The goal of the Caregiver Support Program is to lessen the strain experienced by family caregivers by providing individual consultations, respite assistance, and connection to support groups, counselling and classes.

Caregiver respite vouchers may be available to provide support for persons involved in an on-going caregiving relationship with a person 60 years of age or older, or younger with a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease or a related dementia.

Respite services give caregivers a much-needed break from the demands of caring for a loved one and household management. Respite care will help both the caregiver and the person receiving care. These services can be provided in the caregiver/care receiver’s home, at an adult day program, or for a short-term stay in a long-term care community.

To explore the options of caregiver support, please call the Office on Aging to schedule a caregiver consultation.

Prior to a consultation a Caregiver Assessment form needs to be completed by the primary caregiver and returned to the Office on Aging. Ideally, the Caregiver Assessment is completed prior to a caregiver consultation, however if needed, the care coordinator can assist the caregiver in completing the assessment form at the initial consultation.

During the initial Caregiver Consultation, the care coordinator can help connect the caregiver to resources and will discuss services and support and review the option of a respite care voucher. A care consultation is scheduled in either the caregiver’s home, the home of the person receiving care, or at a mutually acceptable location at a time convenient for everyone.

The completed Assessment will determine if the person receiving care needs assistance in at least two (2) Activities of Daily Living categories: bathing/showering, dressing, use of the toilet, walking and transferring, managing personal care needs and/or needs supervision due
RESPITE VOUCHER STEPS CONTINUED:

to memory or behavioural concerns. If a care recipient has care needs in a minimum of two activities of daily living, then a respite plan and voucher can be discussed.

☐ Respite care can be provided by a family member (one not living in the same home as the care receiver), by a friend or a service provider such as a home care agency.

☐ Based on the respite plan developed during the consultation process, a respite voucher allocation amount is approved for specified respite services.

☐ Respite services are to be paid for in advance by the caregiver who in turn completes the Request for Payment form. This form must be completed and signed by the caregiver and returned to the Office on Aging in order to request a reimbursement for services provided. A check will then be sent to the caregiver as reimbursement for the respite services provided.

☐ The respite voucher allocation amount will vary for a six-month period based on respite needs. The voucher periods are 7/1 – 12/31 and 1/1 – 6/30.

☐ Each caregiver is required to track their own respite expenses and expenses over the voucher allocation will not be reimbursed.

☐ Care receivers currently participating in the Home and Community Based Services Waiver (HCSB) through Long Term Care Medicaid are not eligible for respite services with the Family Caregiver Voucher Program.

For more information or to make a referral, please call or send an email
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