



1835 E. Edgewood Drive, Suite 105
Appleton, WI 54913

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 3, 2019

Press Contact: Lisa Schneider

Phone: 608-222-2033

Email: lschneider@respitewi.org

State budget includes increased funding for lifespan respite projects!

Appleton—July 3, 2019. Respite Care Association of Wisconsin (RCAW) would like to thank members of the legislature for providing a critical increase in funding for lifespan respite programming; and Governor Evers for signing the 2019-21 budget into law. This is the first increase for respite care funding in over twenty years.

Respite care provides short-term relief to a family caregiver who needs time off from caring for an ill or elderly loved one. Whether respite care is utilized for a vacation, to run errands or see a movie, or just for a much-needed break, caregivers use this time off to recharge, regenerate, and avoid becoming burned out.

“While respite is the most requested support expressed by family caregivers, it is also the most misunderstood form of support,” said Lisa Schneider, Executive Director. “RCAW works to help inform family caregivers on what respite is and the importance of it.” Schneider referenced a recent survey conducted by the Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance that asked long term care professionals throughout the State ‘What are the resources that family members who are providing care typically request or are looking for?’ Eighty-eight percent (88%) of professionals indicated respite was the most requested support!

There are currently more than 578,000 family caregivers in Wisconsin providing care to their parents, spouses, partners, and other adult loved ones. Fifty-five percent (55%) of these family caregivers report being overwhelmed by the amount of care their family member needs.

Founded in 1987, RCAW is a statewide non-profit charitable organization dedicated to support and advocate for quality systems of respite care for Wisconsin families. For more information about RCAW's programs, go to their website at www.respitewi.org

###