



## **CAREGIVERS RESPITE CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

### **What is Respite Care?**

Respite Care is a form of short-term relief for the primary caregiver. "Respite" is for the caregiver; "Care" is for the person with Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, degenerative neurological disease that affects the brain and results in impaired memory, thinking, and behavior. Persons suffering from this devastating illness may require much supervision and assistance with daily living activities. This continual demand for care can create emotional and physical stress for caregivers.

### **What is the Caregivers Respite Care Assistance Program?**

The Caregivers Respite Care Assistance Program has been designed to help family caregivers learn about and experience the importance of respite care services when the family member is providing primary caregiving services for someone with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The program offers family caregivers information about available community respite care resources such as home health care, adult day care and residential respite; as well as, some limited financial assistance to help offset the cost of respite care.

Funding for the Caregivers Respite Care Assistance Program is limited, so we do not guarantee that an applicant will receive financial assistance. However, we encourage you to apply. If funding is not available when you apply your application will be kept on file for a period of twelve months from the date received.

### **Who is eligible for the Caregivers Respite Care Assistance Program?**

To be accepted into the Caregivers Respite Care Assistance Program,

- the primary family caregiver and the person with Alzheimer's disease must live together full-time in one of the 14 counties served by the Alzheimer's Association Greater New Jersey Chapter (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, Warren.)
- a physician's certification must be submitted indicating that the person receiving care has Alzheimer's disease or a related progressive, degenerative, neurological dementia.
- The primary family caregiver must submit an application complete with all required information.

We do not require disclosure of financial information in the application process.

### **How does the program work? What is the amount of financial assistance received through the Caregivers Respite Care Assistance Program?**

The Caregivers Respite Care Assistance Program is a reimbursement program. Once we have received a completed application from an eligible applicant and

funds are available, the applicant is contacted. If the applicant accepts participation in the Caregivers Respite Care Assistance Program at that time, the Alzheimer's Association will provide reimbursement for up to \$1000.00 for approved respite services used during the three-month period beginning on that date of acceptance. To receive reimbursement, proof of payment for approved respite services must be submitted in addition to a signed letter of agreement with the Alzheimer's Association.

**What kinds of respite services qualify for reimbursement in the program?**

The family caregiver is responsible for the selection and arrangement of respite care services. All services must be through a licensed agency to qualify for reimbursement in the Caregivers Respite Care Assistance Program. Respite services may be:

- In-home Services- personal care services provided in the home by certified home health aides employed and supervised by a licensed health care services firm or Medicare-certified home health care agency. Direct payments made to home health aides cannot be reimbursed.
- Adult Day Care Centers- care provided in a social adult day care program or a licensed medical adult day care program. A typical day might include socialization with others, moderate exercise and activities, light meals and assistance with personal care.
- Overnight Respite- temporary placement in a licensed facility to allow the caregiver to travel, receive medical care, or have a complete rest. The person with Alzheimer's disease must return home within 30 days for financial assistance to be granted.

The Alzheimer's Association Helpline can provide information about respite care services available throughout our service area, but can make no specific recommendations concerning the choice of respite services. The family caregiver is responsible for the selection and arrangement of respite care services.

For more information about our Caregivers Respite Care Assistance Program, please contact us:

**24/7 Helpline:** 1.800.883.1180

**Web site:** [www.alznl.org](http://www.alznl.org)