



Immediate Release

November 10, 2022

For more information:

Doris Green: 585-287-6393

\$3 Million Workforce Initiative Coming to Lewis, Oneida, Herkimer, Cortland, Tompkins and Jefferson Counties

Will expand the availability of respite for older adults and persons with disabilities

Will provide extra income for older adults who provide respite

Rochester, NY – The New York State Caregiving and Respite Coalition (NYSCRC) managed by Lifespan of Greater Rochester Inc. announces a workforce initiative for older adults that will also increase the availability of respite for caregivers. The \$3 million dollar initiative, funded by AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, is available in Lewis, Oneida, Herkimer, Cortland, Tompkins, and Jefferson counties.

Under the grant, the coalition will recruit and train 300 people 55 and older to provide respite for people caring for older adults and those with disabilities. Respite gives caregivers a several hour break from their responsibilities. People who provide respite with incomes below 400% of the poverty line will be eligible for two-year stipends to increase income. Four hundred percent of the poverty line includes income under \$54,600 for one person or \$73,200 for a two-person household. The goal is to increase the respite workforce and help about half of the 300 people find non-subsidized work providing respite and caregiving assistance.

National, state, and local surveys have shown respite to be the most frequently requested service by family caregivers. The 2020 report, “Caregiving in the U.S.” notes that, “Increasingly caregivers are recognizing that some services and supports, like respite care, would be helpful to their own situation. Just 14% report having used respite.”

The problem of lack of support for caregivers is compounded by a significant workforce shortage in home care. The workforce shortage issue in Upstate New York is disproportionately impacting people who need direct services. One in ten family caregivers have had to leave the workforce to care for loved ones. Respite is one of the keys ways to support caregivers. Additionally, today’s pre-retirees and post-retirees want to continue to contribute in some way either for fulfillment, for additional income or for both. Within the six counties, people 55 and older comprise 30.6% of the population for a total of about 175,000 people. In each county, the coalition will partner with nonprofit organizations, faith communities and government departments to recruit people 55 and older for the positions.

The AmeriCorps grant is part of a demonstration initiative to enhance opportunities for adults ages 55+ to participate in national service activities, impact their community and gain the skills needed to transition back into the workforce. “Partnering with grantees like Lifespan will strengthen AmeriCorps

Seniors' efforts to impact the communities we serve and enhance the lives of our volunteers in a new and tangible way" said Atalaya Sergi, director, AmeriCorps Seniors. "We are excited to support older adults to use the skills they have and those they will develop to not only serve their community but find financial security and new purpose. Upon completion of their service, they will be prepared and supported to re-enter the workforce."

The New York State Caregiving & Respite Coalition, managed by Lifespan of Greater Rochester, is a partnership of dedicated organizations and individuals committed to supporting the millions of our state's family caregivers.

Lifespan of Greater Rochester is a regional nonprofit organization providing information, guidance and more than 30 services for older adults and caregivers.

For more information about this opportunity to train and be paid as a respite provider, or for more information about the project, call 585-287-6393

www.lifespanrochester.org

www.nyscr.org

Mary Rose McBride
VP Marketing & Communications
Lifespan
1900 S. Clinton Avenue, 14618
585-287-6412
www.lifespanrochester.org

[Please take a moment to complete our short customer satisfaction survey.](#)

