



### **What is Respite?**

Respite is planned or emergency care provided to a child or adult with special needs in order to provide temporary relief to family caregivers. A family caregiver is an adult family member or other individual who has a significant relationship with, and who provides a broad range of assistance to an individual with a chronic or other health condition, disability or functional limitation.

### **How does the SCRC Voucher Program work?**

The program's focus is CAREGIVER RELIEF. SCRC staff encourages families to use vouchers to CREATE and EXPAND THEIR CIRCLE OF SUPPORT by obtaining respite which otherwise not be affordable and/or accessible to them.

The SCRC awards vouchers in the amount of \$500 to eligible family caregivers. These vouchers may be used, for example, to pay an in-home agency, an adult day center, or a private individual to provide respite. Vouchers will not be used to pay family and friends already willing to help provide respite free of charge. SCRC staff work with each approved family to find the best option for their situation.

Vouchers are used to pay for breaks from hand-on caregiving. They may not be used to:

- Pay the family caregiver directly for the care he/she is providing
- Pay a family member or friend who resides in the home, or on the same family owned property
- Pay for a loved one while the family caregiver goes to work
- Pay for the care that has occurred before the voucher was issued

Eligible family caregivers may receive 2 vouchers in a fiscal year, as program funds are available.

### **Who is eligible?**

Unpaid family caregivers who care for a loved one with a significant disability, special need, or chronic illness, requiring 24/7 care. SCRC serves family caregivers between the ages of 18-54. The care receiver must be age 59 or below. Family caregivers over the age of 60 will be referred to their county's Area Agency on Aging (AAA)\*.

### **How do I apply?**

Call the SCRC office at (803) 935-5027 Ext. 6 or 12 with questions or to request an application.

\*Coordination with Area Agencies on Aging: The SCRC works with 10 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) across South Carolina. AAA's which operate under the SC Department on Aging, are the best source of support for caregivers over 54. If you are caring for a care receiver over 59, SCRC can provide you with the AAA contact information.