

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | Dec. 11, 2019

Stakeholders to meet Dec. 12 about grant help available to support family caregivers

BISMARCK, N.D. – Caring for a loved one of any age whose health or disabling condition prevents them from taking care of their own personal needs is both rewarding and challenging. Having time available to run errands, rest and recharge, known as respite, can help family caregivers continue to provide good care.

The North Dakota Lifespan Respite Care Coalition wants more caregivers to know that respite help is available. The coalition is meeting tomorrow, Dec. 12, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Central Time, at AARP North Dakota's office in Bismarck to discuss progress in connecting caregivers to resources and support through North Dakota's Lifespan Respite Care grant.

At the meeting, members will share updates about their organizations' activities. Subcommittees on regional respite care forums and outreach and public relations will provide updates, and a representative from Lutheran Social Services will brief members about programs under development to support caregivers in the Jamestown region.

Representatives from the North Dakota Department of Human Services will give a progress report on the federal Lifespan Respite Care Grant utilization and funding that may be available to pay for respite care when caregivers have a planned, unplanned or emergency situation and need someone else to step in and continue caring for their loved one.

This is a public meeting, and the agenda is available online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/2019/12-12-lifespan-respit-grant-stakeholder-meeting.pdf.

North Dakota's Aging and Disability Resource Link can help individuals find information on services to help them maintain or improve their quality of life. Information is available at <https://carechoice.nd.assistguide.net> and toll-free at 1-855-462-5465 or 711 (TTY).

AARP, which supports community-based services, is a partner with the department and facilitates the stakeholder coalition.

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodation to participate in the meeting can contact Mary Wetz, North Dakota Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division, at 701-328-4643, toll-free 855-462-5465, 711 (TTY) or mwetz@nd.gov.

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