National Family Caregiver Support Program: Services Overview

Program Overview

The National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) was established in 2000 to fund support programs to assist informal caregivers in caring for a recipient in the home.

The NFCSP provides grants to states and territories for five types of services: (i) informational resources to caregivers about available services; (ii) assistance to caregivers in accessing services; (iii) individual counseling, support groups, and caregiver training; (iv) respite care; and (v) supplemental services on a limited basis.

In 2018, ACL completed a two-part process and outcome evaluation of the NFCSP. The evaluation investigated how services were being provided, and the impacts those services had on caregivers’ wellbeing and ability to provide care.

Access Assistance, Informational, and Supplemental Services* Provided

Source: SPR data. Data can be found in the Service Units category underneath the Caregivers – Additional Data filter on the Aging Integrated Database (AGID).

*Supplemental service data from two states were removed as outliers – service reports from these years were inconsistent with other annual reports and reflected service provision equaling that of all other states combined.

Respite Services Provided

Source: SPR data. Data can be found in the Service Units category underneath the Caregivers – Additional Data filter on the Aging Integrated Database (AGID).

Caregiver Relationship to Individual Served*

*This chart does not include data on grandparents taking care of grandchildren. Those data are tracked separately by states.

Source: SPR data. Data can be found in the Caregiver Relationship category underneath the Caregivers – Characteristics by Age filter on the Aging Integrated Database (AGID).

What Caregivers Say about NFCSP Services

“It’s so very important that you have help. It really is. I don’t think there is a person in this world that could do it alone.”

“I think for caregivers, I think they need more of that [support] because they really do feel like they’re out there by themselves.”

Source: Responses collected from the NFCSP report on bereaved caregivers, From Caregiver to Caregiver: The Wisdom and Insights of Former NFCSP Caregivers (Oct 2018).

Note: All service provision data figures include the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam. Figures do not include data from the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, or the Northern Marianas, as data were only available for these regions in 2015.

Updated April 2020
Which Caregiver Populations do State Units on Aging (SUAs) Target?

![Graph showing the target populations of SUAs.]

Source: Data can be found in Table 21: SUA Target Group Populations (p.42) of the Process Evaluation of the Older Americans Act Title III-E NFCSP: Final Report (March 2016).

Who do Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) Report as Their Key Partners for NFCSP?

- Caregiver coalitions/respite coalitions
- Elder Abuse Prevention programs, Adult Protective Services, or TRIAD
- Health care providers including community health centers, hospitals and physicians’ offices
- Aging and Disability Resource Center or Aging Resource Center
- Local/state chapter of national organizations (e.g., Alzheimer’s Association, AARP, American Health Care Association)

Source: Data can be found from Table 28: AAA Reported Most Important Partners for Administering NFCSP Services (p.48) of the Process Evaluation of the Older Americans Act Title III-E NFCSP: Final Report (March 2016).

What Caregivers Say about NFCSP Services

“It was respite for me to be able to get out and go do what needed to be done and know that he was taken care of.”

“I probably would have gone through the State and put [my husband] in a home towards the end. But they helped me so much, I’m so thankful I didn’t have to do that.”

Source: Responses collected from the NFCSP report on bereaved caregivers, From Caregiver to Caregiver: The Wisdom and Insights of Former NFCSP Caregivers (Oct 2018).

In 2017,

- 535,012 caregivers received access assistance,
- over 19 million caregivers received information services, and
- over 100,000 received counseling.

Source: SPR data. Data can be found in the Clients Served category underneath the Caregivers – Additional Data filter on the Aging Integrated Database (AGID).

Note: All service provision data figures include the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam. Figures do not include data from the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, or the Northern Marianas, as data were only available for these regions in 2015.