

The Nebraska Respite Network Southwest Service Area, serving Arthur, Chase, Dawson, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Gosper, Grant, Hayes, Hitchcock, Hooker, Lincoln, Logan, Keith, McPherson, Perkins, Red Willow and Thomas counties announces the extension of the respite mini-grants application period.

The total grant allocation of \$20,000 will be awarded to successful applicants within the 18-county service area.

“Mini-grant funds are an excellent resource to organizations and businesses to expand their services to include respite care,” said Alynn Ahlemeyer, respite coordinator. “They can also be used by organizations and businesses to improve upon the way they are already serving respite families.”

The purpose of the respite mini-grants is for the development of new or the enhancement of existing respite programs.

Another purpose is increasing the availability of respite services and caregiver supports to families across the Lifespan in the 18 counties. The intent of the funds is that they be used to start programs, add or increase slots designated for respite care or caregiver support.

A respite program can target one or all age groups. Those awarded a mini-grant will sign an agreement to provide their respite program/slot for a one year period.

Mini-grant funds cannot be used for staff wages or administrative costs. Grant funding cannot be used for modifications to rental property.

Examples of grant funding: (but not limited to):

- Nursing homes or assisted living may redecorate a current room to be more cheerful, friendly, for a temporary stay respite room.
- Daycares may need adaptive toys or equipment to care for a child with special needs, wheelchair ramps or other accessibility concerns.
- Community organizations could offer respite days, caregiver day out or respite services for families to attend support groups or trainings.
- What is respite? Respite provides caregivers an opportunity to have time away from their caregiving duties in order to take a break. A respite break can be as short as a few hours or a couple of days or weeks.
- For more information or to request of copy of the application form, contact Alynn Ahlemeyer respite coordinator 308-345-4990 or [respitesw@healthdept.com](mailto:respitesw@healthdept.com). Applications can also be downloaded at [www.swhealthdept.com/respitesw-funding](http://www.swhealthdept.com/respitesw-funding).

Applications must be submitted to Nebraska Respite Network, PO Box 1235, McCook NE 69001 by 4 p.m. CDT, on April 8. Applicants are required to submit typed or legibly handwritten original. No faxed copies will be accepted.