



Supporting Families Through Community-Based Respite Programs

Respite from 24/7 caregiving is essential to sustain families' ability to continue meeting the needs of their loved ones long-term. Programs like Tavon Learning Center offer consistent and predictable schedules, allowing families to plan ahead for their much-needed respite. This stability is critical for caregivers to recharge while maintaining their own well-being.

Community respite programs such as Tavon and Bridge of Promise redefine what respite care can be. These programs go beyond passive activities like art projects or movies—offering active, engaging environments that focus on personal growth, community connection, and learning. In a recent survey, families reported immense peace of mind knowing their loved ones were not just safe but thriving in a program designed to foster independence and community integration. Our members help plan their own activities, ensuring their voices are heard and that they have meaningful experiences.

However, maintaining such high-quality, person-centered care requires a low member-to-staff ratio. It currently costs \$35 per client per hour to run these programs, but with the state's reimbursement rate set at only \$21.80 per hour, we struggle to cover staff wages, benefits, payroll taxes, and the administrative support necessary to keep these programs running smoothly.

To continue offering this level of care, we urgently need the state's support in adjusting the reimbursement rates. We

propose a tiered respite rate structure that reflects the level of care required by each individual:

- \$40/hour** for those with the highest behavioral and personal care needs
- \$35/hour** for those with moderate needs
- \$30/hour** for those with lower needs

This investment is critical. Quality community respite programs not only provide essential breaks for family caregivers but also open up opportunities for social, recreational, and educational engagement for individuals with disabilities. We ask for your support in making this vision sustainable for the future of our communities.



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Building better lives for adults with disabilities.