

Respite Voucher Program – Guide for Families and Providers

The North Central Texas Area Agency on Aging provides respite vouchers to eligible caregivers based on the availability of funds.

Eligibility Criteria:

- **Informal Caregiver:** Caregivers must be unpaid.
- **Residence in Service Area:** Care receivers must live in one of the 14 counties in the North Central Texas service area. These include Collin, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell and Wise counties.
- **Relationship with Care Receiver:** Caregivers must fall into at least one of the following categories:
 - Are providing care to a dependent person age 60 and over.
 - Are providing care to a person who has Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder.
 - Are at least 55 years old and caring for one or more grandchildren under the age of 18.
 - Are at least 60 years old and caring for an adult with severe disabilities who is not a biological child.
- **Unmet Need:** Care receivers are not receiving comparable services, such as attendant services through the STAR+PLUS program.
- **Financial Need:** Caregivers are unable to pay for respite services. The North Central Texas Area Agency on Aging targets households with gross income of no more than \$45,000 per year.

Targeting Criteria—Caregivers of Older Adults: The North Central Texas Area Agency on Aging gives priority to caregivers of older adults and adults with severe disabilities who:

- Care for someone who has Alzheimer's and/or impairments of two or more activities of daily living.
- Care for someone who has been hospitalized within the last two weeks.
- Have had to cut back on work hours because of care responsibilities, and/or have experienced physical/emotional problems because of care responsibilities.
- Care for someone who has no other support—either paid or unpaid
- Lives in the same home as the care receiver.

Targeting Criteria—Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: The North Central Texas Area Agency on Aging gives priority to grandparents who:

- Care for grandchildren who are medically fragile or have special needs.
- Provide care to more than one person (i.e. grandchild, elderly family member, disabled adult).
- Grandparents who have had a hospitalization within the last four weeks, and/or have experienced physical problems because of care responsibilities.
- Care for grandchildren who have no other support—either paid or unpaid
- Grandparent's income is at or below poverty level (\$1,472 for individual, \$1,992 for a couple). This income doesn't include the grandchild's income.

How It Works:

Request for application packet by mail. Caregivers interested in applying for respite vouchers should call the North Central Texas Area Agency on Aging at 1-800-272-3921 and request a Respite Packet to be mailed to them.

Vouchers issued directly to applicant (caregiver). Once approved, vouchers for respite care will be issued by the AAA and sent to the applicant. The applicant may then use the vouchers to purchase respite service from a provider of his or her choice.

Minimum qualifications of respite providers. Providers must be 18 years of age and can be anyone except immediate family living in the home.

Liability issues. Because the caregiver is given full freedom to hire the respite provider of his or her choice, the liability issues reside between the caregiver and the provider.

How is the provider paid? After respite service is given, the voucher needs to be filled out by the family and the provider and returned to the AAA. The AAA will then send payment to the respite provider. Payment is usually made within two weeks of the AAA's receipt of the properly completed voucher.