

**Project C.A.R.E.  
(Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty)**

**Session Law 2010-31,  
Section 10.35B**



**Report to**

**The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging  
and  
The North Carolina Study Commission on Aging  
and  
The Fiscal Research Division**

**by**

**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Aging and Adult Services**

**October 1, 2017**

## **Project C.A.R.E 2016-17**

Over five million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease and as many as 16 million will have the disease by 2050. Per the national Alzheimer's Association, there are currently 437,000 caregivers in North Carolina providing care for persons with Alzheimer's disease. By 2025, an estimated 210,000 North Carolinians age 65 and older are projected to have Alzheimer's disease.

Pursuant to Section 10.35B of Session Law 2010-31 (Senate Bill 897), the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) implemented a plan for use of \$200,000 in recurring state appropriations to support Alzheimer's-related activities consistent with the goals of Project C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty). The session law called for an annual report to be submitted to the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, the North Carolina Study Commission on Aging, and the Fiscal Research Division by October 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

### Statewide Caregiver Support

Project C.A.R.E. is a state-funded, dementia-specific support program for individuals who directly care for persons with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias. Project C.A.R.E. is a coordinated delivery system that is responsive to the needs, values and preferences of unpaid family caregivers and is administered by the DHHS Division of Aging and Adult Services.

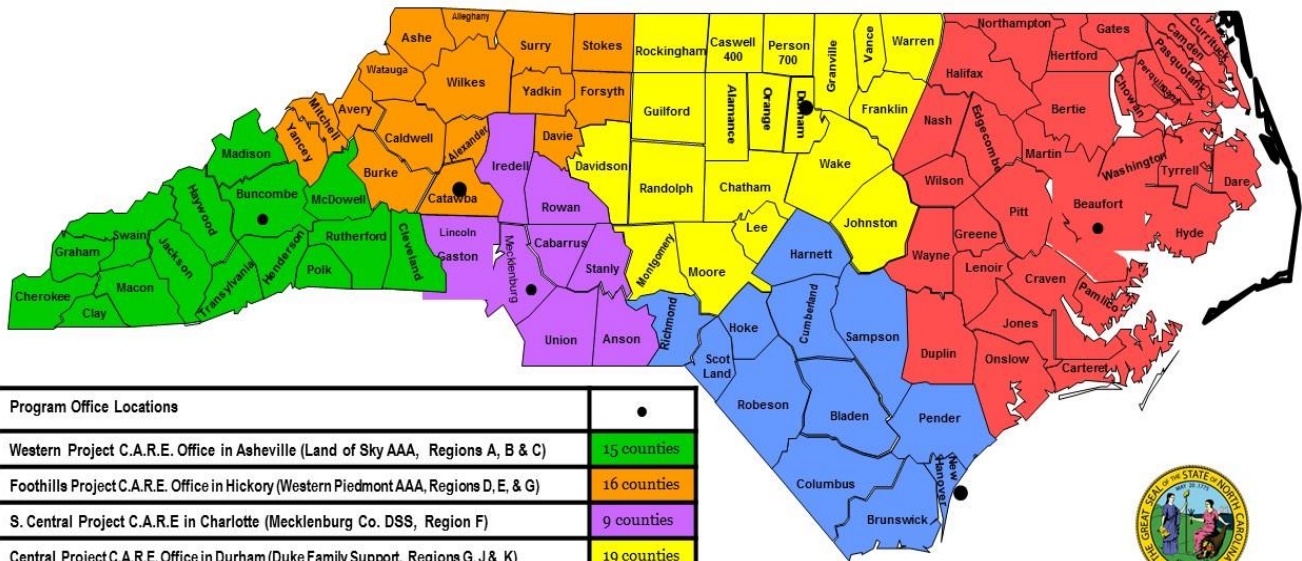
Project C.A.R.E. expanded in the fall of 2013 and again in October 2016 from providing support in 36 counties to all 100 counties in the state. DAAS continues to recognize the importance of reaching individuals with Alzheimer's disease and their unpaid caregivers as an essential step to meeting the long-term program objective of providing support for the significant increase in the number of caregivers of those with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The goal of Project C.A.R.E. is to provide supports for unpaid caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias to support community living and to delay or avoid unnecessary placement in long-term care facilities.

Project C.A.R.E. contracts with six community organizations to provide Family Consultant services to all 100 counties. Family Consultants are linked to the sixteen Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and their Family Caregiver Support Programs. This allows for available resources to be coordinated and leveraged for maximum impact. Family Consultants provide support directly to caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias by:

1. Offering persons with dementia and their caregivers care consultation, dementia-specific information, caregiver assessments and care plans, caregiver education and connections to social support networks;
2. Linking families with available community resources to meet unmet needs including local support groups, supportive services, entitlement programs and other community resources;
3. Partnering with each Area Agency on Aging through its Family Caregiver Support Program to provide outreach, training and education;
4. Providing caregivers consumer-directed respite care vouchers (\$500 each) whereby the caregiver decides who, when and where to hire help;
5. Providing training and assistance to AAAs and the community-at-large to increase capacity to assist persons with dementia and their families; and
6. Enhancing partnerships with and among the various entities serving persons with Alzheimer's disease and assisting their caregivers.

# NC Project C.A.R.E.

## (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empy)



Program Office Locations	
Western Project C.A.R.E. Office in Asheville (Land of Sky AAA, Regions A, B & C)	15 counties
Foothills Project C.A.R.E. Office in Hickory (Western Piedmont AAA, Regions D, E, & G)	16 counties
S. Central Project C.A.R.E. in Charlotte (Mecklenburg Co. DSS, Region F)	9 counties
Central Project C.A.R.E. Office in Durham (Duke Family Support, Regions G, J & K)	19 counties
S. Eastern Project C.A.R.E. Office in Wilmington (Cape Fear AAA, Regions M, N, & O)	12 counties
N. Eastern Project C.A.R.E. Office in Washington (Mid-East AAA, Regions L, P, Q, R)	29 counties



NC Division of Aging and Adult Services  
July, 2017

### Service Expansion

The NC General Assembly, in 2014, required the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Aging and Adult Services to develop the state's first strategic plan addressing Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (Senate Bill 744 / S.L. 2014-100). In response, the Division, in partnership with the NC Institute of Medicine, along with a 47-member task force, completed a plan in March 2016 entitled "Dementia Capable NC" which included the recommendation for increased support of Project C.A.R.E. The Governor and the General Assembly approved the appropriation of additional funds through Session Law 2016-94 (House Bill 1030). Effective October 1, 2016, \$550,000 was appropriated to support three additional Project C.A.R.E. Family Consultants and to provide funding for respite care vouchers for unpaid family caregivers.

In State Fiscal Year 2017, Project C.A.R.E. provided case management services to 774 non-Medicaid eligible family caregivers of which 569 caregivers received respite care vouchers. A caregiver may receive up to three \$500 vouchers annually. Consumer-directed respite services were performed based upon the needs and wishes of the unpaid caregiver with service options including in-home respite services, group respite (Adult Day Care/Adult Day Health Care), or in special cases, overnight facility-based care. Project C.A.R.E. reached caregivers in 94 counties in FY2017 as compared to only 51 counties in the year before. As of June 30, 2017, approximately 250 unpaid family caregivers were either in need of either additional respite supports or were waiting to be enrolled into Project C.A.R.E. It is anticipated there will be a slight increase in the number of family caregivers served in FY 2018 due to the annualization of Session Law 2016-94 and availability of 760 respite vouchers. However, the number of caregivers served is projected to drop in subsequent years based on the assumptions of no additional increases in funding and increases in the costs of delivering services.

Number of Family Caregivers Served				
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Total Appropriation	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$850,000
Care Management	107	203	220	774
Respite Care (care management clients who also received respite)	n/a	n/a	n/a	569