

Respite for Children *fact sheet*

What is the Respite Program?

Respite services allow parents or guardians caring for a child with disabilities, to have time off for themselves. To be eligible for the Respite for Children Program, a child must need an institutional level of care that can best be described as the type of care typically provided in a hospital, nursing home or Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR). Other factors used in determining eligibility include, but are not limited to: the severity of the child's condition, the intensity of services required, the child's functional daily living skills, safety and safety awareness, and the needs of the family. Parents/guardians will be required to find their own respite worker, but assistance will be available from Respite agencies certified by the state and a free online resource www.rewardingwork.org

Who is eligible?

A child must meet the following requirements to be eligible for respite care. He or she must –

- be under age 21,
- be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen,
- be a Rhode Island resident,
- meet income and resource requirements (child's income & assets only),
- live at home, and
- require an institutional level of care at home that is typically provided in a hospital, nursing facility or an Intermediate Care Facility for Persons with Mental Retardation (ICF-MR).

How do I apply for respite services?

Please contact a CEDARR Family Center for an application packet. Parents/guardian will be asked to:

- complete a Parent/ Guardian questionnaire;
- provide documentation from your child's physician or other providers that address the child's condition, functioning and treatment needs;
- provide documentation of supportive services, such as special education, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech/language therapy;
- provide other information, as requested.

After the application packet is submitted, families will be notified in writing by DHS if their child is eligible or not eligible for respite services. You have a right to appeal if your child is determined 'not eligible.' If you receive a denial letter from DHS, we will include information on the DHS Fair Hearing process.

For more information



DHS Medical Care Specialist (401) 462-0210

CEDARR Family Centers-

About Families (401) 365-6855

Empowered Families (401) 365-6103, (888) 881-6380

Families First (401) 444-7703

Solutions CEDARR (401) 461-4351, (800) 640-7283

Certified Respite Agencies

Cranston ARC, The Groden Center, The Homestead Group, Kent County ARC/ J.Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center, Ocean State Community Resources, Inc.