

CAREGIVING APPROPRIATIONS SNAPSHOT

FY2026 Labor-HHS Appropriations: Family Caregiver Provisions



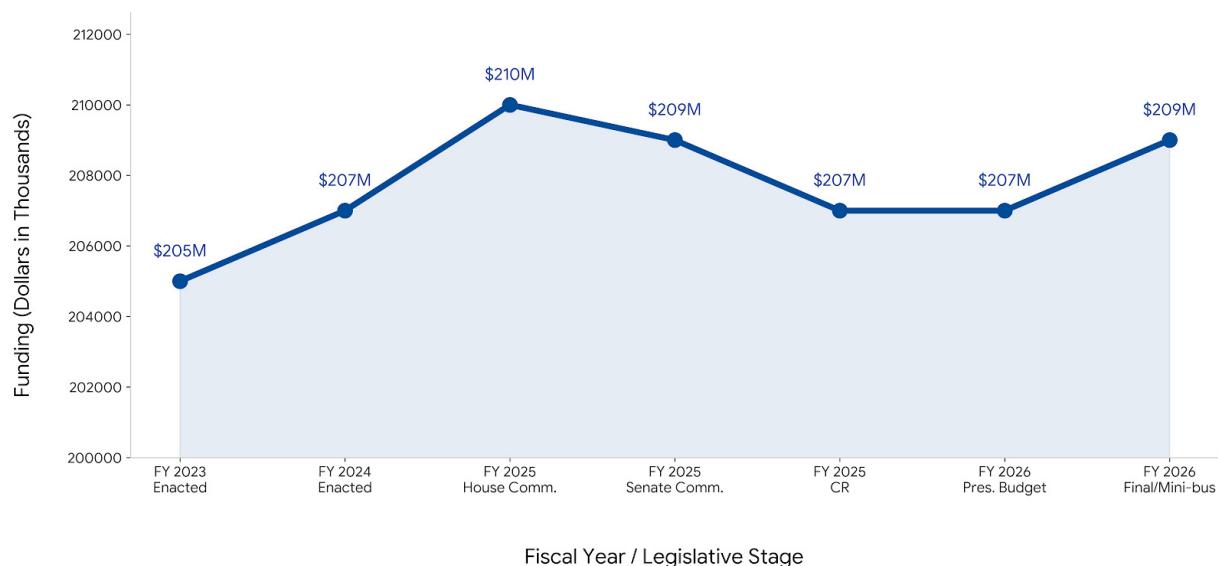
Overview

The Senate and House Appropriations Committees have released the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) funding bill as part of a mini-bus package. This analysis examines provisions affecting family caregivers and aging services administered through the federal government.

FY2026 Funding Levels for Caregiver Programs

Program	FY26 Amount	Change from FY25
National Family Caregiver Support Program	\$209 million	+\$2 million
OAA Title VI-C Native American Caregiver Support	\$14 million	+\$2 million
Lifespan Respite Care Program	\$11 million	+\$1 million
National Strategy Demonstration Grants	\$3 million	+\$1 million
CARE Corps Program	\$5.5 million	Level-funded

Funding Trends: National Family Caregiver Support Program (FY 2023 - FY 2026)



What This Means for the Caregiver Community

Positive Developments: The funding increases, though modest, reflect growing congressional recognition of the essential role family caregivers play in supporting older adults, people with disabilities, and individuals with complex health needs. Continued funding for the **National Family Caregiver Support Program**, **Native American Caregiver Support Program**, and **Lifespan Respite Care Program** enables states and communities to deliver essential services including respite, training, counseling, and information to family caregivers.

The agreement includes \$3 million specifically for National Strategy demonstration grants to "develop, test, and scale models that implement commitments and recommended actions from the [National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers](#), representing continued congressional commitment to the National Strategy. The bill also includes funding for the CARE Corps Program, which supports innovative local volunteer programs to assist family caregivers, older adults, and adults with disabilities with nonmedical care to maintain their independence.

Ongoing Concerns: Current funding levels remain insufficient to fully meet the needs of a rapidly growing caregiver population. Demographic pressures continue to intensify, with nearly 10,000 Americans turning 65 every day. The number of family caregivers has grown by nearly 50 percent since 2015, yet funding for caregiver support has seen only modest increases. Most Older Americans Act programs have remained level-funded, meaning these investments do not keep pace with inflation or the expanding scope of caregiving responsibilities facing families.

Additional Relevant Provisions

Program	FY26 Amount	Change from FY25
Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP)	\$48.245 million	Level-funded
NIH Alzheimer's and Dementia Research	\$3.9 billion	+\$100 million
BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act (CDC)	\$41.5 million	Level-funded
Direct Care Workforce Demonstration Project	\$2 million	Level-funded

The bill includes several additional provisions relevant to caregivers of older adults and individuals with dementia. The [Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program](#) (GWEP), which includes 43 sites across the country training practitioners in caring for older adults and supporting their family caregivers, was level-funded at \$48.245 million.

Notably, the bill provides a \$100 million increase for Alzheimer's and dementia research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), reflecting continued investment in understanding and treating these conditions that significantly impact family caregivers. Additionally, \$41.5 million is allocated for implementation of the [BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act](#) at the CDC, which funds the [Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Caregiving](#) at the University of Minnesota to help public health agencies elevate support for caregivers and promote evidence-informed caregiver programs.

Congressionally Directed Spending: Caregiver-Specific Projects

The FY2026 appropriations bill includes \$13.9 million in Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending for the Administration for Community Living. Approximately 1% is directed towards family caregiver specific supports and services. The following projects explicitly target family caregivers and caregiving services:

Organization	Purpose	Amount	State	Member(s)
Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Mercer County, Inc.	Expansion of caregiving services	\$40,000	NJ	Sens. Booker and Kim
Children's Therapy Center	Supportive services for parents and caregivers of children with disabilities, including equipment	\$100,000	WA	Sen. Murray

Looking Ahead

Family caregivers remain the backbone of the nation's long-term services and support system, often stepping in where formal care is unavailable or unaffordable. The National Alliance for Caregiving continues to urge Congress to strengthen and expand federal caregiver investments in future appropriations, including:

- Increasing funding for the National Family Caregiver Support Program through the Older Americans Act to match the growing family caregiver population.
- Full implementation of the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers.
- Addressing the direct care workforce shortage that affects both paid and unpaid family caregivers.
- Encouraging Members of Congress to direct Community Project Funding toward caregiver-specific services and programs.



Source: *FY2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill*

About the National Alliance for Caregiving

The [National Alliance for Caregiving](#) (NAC) is a catalyst for change, transforming how the United States recognizes, supports, and values its more than 63 million family caregivers providing complex care for older adults, people with a serious illness, or a disability. Through our nationally recognized caregiving research and advocacy, we drive policy, system, and culture change to elevate family caregivers as a national priority.

Acknowledgments

The [Caregiver Nation Coalition](#) – powered by the [National Alliance for Caregiving](#) – unites partners across aging, disability, patient advocacy, and caregiving sectors to drive meaningful policy change for America's 63+ million family caregivers. Anchored in the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers, the Coalition is a platform for collaboration, aligning efforts across sectors to turn national family caregiving priorities into action at the federal level. The Caregiver Nation Coalition is supported by a cornerstone investment from [The John A. Hartford Foundation](#).

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