Colorado Respite Care Project
2011 - 2014 Summary

In 2011, Colorado was awarded a federal lifespan grant to increase and support respite care across the lifespan through the Colorado Respite Care Project. The Project’s core partners include the Colorado Respite Coalition, Easter Seals Colorado, the Chronic Care Collaborative and the State Unit on Aging. To learn more about the Project, please contact Meghan Baskett at mbasketteastersealscolorado.org.

Training

- The Project offered trainings throughout each year across the state.
- Over 3,100 individuals were trained in urban and rural settings.
- The Project co-developed a unique training model that allows summer camp counselors to earn college credit while working in the field with individuals with disabilities.
- Several different trainings were offered but all covered lifespan care for all disabilities. Participants included caregivers, professional providers, community members, volunteers and students.

Grants

- Grants were distributed statewide to agencies providing respite across the lifespan and disability spectrum. The Project awarded 28 grants totaling $146,950. Grants ranged from $1,000 to over $27,000.
- Grant funds came from state general allocation and federal grant support.

Advocacy

- In 2012, the Project advocated for HB12-1226, which passed. The Bill imposes a surcharge for crimes committed against at-risk populations, and funds will be distributed as respite grants as the fund grows annually.
- Project committee members have met with District Attorneys and judges across the state to educate them about HB12-226 and the importance of respite care.
- The Project also advocated for state general funds to support respite through grants and received $150,000 in 2013 and $250,000 in 2014.

Regional Accomplishments

- The Project hosted three Summits in 2013 in Grand Junction, Denver and Colorado Springs.
- The Summits brought stakeholders together and focused on identifying gaps in respite resources and services and developing long-term regional goals.
• The result of the Summits was the formation of three regional coalitions – the Northern Colorado Respite Coalition, the Southern Colorado Respite Coalition and the Western Slope Respite Coalition.

Website, Social Media & Marketing

• The Project redesigned and enhanced its website, www.coloradorespitecoalition.org, in 2012. The website includes resources for caregivers, Project announcements and an online database to help connect families with respite providers.
• The Respite Locator has over 450 providers and is growing weekly. The Locator helps families find providers in their area that can best meet their needs.
• The Project also uses social media (Facebook and Twitter) to increase awareness, share respite news and connect with families and agencies.
• Additionally, the Project has used print media, radio and TV to increase awareness statewide.