



National Family Caregivers Association

Communicating Effectively with Healthcare Professionals Program
presents
A Workshop Leaders Training Conference

Why

Family caregivers receive no formal training on how to communicate effectively with healthcare professionals. Yet America's family caregivers provide over 80% of all home care services. These services have a market value of \$257 billion. Family caregivers are the backbone of our healthcare system for millions of Americans with medical needs, yet they are rarely recognized as members of the healthcare team, and are not provided the training, support, and respect they need and deserve. That's why the National Family Caregivers Association (NFCA) with the assistance of the National Alliance for Caregiving created the *Communicating Effectively with Healthcare Professionals Program*.

What

The *Communicating Effectively with Healthcare Professionals Program* aims to improve the health and well being of family caregivers and the chronically ill, disabled, or frail elderly loved ones for whom they care by teaching family caregivers how to communicate effectively with healthcare professionals.

The project is a curriculum development and leaders training initiative funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging and the Jacob and Valeria Langeloth Foundation. The curriculum focuses on core communication strategies applied to healthcare settings. Role-playing is a key part of the workshops that family caregivers will attend. A take-home, easy to read and use, tool kit provides family caregivers with check lists, fact sheets, how-to guides and more to supplement the skills learned during the workshop.

The project will train workshop leaders from around the country to use the curriculum and present workshops for family caregivers in their local communities. Fifteen thousand family caregivers across the country are projected to attend *Communicating Effectively with Healthcare Professionals* workshops over the next two years.

Who

Nurses, social workers, program managers and others providing services to and/or working with family caregivers are welcome to apply to attend training conferences. Previous training experience is not required, but is beneficial. All attendees are required to sign a commitment to follow through and present workshops for family caregivers in their community. The conference is limited to 50 people.

When

The next two-day invitational training conference will take place on March 21-22, 2003 in Orlando, FL. Conference participants must agree in writing, in advance of the conference, to present two workshops for family caregivers in their local communities within one year of taking the training.

Where

The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites hotel, Orlando, FL.

How to Apply

If you would like more information and/or an application form, please contact:

John Paul Marosy, project director, at (508) 854-0431 or jpmarosy@nfcacares.org.