

# California Department of Aging

## Respite Purchase of Services Program Narrative

**Program / Element / Component -- 40.90.60**

### **Description**

The intent of this program is to provide relief and support to caregivers in order to delay premature or inappropriate institutionalization of the frail elderly or functionally impaired adult, and also the caregiver.

Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) have the option of administering the Respite Purchase of Services (RPOS) through the local Linkages Program, providing the Program directly or by contracting with a local agency. RPOS is not limited to Linkages clients.

RPOS provides limited funding for purchasing short term in-home care; day care services such as Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Center, Adult Social Day Care, and Adult Day Health Care; or 24-hour care at a licensed skilled, intermediate, or residential care facility.

### **Benefits**

RPOS provides relief and support to caregivers, by providing short-term respite care that enables frail elderly and functionally impaired adults to remain living in their home.

### **Eligibility**

RPOS may be provided to a caregiver that is primarily responsible for providing care to a frail elderly person or functionally impaired adult who is at risk of institutional placement and is not receiving respite services from other programs. The caregiver or the client must reside within a geographical area designated in the contract with the AAA and the California Department of Aging (CDA).

### **Access**

Information on RPOS and how to access benefits can be obtained by calling the statewide toll free line at **1-800-510-2020**, or the local AAA listed in the blue bordered pages of the Community Services section of the telephone book under Senior Information and Referral/Assistance or access the California Department of Aging website at [www.aging.ca.gov](http://www.aging.ca.gov).

### **Background**

The original Program included Respite Care Registry and RPOS. Respite Care Registry was established by Chapter (CH) 1349/86 (Filante) with an appropriation without regard to a fiscal year and a 7/1/88 sunset date. The funds were used to establish five sites. The sunset was extended to 1/1/90 by CH 236/88 (Filante). The

Budget Act of 1989 established a per site baseline funding to continue the registry portion of the Program. Respite Care was enacted by CH 446/88 (Mello) with a sunset date of 1/1/89. The sunset date was extended to 1/1/90 by CH 597/88 (Mello). The Budget Act of 1989 established baseline funding. The Department allowed the transfer in Fiscal Year (FY) 1988-89 of Respite Care Registry funds for the purchase of respite care services to Linkages programs if the AAA did not operate a Respite Care Registry.

Consideration was given during the FY 1991-92 budget process to consolidating and equally distributing the registry and purchase of services funds. Agreement was reached to maintain each site at existing levels and to allow them freedom to use funds interchangeably for registry or purchase of services.

Assembly Bill (AB) 2800, the Mello-Grandlund Older Californians Act (Chapter 1097, Statutes of 1996), integrated seven distinct Community-Based Services Programs (CBSP) into one Community-Based Services Network and transferred responsibility for related contract administration from CDA to the AAAs. The Respite Purchase of Services Program in one of these seven programs.

Major expansion occurred in FY 1999-00, with a funding increase to provide respite services (respite registry and respite care) for caregivers in all the Planning and Service Areas.

During FY 2000-01, AAAs were given the option to transfer the Respite Registry funds to the RPOS. Fourteen AAAs chose to transfer funds.

In FY 2001-02, the CBSPs were required to decrease programs at the local level as a result of the Governor's unallocated budget reduction.

In FY 2002-03, the Governor's Proposed Mid-Year General Fund Spending Reductions plan included eliminating the remaining Respite Registry Programs effective April 2003. The Respite Registry Program was eliminated entirely in FY 2003-04.

The FY 2004-05 budget cut positions directly assigned to CBSP administrative oversight, including RPOS, eliminating state-level oversight of RPOS.