

Community Living Network – Faith Based Respite Grant Program

Community Living Network's Faith Based Respite Mini-Grants Program provides grants not to exceed \$1,000 for purchases that support Faith Based Respite start up or expansion. Each grant will be individualized to that church/association and would provide funding for volunteer training, adaptive equipment, and/or other needs specific to that entity's needs and support an inclusive setting. In return the group will provide Match by reporting hours spent providing respite.

What is "Faith Based Respite"?

Faith Based Respite is simply caregivers getting a break through the efforts of a religious group or association providing safe and engaging care to persons with developmental disabilities for a period of time. This break may occur during religious services so the caregiver is free to worship or it could occur during a day or evening. The Faith Based Respite Leadership Team can determine what it is best able to offer. The Faith Based Respite Leadership Team can establish limits of the level of care it is able to provide but it cannot discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status.

What is "an Inclusive Setting"?

Inclusion for the purposes of the mini-grant is the inclusion of persons without disabilities along with persons with disabilities who are about the same ages. The Faith Based Respite Leadership Team in its planning needs to seek ways to include same age persons without disabilities to participate along with persons who have disabilities. The Team needs to avoid a total separation of persons with disabilities. Models would include offering respite for children with or without disabilities such as an integrated Sunday School Class or involving teenagers without disabilities volunteering to assist with teenagers with disabilities during a Parents Night Out. The goal is to include in the designated respite period age appropriate peers who do not have disabilities together with persons with disabilities.

What can the funds be used for?

Included in the application the Faith Based Respite Leadership Team will list items to be purchased using the grant funds. The list can include a variety of things such as training or purchase of training materials for CPR & First Aid, seizure management, positive reinforcement, etc. It can include adaptive equipment for feeding, positioning, toys, etc. It can include audio visual equipment such as headphones, cds, dvds, monitors, etc. Anything the team feels would help with the start up or expansion. The team does need to explain in simple terms how the items will be used. There are three exclusions: funds cannot be used for food, for rent, or to pay workers. The leadership team should plan carefully as these are one time funds associated with any given start up or expansion.

What is a “Faith Based Respite Leadership Team”?

A Faith Based Respite Leadership Team is a small group of people who are working together to plan and implement the start or expansion of Faith Based Respite. The Team can include church staff (or similar), caregivers, members of the faith based group, and even community members. This group chooses to come together and using their passions and gifts, working with the leadership of the Faith Based Entity (like a church), makes Faith Based Respite happen. Members (at least three) submit the Faith Based Respite Mini-Grant application. They also ensure that the match requirement is collected and submitted to the East Texas ADRC liaison.

What is “Match”?

The funding for Faith Based Respite comes from the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD). TCDD requires its funds to be matched with local funds either in actual cash or with in-kind match. East Texas ADRC is able to offer the mini grant on the condition that in-kind match will be provided by the group using the funds. The in-kind match is to report the actual hours of the Faith Based Respite Leadership Team and the volunteers/workers spent in planning and implementing the start up or expansion of the Faith Based Respite.

For more information or to learn how to apply please contact the East Texas Aging & Disability Resource Center at 903-295-5922. Or visit us on the web @ www.ETxADRC.org and look for Community Living Network.



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