



## Vermont Respite Support Program

Vermont Family Network (VFN) was awarded a grant by the Vermont Department of Children and Families-Child Development Division to assist families with respite care cost. We are also here to offer support and resources to families as they navigate medical and healthcare financing systems.

### Respite

Respite provides a temporary safe haven and meaningful experience for a child that allows short-term relief for parents or primary family caregivers to attend to their own and other family members' health, social, or emotional needs. It is a preventive strategy that strengthens families, protects their health and well-being, and allows parents and/or caregivers to continue providing care at home. Respite can be an important part of family support and long-term services that are available to caregivers. Respite may include short-term care (ranging from a few hours to a few weeks of time, per year), intended to enable the family to stay together and to keep the child living in the home and primary community.

### Eligibility

- Vermont resident
- Parent/Caregiver with a child (up to the age of 19) with chronic physical, medical, mental, or developmental condition OR
  - Are experiencing "special needs" that are destabilizing, for instance: homelessness, economic hardships, and/or DCF Family Services involvement
  - Are suspected of a diagnosis, and waiting for an evaluation
  - Require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children and youth generally
- Parent/Caregiver with a disability that has a child (up to the age of 19) living at home; or
- Relative caregiver with a child(ren) (up to the age of 19) living with them; or
- Parent/Caregiver of an adopted child(ren).
- Must not be currently using or receiving other respite funding

### Process

Families will do a phone application and submit a respite plan. Families currently receiving respite funding are not eligible, this includes: Agency Directed Respite, Family Managed Respite, Flexible Family Funding, or VFN's Family Support Funding. Once approved for funding, families will submit a voucher with respite provider signature. VFN will then reimburse the family within two weeks of receiving the voucher. W9's are required for any amount reimbursed over \$600.



### **Respite Provider Information**

- All Respite Providers must be at least 20 years old and be someone other than a parent or direct caregiver. Relatives are acceptable respite providers but may not reside within the home.
- Rate of pay and number of hours for respite care is determined by the caregiver but may not exceed \$1,000.

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