

NORTH CAROLINA SENIOR TAR HEEL LEGISLATURE 2018 FACT SHEET

Project C.A.R.E: Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empy

The Senior Tar Heel Legislature requests that the General Assembly increase funding for Project C.A.R.E. in 2019-2020 by \$500,000 and in future years increase funding by ten percent annually for expected growth.

Project C.A.R.E. was designed and tested in North Carolina. It has become a national best practice model for providing care management and respite care services to caregivers of persons with Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias. Alzheimer’s disease, the most common form of dementia, is the sixth leading cause of death in North Carolina and yet there is no cure for the disease. The number of North Carolinians affected with Alzheimer’s dementia, now approximately 160,000, is expected to increase by 31% to 210,000 by 2025. The NC Medicaid costs for caring for individuals with Alzheimer’s in 2017 is approximately \$1.112 billion and is expected to increase by 42% in 2025. The 459,000 unpaid family caregivers of those living with dementia in North Carolina provide care valued at \$6.6 billion a year. Considering these figures, North Carolina must develop methods to both encourage and support caregivers to assist their aging loved-ones to remain at home. Resulting savings in public funds could be substantial with increased support for family caregivers.

Project C.A.R.E is available statewide and uses a family consultant model to provide comprehensive support to caregivers of persons with dementia. The goals of the program are to (1) educate and empower caregivers increasing their awareness and usage of community-based supportive services and resources, and (2) improve quality, access, choice, and the use of respite care. Caregivers are provided family-centered assessments and individualized care plans, guidance, counseling and limited respite care, if financially needy. Through additional appropriations in October 2016, Project C.A.R.E can offer eligible caregivers up to three (3) \$500 respite care vouchers annually as funds are available. Respite care provides caregivers a temporary and intermittent relief from their caregiving role to assist them maintain loved-ones at home longer. Family consultants also link caregivers to existing home and community-based services, entitlement programs, local Alzheimer’s organizations, support groups, and other caregiver-focused initiatives. The program targets low-income (non-Medicaid), rural, and minority individuals caring for a person with dementia at home.

The NC General Assembly appropriated \$550,000 in recurring funding to support Project C.A.R.E. beginning in October 2016. The current total annualized state appropriations for Project C.A.R.E. is \$1,033,333. In SFY 2016-2017, Project CARE served 774 caregivers in 94 counties with care management of which 569 caregivers also received at least 1 respite voucher.

Number of Family Caregivers Served				
	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Total Appropriation	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$850,000	\$1,033,333
Care Management	203	220	774	800 anticipated
Respite Care (care management clients who also received respite)	n/a	n/a	569	650 anticipated

For additional information, please go to: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/aging/ncprojectcare.htm>.