



April 14, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
170 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, and Chair Moore Capito:

On behalf of the National Alliance for Caregiving and the Caregiver Nation Coalition, we thank you for supporting caregivers in the FY 2026 appropriations bills and urge you to increase federal funding for critical discretionary programs that support our nation's more than 63 million family caregivers and their care partners for FY 2027. Our organizations represent caregiving, aging, disability, and patient advocacy stakeholders across the caregiving continuum with a shared goal of strengthening our nation's first-ever, bipartisan *National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers*.

Family caregivers are the backbone of our health care system, providing an estimated *\$600 billion in unpaid care¹ each year* while serving as essential partners to both patients and providers. As the Labor-HHS Subcommittee and full Appropriations Committee develop and finalize FY 2027 appropriations legislation, we urge you to prioritize programs that support the millions of Americans

¹ Caldera, Selena, et al. "Valuing the Invaluable 2023 Update: Strengthening Supports for Family Caregivers." AARP, AARP, 8 Mar. 2023, www.aarp.org/pri/topics/ltss/family-caregiving/valuing-the-invaluable-2015-update/.

providing complex care to loved ones across the lifespan – including older adults, individuals with disabilities, and children with complex health needs.

FY2027 Funding Requests: Overview of Critical Caregiver Programs

At a minimum, we respectfully urge appropriators to fund the following programs at the levels listed below:

- **\$256,069,552 – Older Americans Act Title III-E, National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP)**, including support for the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregiving Advisory Council.
- **\$18,000,000 – Older Americans Act Title VI-C, Native American Caregiver Support Services**, which provides culturally appropriate caregiver supports for Tribal communities.
- **\$4,000,000 – National Strategy Demonstration Grants**, supporting implementation and testing of innovative strategies aligned with the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers.
- **\$20,000,000 – Lifespan Respite Care Program**, which funds statewide systems of accessible, coordinated respite care for family caregivers of individuals of all ages and abilities.

Background: Who Are Our Nation’s Family Caregivers

Family caregivers provide high-touch, high-impact support to millions of Americans every day. [Caregiving in the US 2025](#), a joint project between the National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP, estimates that more than 63 million Americans provide ongoing care to a loved one – representing nearly one in four adults in the United States. These caregivers assist with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, transferring and eating, as well as instrumental activities such as transportation, and financial management. Moreover, more than 30 million family caregivers find themselves in the extremely difficult position of assisting with increasingly complex medical and nursing tasks without support or training. ²

Despite their essential and often rewarding role, family caregiving can take a substantial toll on families. Research shows that caregivers experience higher rates of depression, chronic disease, and financial strain than non-caregivers. ³Therefore, investments in caregiver support programs, particularly those authorized through the Older Americans Act, help caregivers maintain their own health and well-being while enabling their loved ones to remain in their homes and communities longer. These modest federal investments also help prevent costly institutional care and hospitalizations.

Program Importance

National Family Caregiver Support Program (OAA Title III-E)

² AARP and National Alliance for Caregiving. *Caregiving in the US 2025*. Washington, DC: AARP. July 24, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.26419/ppi.00373.001>

³ Kilmer G, Omura JD, Bouldin ED, et al. Changes in Health Indicators Among Caregivers — United States, 2015–2016 to 2021–2022. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2024;73:740–746. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7334a2>

The National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) remains the only federally administered program dedicated to supporting family caregivers of older adults nationwide, delivering essential services that help caregivers, often older adults themselves, sustain their roles while maintaining their own health and well-being. Each year, the program serves more than 700,000 caregivers, including nearly one-third who support adults under age 65 with disabilities such as autism, Down syndrome, or early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Nearly 1 in 5 participants live in rural areas, underscoring the program's reach into underserved communities.

NFCSP services – including counseling, training, and respite care – have demonstrated measurable impact on both caregivers and the broader healthcare system. More than half (51%) of caregivers receiving respite services report it enabled them to provide care longer, compared to 37% without such support, while caregiver services have been shown to reduce Medicaid long-term care enrollment by 20% in some states. The program complements existing coverage – nearly 80% of users are not on Medicaid – and achieves high satisfaction, with over 93% of caregivers rating services positively. NFCSP represents a cost-effective investment that strengthens families, supports state systems, and helps delay costly institutional care.⁴

Native American Caregiver Support Services (OAA Title VI-C)

Title VI programs provide vital home- and community-based services to Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian elders and their caregivers. Funding for Title VI-C ensures Tribal communities delivers culturally appropriate supports to family caregivers caring for aging relatives.

National Strategy Demonstration Grants

Demonstration grants supporting implementation of the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers at both the state and federal levels are critical to advancing coordinated, nationwide improvements in caregiver support. These grants enable states, communities, and organizations to pilot and scale innovative models that align with national priorities, strengthen cross-sector partnerships, and enhance outcomes for caregivers and care recipients.

Lifespan Respite Care Program

The Lifespan Respite Care Program, administered by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), provides grants to states to expand access to coordinated, community-based respite care services for family caregivers of individuals of all ages and disabilities. The program supports the development of statewide respite systems, strengthens the direct care workforce through recruitment and training, and provides families with access to emergency and short-term respite services. Over a third of family caregivers report that they want access to respite services, and yet only 14 percent receive them.⁵

⁴ National Alliance for Caregiving. (2025). *National Family Caregiver Support Program fact sheet*. <https://www.caregiving.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/National-Family-Caregiver-Support-Program.pdf>

⁵ Reinhard, Susan, Jane Tilly, Brendan Flinn. *Respite Services: A Critical Support for Family Caregivers*. Washington, DC: AARP Public Policy Institute, January 29, 2024.

Research shows that caregivers who receive respite experience lower levels of stress, depression, and caregiver burden, as well as improved overall health and well-being.⁶

Family caregivers deserve our unwavering support, yet current funding levels for these programs have not kept pace with the rapidly growing population of caregivers, the increasing number of individuals requiring care, or the rising costs of care and daily living driven by inflation. As a result, these critical resources are under increasing strain, limiting their ability to meet demand and deliver timely, effective support to family caregivers. As you work on FY 2027 appropriations legislation, we urge you to not only protect but meaningfully strengthen these investments to ensure they align with today's realities and future needs. We stand ready to provide additional information, data, or technical assistance as you navigate these decisions, and we welcome the opportunity to discuss how these investments can be best structured to support caregivers nationwide.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to the millions of Americans who provide care every day.

Respectfully submitted,

National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC)
Agnes McCarthy Caregiver Foundation
ALS Association
Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer's Impact Movement
American Association of Caregiving Youth
American Geriatrics Society
Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration
Association of Cancer Care Centers
Benjamin Rose
Blue Water Homecare and Hospice
Bubba's Light, Inc.
California Coalition on Family Caregiving
Careforth
Caring Across Generations
Center for Caregiver Serenity
Centro de Amigos LLC
Compassion & Choices
Diverse Elders Coalition
Family Caregiver Alliance
Family Caregiver Center of New Mexico
Grantmakers In Aging
Gray Matters
Gerontological Society of America

⁶ Zarit SH, Bangerter LR, Liu Y, Rovine MJ. Exploring the benefits of respite services to family caregivers: methodological issues and current findings. *Aging Ment Health*. 2017 Mar;21(3):224-231. doi: 10.1080/13607863.2015.1128881. Epub 2016 Jan 5. PMID: 26729467; PMCID: PMC5550302.

Gimme A Break
Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.
Justice in Aging
Kare For Kupuna, LLC
NAMI Camden County
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
National Indian Council on Aging, Inc.
North Carolina Caregiving Collaborative
North Carolina Serious Illness Coalition
Respite Care Association of Wisconsin (RCAW)
Riccio Pick Me Ups
Senior Community Services, Minnesota
USAging
Utah Commission on Aging
Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network
Wisconsin Family & Caregiver Support Alliance
Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement