

September 2023

Dear Parent or Legal Guardian,

Thank you for your interest in the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program. This program is funded by the Maine Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) and is designed to give planned breaks to families of children with special needs. Upon completion of the application process, your family may be allotted up to 24 hours per month for planned respite services, as long as funding remains available.

To be approved for respite services, child(ren) must be in the custody of and live in the same household as the adult applicant. **This program is not open to children in foster care.** If you are in the process of adopting, the adoption needs to be finalized prior to applying for respite services.

It is extremely important that you submit a complete application as we are not able to process incomplete applications. Incomplete applications will be discarded after 30 days.

The following information must be received for your application to be considered complete.

1. Family Information Section - this needs to be filled out once for each family
2. Child Application Section - this must be completed for each child you are adding to the respite program for approval
3. Policies, Notices and Releases - must be initialed and signed where indicated
4. Diagnostic Evaluation(s) - a diagnostic evaluation is required for each child you are adding for approval (see next page for details)
5. Signature Page - this page must be completed and returned with your application

The complete Family Application Packet can also be found at namimaine.org.

Thank you for your interest in the Family Respite Program. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call NAMI Maine or email us at respite@namimaine.org.

Sincerely,

Chelsay Evans

Respite Application Specialist
NAMI Maine Family Respite Program



Respite Needs and Application Assistance

Family Name: _____

Respite Needs:

- 1) When would you like to start receiving respite services?

- 2) Do you have specific scheduling needs?

- 3) What is the best way to contact you to discuss your respite needs?
(Phone? Email? Both?)

Application Assistance:

- 1) Do you need help understanding or filling out any sections of this application?

If yes please contact Chelsay Evans at 800-464-5767 ext. 2314
or email: respite@namimaine.org.

FAMILY RESPITE PROGRAM FAMILY APPLICATION

Families must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- The child(ren) must be no older than 17 years **and**
- The child(ren) must have a documented emotional or behavioral diagnosis **or** two or more developmental delays **and**
- The child(ren) must be living with and in the custody of the adult applicant.
- All sections of the application must be filled out and signed before the application will be considered complete.

FAMILY INFORMATION SECTION

Incomplete applications will be discarded after thirty (30) days.

Parent _____ Guardian _____ NAME(S) _____

Physical Address _____ City/Town _____

Zip Code _____ Email Address _____

Mailing Address (if different from physical address) _____

City/Town _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____

Number of people residing in home _____

While the Family Respite Program is sensitive to respecting the privacy of families applying for respite services, it is important that critical information be disclosed to ensure that NAMI Maine respite providers have the information they need to be safe and to keep your children safe while providing respite services.

A RESPONSE TO THE FOLLOWING IS REQUIRED

Are there any current or outstanding court or child welfare orders related to the following:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Protection
<input type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> Custody
<input type="checkbox"/> Restraining Order
<input type="checkbox"/> None |
|--|---|

DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATION

We need an evaluation for each child you are requesting respite for. Please send in one of the following for each child along with this completed application:

- An assessment or evaluation signed and dated within the past year by one of the following:
 - Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)
 - Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)
 - Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC)
 - Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor-Conditional Clinical (LCPC-CC)
 - Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
 - Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
 - Licensed Masters Social Worker (LMSW)
 - Licensed Masters Social Worker Conditional (LMSW-C)
 - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)
 - Medical Doctor (MD)
 - Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO)
 - Psychologist (PsyD)
 - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
 - Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)
 - Psychological Examiner

OR

- An older assessment or evaluation and an updated letter providing current diagnoses from one of the above mentioned healthcare providers. The letter must be signed and dated within the past year.

Family Information Section

We would like to know a little more about you and your environment, please complete the survey below to the best of your knowledge. This survey is solely to gather information about the families served by the respite program and will not affect your eligibility for the program.

Parent Name _____ **Date** _____

Parent Signature _____

1. How many people live in your household?
2. How many members of your household people are under 18?
3. How many of the children have special needs requiring daily care? Please include those you are requesting respite for.
4. Do you serve as caretaker for any adult family members- such as aging parents or a disabled sibling?
 No Yes
5. Are there any professionals that provide services to a family member in your home?
 No Yes
If Yes, please describe:
6. How many times has your family moved in the last 4 years?
7. Do any adult members of your family have ongoing medical or mental health needs?
 No Yes
8. Do you have a support network that helps you when life gets overwhelming?
 Yes, I have many people I can turn to
 Yes, I have one or two friends who I can talk to
 No
9. Do you feel safe in your community?
 Yes Mostly No
10. Do you feel connected to your local community?
 Yes No

11. How many nights in the past two weeks did you get 6 or more hours of sleep?

12. How many times in a month do you engage in a hobby without your child?

13. Are you a single parent?

No Yes

14. Are you raising your grandchildren?

No Yes

15. Did you experience two or more of the following before the age of 18?

No Yes

- A family member with involvement in the criminal justice system
- Suffer a loss due to suicide
- Family violence in your home
- Undergo a serious medical procedure or have a life-threatening illness
- Out of home placement
- Physical or sexual assault
- Neglect
- A family member with a substance use disorder

16. Are you currently experiencing two or more of the following?

No Yes

- A family member with involvement in the criminal justice system
- Suffer a loss due to suicide
- Family violence in your home
- Undergo a serious medical procedure or have a life-threatening illness
- Out of home placement
- Physical or sexual assault
- Neglect
- A family member with a substance use disorder

17. How many hours of respite do you think your family would use each month?

Child Information Section

Child _____

DOB _____ **Gender** Female Male Other _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Please send in one of the following for this child along with a completed application:

An assessment or evaluation signed and dated within the past year by one of the following: MD, DO, PsyD, PhD, APRN, LCPC, LCSW, PMHNP, LMFT or Maine Licensed Psychological Examiner

OR

An older assessment or evaluation and an update letter providing current diagnoses, that is signed and dated within the past year from one of the above-mentioned clinicians.

Please complete the following questions about your child. We use this information to assess the level of needed provider for the child and to help us to find the best provider available for your family. Please answer the questions honestly and completely. A separate information section must be completed for each child you are requesting respite for.

1. Can your child use the toilet on their own?
 Yes No

2. How well does your child follow verbal commands?
 They can follow commands easily
 They struggle to understand or comply sometimes, but eventually follow instruction
 They often refuse to do what they are asked

3. When was the last time your child hit, bit, or showed physical aggression toward non-family members?
 Never
 More than 6 months
 More than a month, less than 6 months
 More than a week, less than a month
 Less than a week

4. How well is your child able to communicate their needs?
- Easily
 - They can communicate what they need, but sometimes it might take some work for us to understand one another
 - They cannot communicate their needs; it is a guessing game trying to figure out when they want something
5. Does your child have medical condition(s) that require intervention every 4-8 hours?
- No Yes
6. About how many times does your child wander/disappear in a week? (Sometimes referred to as “bolting”)
7. About how many times in a week does your child get overwhelmed and have a meltdown that requires them to be moved to a quiet place?
8. How active is your child?
- They prefer not to be very active (or are not able to)
 - They are active and energetic, but they also have quieter activities they enjoy
 - They run around all the time, trying to keep up with them to supervise is exhausting

Please use this space to provide explanations for areas of need identified above:

Please review the following policies, fill in information & *initial* where indicated.

RIGHTS OF RECIPIENTS AND GRIEVANCES

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services and the Children’s Behavioral Health Services Division have specific rights for recipients of mental health services who are children. These rules are established under Public Law, 34-B, M.R.S.A., sections 3003 and 15002. They apply to all facilities or programs providing inpatient, residential or outpatient mental health services which are licensed, funded, or contracted by the DHHS, including state operated institutes and facilities. Because respite service is a program that NAMI Maine delivers under contract with the DHHS, we must provide care that is consistent with these rules. You may read them on line by going to <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/cbhs/policy/rights.shtml>

One of the rights that are guaranteed is your right to file a grievance. Part A, Section VII, Right to Due Process with Regard to Grievances, and Section IX, Confidentiality of and Access to Mental Health Records, were amended in April of 2000 as required by 34-B M.R.S.A. Section 15002. The Department is aware that changes are still needed to bring these rules into alignment with changes in the Department and how its services are provided; these additional changes will be addressed as soon as feasible.

Questions regarding the applicability or interpretation of these rules should be directed to the Division of Licensing and Regulatory Services, 11 SHS, Augusta, Maine 04333-0011. Telephone: (207) 287-9300; 1-800-791-4080; TDD 1-800-606-0215.

NAMI Maine’s grievance policy is described in the respite program handbook. You will receive a copy of the handbook with your respite approval packet. This handbook can also be found on our website at <http://www.namimaine.org/?page=ProviderForms>.

I have read the *Rights of Recipients and Grievances*, understand and agree.

Please initial here _____

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 1. Choice of provider** - NAMI Maine believes families should choose the respite provider most appropriate to the needs of their family. NAMI Maine will do all it can to help to certify and employ respite care providers that are referred to us by families.
- 2. Inform and train the provider about your child(ren)'s special needs** - Parents know their children best. They are most able to inform a provider what their child(ren) requires. It is the parent who must fully inform the provider of the child(ren)'s every need, including programs and treatments.

3. Action Plans - Each family will be asked to complete a respite action plan that documents the expectations of the family, the understanding of the respite provider, and outcomes expected from the provision of respite care. Respite services are to be delivered to address the health, social, behavioral, and daily living needs of children who are receiving care.

4. Instruct the provider regarding medications - Parents are responsible for informing their providers about their child(ren)'s medications and dosages. A signed permission form must be in effect each time respite takes place in order for a provider to give medications or supervise the taking of medications. Families must clearly separate and label each prescription with the preference being that medication is within its original prescription bottle. Failure to complete and submit the medications permission form will result in delays in payment to the provider. Repeated instances of non-compliance may result in termination of services.

5. Changes in special needs - Parents are responsible for reporting any changes in their child(ren)'s special needs, in the families' needs, residence, or telephone number. Eligibility is based on need, and may be reassessed at a maximum of three year intervals which require new documentation of disability. These reviews may be required more frequently based on the child(ren)'s diagnosis or as requested by DHHS.

I have read the *Parental Responsibilities*, understand and agree. **Please initial here** _____

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

While not a clinical provider, NAMI Maine complies with state and federal confidentiality laws that govern the release of information about medical and behavioral health. Our records consist only of the information you have shared with us as part of the application process. In this regard, NAMI Maine staff and respite care workers will maintain the privacy of your respite records with the following exceptions:

- There are concerns about or allegations of abuse or neglect of a child or a dependent adult;
- There are allegations or concern about the safety of a child or dependent adult;
- There are allegations or concerns about self-harm or harm to a child or dependent adult;
- There are other health or safety concerns that lead NAMI Maine to believe that the child or family is at risk because of an inability to care for the child or to care for themselves.

In all instances where a NAMI Maine staff person has any of the concerns listed above they will discuss them with a supervisor and if warranted, make a report to the DHHS abuse and neglect help line and/or to law enforcement authorities.

I have read the *Notice of Confidentiality*, understand and agree. **Please initial here** _____

INFORMED CONSENT

I understand that NAMI Maine will do all it can to certify, orient, train, and supervise the respite care providers that assist my family. I understand that NAMI Maine will check the criminal, child protective and driving histories of all respite care providers before they perform service.

I understand that I will be asked to (1) approve of the respite care provider that I choose to provide respite care to me and my family, (2) design an action plan with the respite care provider that outlines my goals for the respite care services I receive, and (3) that I will be required to provide direction to the provider delivering care based upon the needs of my child(ren), their specific treatment needs, and my knowledge of how that care needs to be provided.

I understand that respite care is neither a clinical service nor a medical or treatment service, and is a program that I have voluntarily chosen to utilize in order to receive planned breaks from caring for my child(ren) with special needs.

I understand the inherent risks associated with participation in respite care services and in asking another person to provide care to my child/children outside of my supervision. I knowingly and voluntarily accept these risks and agree to provide NAMI Maine with a satisfaction survey before respite care begins and at least quarterly thereafter. I understand that by providing this information, I am certifying that I am satisfied with the care I am receiving, with the safety of my child(ren) while in respite care, and that I am aware of no problems associated with the person providing the care or with the care they are providing my child(ren).

I acknowledge that I am solely responsible for medical or other costs arising out of any injury, illness, or property damage or loss sustained through my voluntary participation in this program. I also agree to provide necessary funds, fees & travel costs (\$.44 per mile) for any activity in which I have asked the respite care provider to bring my child(ren).

My initials next to the following denote my implied permission for any respite provider providing respite care for my child(ren) to

(initial all that apply):

- _____ Transport my child(ren) in their personal vehicle
- _____ Dispense medications while providing respite care
- _____ Escort my child(ren) to activities I have approved (examples include horseback riding, swimming, playgrounds, parks or other similar activities)

_____ Perform the necessary care my child(ren) require such as feeding, toileting, bathing, special medical care (G-tube, colostomy bag, catheterization, diapering, etc.).

_____ Other (please specify) _____

I have read the *Informed Consent*, understand and agree. **Please initial here** _____

RELEASE OF INFORMATION

I consent to the exchange of information between my case management agency and NAMI Maine as needed to assure the delivery of quality respite care to my family.

I understand that this release is solely for the purpose of assuring that respite services are provided to my family in a way that is safe and consistent with the treatment needs of my child(ren) and the behavior plans that are in place in my home.

FIRST CHILD

Print Child's Name _____

This child's case manager is _____

The case management agency is _____

Case Manager's Email _____

Case Manager's Phone _____

SECOND CHILD

Print Child's Name _____

This child's case manager is _____

The case management agency is _____

Case Manager's Email _____

Case Manager's Phone _____

THIRD CHILD

Print Child's Name _____

This child's case manager is _____

The case management agency is _____

Case Manager's Email _____

Case Manager's Phone _____

FOURTH CHILD

Print Child's Name _____

This child's case manager is _____

The case management agency is _____

Case Manager's Email _____

Case Manager's Phone _____

I agree to notify the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program if my child(ren)'s case manager or the agency providing case management changes.

I give my permission to the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program to release statistical information to the Children's Behavioral Health Services in compliance with funding and contractual requirements of respite care services.

I understand that I may rescind this release ***in writing*** at any time.

I have read the *Release of Information*, understand and agree.

Please Initial Here _____

FAMILY RESPITE PROGRAM APPLICATION SIGNATURE PAGE

- *I understand that the information provided on this application will be used to determine my child(ren)'s eligibility for the Family Respite Program.*
- *I give my permission to the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program to release statistical information to the Children's Behavioral Health Services in compliance with funding and contractual requirements of respite care services.*
- *I give my consent to NAMI Maine to verify the information included in this application.*
- *I understand I am required to give complete and truthful information.*
- *I understand that false statements made on this form are punishable as a crime.*
- *I have read and reviewed each of the preceding policies, understand and agree to each.*

The NAMI Maine Family Respite Program accepts either a **written signature** or an **electronic signature**.

Please sign this document using one of the following two options:

Option One: Written Signature

Print Name _____ Date _____

Parent / Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Option Two: Electronic Signature

In order to have your electronic signature accepted, you must complete **all three steps**.

1. By checking the 'I Accept' box, you agree that your electronic signature is the legal equivalent of your manual signature on this Child Application Section form.

I Accept

2. Type your full name and the date on the lines below.

_____ Date _____
Full name of parent or guardian

3. Answer one of the following questions.

What is the name of the high school you attended? Answer _____

What is your mother's maiden name? Answer _____

Where were you born? Answer _____