhancement grant.

### ***State Contact Information:***

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