

July 25, 2023

To the Members of the Alzheimer's Disease & Dementia Advisory Council:

Many thanks for the opportunity to take part in the pilot program to administer grant funding to provide respite reimbursements for caregivers across Arkansas from July 2022-June 2023.

Our organization was successful in meeting the challenge of granting the full \$200,000 allocated to recipients across the state. A final report will be available August 1. This work was accomplished by our staff; senior networking outreach; our Area Agencies on Aging, home health care, and community partners; marketing via social media and Constant Contact; press releases submitted to various outlets; and a lot of word of mouth across channels and contacts.

There were 465 applications for a grant during the time the grant was open. Of those, 401 were granted. Some applications were denied initially due to lack of a diagnosis letter, a caregiver, or a diagnosis of dementia. Others were denied due to having another grant open at the time of application. Of those granted, 30% were considered rural. The grant recipients represented over 108 cities and 52 counties across the state. We will continue to work to get funds into the hands of families in rural areas as requested.

The need was there. The need continues to be great. Families receiving support were very grateful and many of their stories and responses will be shared. Post funding survey responses were required for families to be eligible for another grant. Well over 85% responded as requested.

In the future, we recommend the Council:

- Consider providing administrative fee funding and/or resources to offset expenditures of the grant administration. It can take 2-3 hours to completely process, track, and follow up on a single grant. This includes phone calls, emails, in-person meetings, and administrative functions. Financial resources were spent on postage, paper supplies, copying, travel costs, and staffing (salary/benefits) to process the grants.
- Request additional funding and/or expanding the grant coverage. Funding continues to be needed to cover respite care costs, but also consider expanding grants to include additional expenses incurred by caregivers. These may include:

prescription costs, out of pocket medical expenses, medical and hygiene supplies, adaptive equipment for the home, ramps, utility bills, etc.

- Request funding for advertising and marketing. Some rural areas might benefit from streaming, television, or radio advertising. With today's technology, our caregivers can be strategically ear-marked to receive such communication. But that can cost thousands of dollars per month.
- Continue to collaborate with entities communicating with and serving rural families.

We have been very fortunate to have staffing, contacts, software, and technology in place to administer the grants. Our Board of Directors, donors, and community partners have been instrumental in their support as well.

We remain committed to serving family caregivers along their journey.



Stephenie A Cooke
Executive Director



Carolyn Berry
Family Support Specialist

ATTACHMENT – Post Grant Funding Responses