



## RESPITE REBATE PROGRAM

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What is a caregiver?**

You may be a wife, husband, mother, father, daughter, or son **and a caregiver**. A caregiver is the primary person or persons responsible for the day-to-day care of a dependent child or adult. An example of a caregiver is a daughter visiting her aging mother daily to help with meals, transportation or other daily living activities or a parent's consistent supervision and/or medical care of a young or grown up son/daughter.

#### **What is respite care?**

Respite literally means a time of rest or relief. Respite care provides a family caregiver temporary relief from the constant responsibilities of caring for a dependent child or adult. Respite care is often referred to as a gift of time. It can either be planned or emergency care.

#### **Why is respite valuable?**

Whether respite is for a few hours a week to run errands or have lunch with a friend or a few weeks a year to take a much-needed vacation, respite care offers you the chance reduce stress, restore energy and keep your life in balance.

#### **Why is the Arizona Caregiver Coalition providing a Respite Rebate Program to caregivers?**

Caregivers work tirelessly and selflessly – often to the detriment of their own health and emotional well-being – to aid loved ones. The Arizona Caregiver Coalition wants to give non-compensated family caregivers who live full-time with the care recipient temporary respite (a break) from their full-time caregiving duties.

#### **Why does the Respite Rebate Program Exist?**

Each year approximately 804,000 Arizona caregivers provide \$9.4 billion in uncompensated care each year, based on a rate of \$12.60 per hour. However, that is only counting adults that are 18 or older, so if the caregivers of DD kids and Kinship Families including Grandparents Raising their Grandkids were included, it is our estimate is that there are closer to 1 million family caregivers in Arizona. Much of this staggering cost would have to be picked up by taxpayers if families were not providing the care for free.

- Caregivers provide about 80 percent of all long-term care, allowing their loved ones to live independently in their homes.
- Caregivers tell researchers what they need most is an afternoon or a weekend off from their job as a caregiver.
- Family caregivers are at greater risk for disease and increased chances of depression because of their fulltime, physically and emotionally demanding role as a caregiver.

### **Who is eligible?**

Non-compensated caregivers over the age of 18 who are living full-time with the care recipient and not receiving respite from any local, state, or federally funded program.

- Non-compensated caregivers caring for a loved one that is 60 years old or older, or any age if they have Alzheimer’s or other related dementia.
- Non-compensated caregivers caring for a loved one who is disabled and between the ages of 18 – 59 years of age.
- Kinship caregivers/grandparents over the age of 55, caring for grandchildren under between the ages of birth – 19 years of age.

### **What can I expect in terms of eligibility verification?**

There may be calls to paid respite caregivers or random home visits to ensure compliance.

### **Must I provide a social security number?**

Social security numbers are required from the caregiver **and** care recipient.

### **What type of identification is necessary?**

As of March 1, 2017, government-issued photo identification is required from the nonpaid, family caregiver.

### **Do I have to fill out a W-9?**

Reimbursements can only be paid if we have a W-9 on file for you, the caregiver. A W-9 form is used to collect information about you that can be used to complete an informational report for the IRS, such as a 1099-MISC form. If the family caregiver received \$600 or more from the Respite Rebate Program in a calendar year, a 1099 will be issued.

### **Is there an income restriction?**

The Respite Rebate Program does not have an income qualification.

### **How much can a caregiver receive for respite on this program?**

Qualified caregivers who complete the application process are issued rebate vouchers worth up to \$300 every three months. Caregivers can apply to the program up to four times per fiscal year, totaling no more than \$1,200 a year, dependent on funding availability and program parameters.

**How difficult is it to re-apply to the program?**

After the first set of vouchers are issued, the process becomes quite simple. A phone conversation is all it takes to determine eligibility.

**How does the Respite Rebate Program work?**

Caregivers can use the rebate vouchers to recover costs for in-home care by a respite service or to hire an individual of their choice who is at least 18 years old. The Respite Rebate Program can also be used to offset the costs for care in a community-based respite service such as The Perfect Place, Oakwood Creative Care, Suntree, or Benevilla.

**What if respite care costs more than \$12 an hour?**

Caregivers are responsible for any fees that exceed the maximum hourly rate of \$12. For example, if your loved one attends an adult day center and the fee is \$14 an hour, you will pay \$14 an hour and the Arizona Caregiver Coalition will reimburse you \$12 an hour.

**Can I keep the difference if the respite care is only \$10 an hour?**

No, the Arizona Caregiver Coalition will reimburse costs at a minimum of \$12. In other words, the voucher must indicate \$12 an hour to be accepted.

**I received three rebate vouchers, each for a specific month. Am I restricted to how much time I can use in each month?**

Hours can be spread over three months or used in a single week. The important thing to remember is to pay attention to the expiration date on the vouchers. If you use all 25 hours in one week then the other two vouchers found in your packet are no longer valid.

**How do I request reimbursement funds?**

Please return the rebate vouchers by mail, fax, or email scanned copies to the Arizona Caregiver Coalition.

MAIL	Toll free FAX Number	EMAIL
Arizona Caregiver Coalition Respite Rebate Program P.O. Box 21623 Phoenix, AZ 85036	888-288-6293	Info@AZRespite.org

**Does the caregiver pay for respite and then wait for reimbursement?**

Yes, caregivers must procure service and pay for it. The Arizona Caregiver Coalition Respite Rebate Program reimburses caregivers after they submit the rebate vouchers.

### **What is a “voucher”?**

Although the program is modeled after a rebate system, occasionally it is referred to as the “Respite Voucher Program”. Rebate vouchers are issued to you after you have been accepted into the program. Vouchers are submitted to the Respite Rebate Program, administered by the Arizona Caregiver Coalition, for reimbursement.

### **What if I lose my vouchers?**

Contact Arizona Caregiver Coalition at 888-664-8088 or [Info@AZRespite.org](mailto:Info@AZRespite.org).

### **When do I submit the vouchers to the Arizona Caregiver Coalition?**

By the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month mail, fax, or email the Respite Rebate Voucher Form to the Arizona Caregiver Coalition for the previous month. For example, for respite provided in October, submit the paperwork by the 15<sup>th</sup> of November.

### **How long does it take to receive a reimbursement check?**

Rebate checks are issued approximately six weeks following the due date from the previous month. For example, if you procured services in January and the voucher was due by February 15<sup>th</sup>, you can expect a check six weeks later – March 31<sup>th</sup>. Checks are only issued once a month.

### **Where does a caregiver find respite help?**

Local, non-medical homecare agencies can be found at [Arizona In-Home Care Association](#) -- by searching for "members". For individualized help, leave a message at 602-283-3503 or email [Info@AZNHA.org](mailto:Info@AZNHA.org).

Large nonprofits, like [Beatitudes](#) and [FSL](#), also offer non-medical homecare services.

To search for direct hire caregivers visit [Care.com](#).

### **What should I ask if I want to hire a private person?**

Arizona does not require licensure, nor does it monitor non-medical homecare providers, so the quality of caregivers is at the discretion of the hiring individual/family/care provider agency.

It is your responsibility if you hire an individual to check and confirm credentials, references, and criminal backgrounds. Additionally, it is important to ensure that all labor laws are followed, from payroll taxes to immigration to mandatory workers compensation insurance.

Arizona Caregiver Coalition does not endorse or recommend any individual caregiver or homecare agency.

**Can I hire my grandson, niece, or a friend?**

Yes, but the paid respite provider cannot reside with you or the care recipient. If your family member or friend is at least 18 years old and resides elsewhere, you may hire that person for \$12 an hour.

**Am I eligible if my husband is enrolled in Arizona Long Term Care Services (ALTCS)?**

If the care recipient is receiving respite from federally-funded programs such as ALTCS, VA's Aid & Attendance Care Benefit, Developmental Disabilities Services, or Area Agency on Aging, you do **not** qualify for the Respite Rebate Program.

**Can I participate in the Respite Rebate Program if my wife has applied for ALTCS?**

As long as your wife has not received any ALTCS benefits, you may be eligible for the Respite Rebate Program.

**My case manager at Area Agency on Aging suggested I look into the Respite Rebate Program. Can I work with her and you at the same time?**

Yes, the Arizona Caregiver Coalition supports multiple agencies and their clients. Many families are on wait lists for complimentary federal-funded respite services. The Respite Rebate Program bridges the gap until complimentary respite services become available.

**My mother is on hospice. Do I qualify for the Respite Rebate Program?**

If your mother is receiving hospice coverage through Medicare and is receiving facility-admitted respite care, you are ineligible for the rebate program.

**Can I use the program to offset nursing home costs or other bills?**

This program reimburses you for respite care, not nursing homes or miscellaneous bills.

**My husband is only 55 and suffers from dementia but does not have a physician's diagnosis. Can I still apply for a respite rebate voucher?**

Regardless of the care recipient's age, if they are suffering from dementia, diagnosed or not, you can apply.

**I live with my grandmother and care for her. I want to attend school one night a week. Do I qualify?**

If you are living full-time with your grandmother and she is at least 60 years old and you provide aid with at least two activities of daily living, you may qualify.

**My wife has multiple sclerosis. Can I apply for respite?**

Caregivers caring for a loved one who is disabled and between the ages of 18 – 59 can apply. The care recipient cannot be receiving federally-funded respite services from Developmental Disability Services.

**I am taking care of my three grandchildren. Can I get respite?**

If you are at least 55 years old and caring for grandchildren between the ages of birth and 19, you may be qualified. Those who are participating in the Arizona's Kinship Foster Care Program are ineligible for this Respite Rebate Program.

**If I have questions about the Respite Rebate Program, what phone number should I call?**

Caregiver Resource Line (888) 737-7494. Phones are answered Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. You may also leave a message anytime.

**I am interested in volunteering. Who should I contact?**

Thank you for wanting to become a caregiver advocate volunteer. Many volunteers have been caregivers, and understand first-hand the support that is needed to thrive in this role. Volunteer opportunities include the resource line, marketing, events, copywriting, digital, and outreach.

Please email your interest to [Info@AZCaregiver.org](mailto:Info@AZCaregiver.org) or call Cindy Findley, Arizona Caregiver Coalition's Executive Director, at 602-542-6593.

**My mother passed away. I would like to donate in her name to the Arizona Caregiver Coalition. Is this possible?**

Yes, thank you for honoring your mother by a donation to the Arizona Caregiver Coalition. You may mail a check or utilize the "donate online" button on [www.AZCaregiver.org](http://www.AZCaregiver.org). Donations are fully tax deductible and greatly appreciated.