

Goal: Assess the Economic and Social Value of Respite Care in Colorado:

Recommendation 1. The Task Force recommends that an outcomes assessment/return-on-investment study to demonstrate the economic impact of respite care and its benefits for those served be completed.

Goal: Ensure Colorado has a Sufficient Supply of Respite Care Providers:

Recommendation 2. The Task Force recommends development of a comprehensive statewide training system for respite care providers that includes a standardized training format.

Goal: Educate Caregivers and Others about the Benefits of, and How to Access, Respite Care:

Recommendation 3. The Task Force recommends expansion of the Colorado Respite Coalition's website to serve as the designated website in Colorado for information about respite care and as an access point for services throughout the State.

Recommendation 4. The Task Force recommends development of a centralized community outreach and education program about respite care services in Colorado that includes funding for start-up and ongoing activities, paid staff and leveraging of existing resources to support design and dissemination of materials.

Goal: Ensure Caregivers Get the Quality Respite Care They Need When They Need It:

Recommendation 5. In addition to General Fund and Medicaid dollars that fund some respite care services for certain populations, the Task Force recommends that the General Assembly consider a tax credit for full-time caregivers and for caregivers' out-of-pocket expenses.

Recommendation 6. The Task Force recommends that the General Assembly allow for, and the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing work to, standardize the full continuum of respite care options across all Medicaid waivers.

Recommendation 7. The Task Force recommends that the State streamline the regulatory requirements for facility-based, short-term, overnight respite care.