

**STATE PROJECT C.A.R.E.**

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**State Authorization:** House Bill 2436, 2008 Session Laws, Conference Report

**N. C. Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Aging and Adult Services**

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**Agency Contact Person - Program**

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**Brief Description of Program:**

Give a brief description of program including allowable activities:

Project C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empy) provides critical comprehensive support, include respite care vouchers, to vulnerable unpaid family caregivers of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or other related dementia (ADRD). The program effectively reaches isolated rural and minority communities through culturally sensitive outreach strategies with a unique family-centered, in-home intervention. Project C.A.R.E. aims to minimize State expenses and maximize the family's potential to provide the most appropriate, high quality and cost-effective care in the least restrictive setting thus delaying or preventing the need for institutionalization.

Project C.A.R.E. contracts with six community-based organizations to provide care consultation services in all 100 counties. Family consultants collaborate closely with the sixteen Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and the Family Caregiver Support Program. This relationship allows for available resources to be coordinated and leveraged for maximum impact. Family consultants provide support directly to caregivers of persons living with ADRD by:

1. Offering care consultation services: dementia-specific information, caregiver assessments and individualized care plans, caregiver education and connections to social support networks,
2. Linking families with available community resources to address unmet needs including local support groups, supportive services, entitlement programs and other community resources,
3. Partnering with each AAA through its Family Caregiver Support Program to provide outreach, training and education,
4. Providing caregivers consumer-directed respite care vouchers (\$500 each) whereby the caregiver decides who, when and where to hire help,
5. Providing training and assistance to AAA and the community-at-large to increase capacity to assist persons with dementia and their families and

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- 6. Enhancing partnerships with and among the various entities serving persons living with ADRD and assisting their care partners.

The total annual budget for Project C.A.R.E. is \$1,033,333. Six organizations are awarded funds to provide Project C.A.R.E. regionally and one entity to financially manage the respite voucher awards.

**Organizations Funded:**     Private     Local Government     Both

**Source of Funds:**            State 100%            Federal \_\_\_\_\_