



Policy Solutions for Family Caregivers

Aging and disability advocates are asking policymakers to expand caregiver supports through the following proposals.

1. Invest in Aging and Disability Resource Center family caregiver supports.

When states invest in targeted supports for family caregivers that sustain caregiver health and extend their ability to provide care, there is a significant return on investment (i.e., 20% reduction in Medicaid funds; *Washington Demonstrates Cost Savings and Improved Outcomes from Supporting Family Caregivers, October 2021*).

- Summary of [the Wisconsin ADRC caregiver investment proposal](#).
- [ADRC Caregiver Support Legislation](#) your state representative can support today.

2. Expand Family Medical Leave Policies

Many more Wisconsinites are filling the role of family caregiver and are struggling to maintain their outside employment. Expanded FMLA policies can offer the flexibility a caregiver needs to ensure they can attend necessary meetings and interact with health care providers without fear of losing their job. Grandparents, siblings and others are taking on increasing caregiving roles that save the state money as people can remain in their homes longer; expanded FMLA helps people with chronic/episodic conditions return to work more quickly.

- [Family Medical Leave Act proposal](#)

3. Implement a Caregiver Tax Credit

- [Caregiver Tax Credit proposal](#)
- [Wisconsin support](#) for a caregiver tax credit

The average caregiver spends \$7,000 of their own money annually providing care for family members. For those taking care of family long distance, the money spent is approximately \$14,000. Supporting family caregivers to meet caregiving costs can ensure family caregivers remain healthy and have the funds they need to retire. Survey data show that nationally one in 6 family caregivers have reduced the money they set aside for retirement, one in 7 have spent less on their own health care, more than one in 10 have gone into their retirement savings and another one in 10 have taken out a loan. (Family Caregiving and Out-of-Pocket Costs: 2016 Report.)

[Email your legislator about these proposals.](#)