

Working Together to Recognize and Support Caregiving in Wisconsin





Strategy: Convene A Coalition

Stakeholders concerned about family and caregiver support gathered in August 2017 to identify challenges and ideas for the future.



The Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance was formed.



Steering Committee

The Arc Wisconsin, Family Voices of Wisconsin, Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Parent University, Respite Care Association of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, WisconSibs, Wisconsin Department of Health Services Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources.

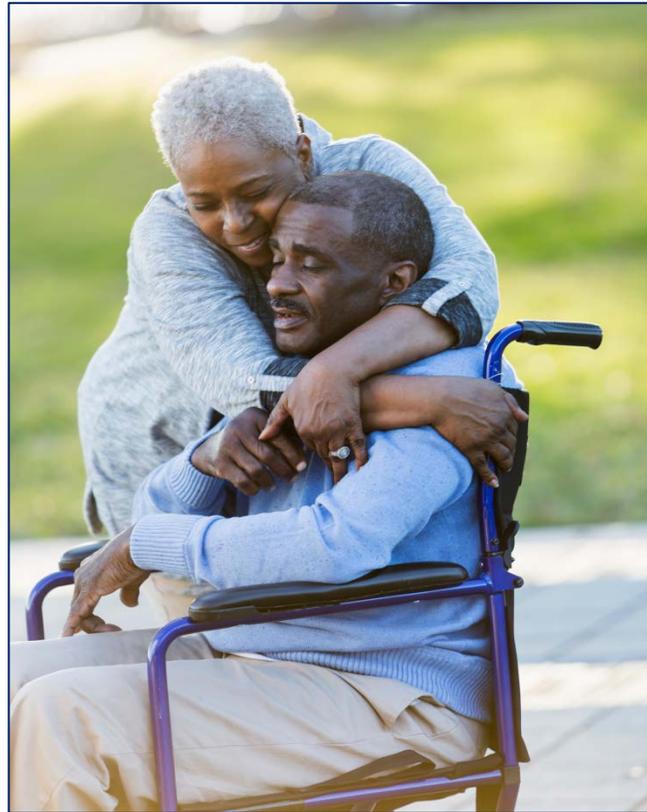




Mission

The mission of WFACSA is to:

- Raise Awareness of family and caregiver support needs
- Increase the availability of and access to services and supports (both paid and unpaid)
- Keep people engaged in their community as long as they desire.



National Family Caregivers Month Capitol Press Conference





Five Goals

1. Increase Outreach and Awareness

Through purposeful outreach, the Alliance will raise awareness about the breadth of caregiving and family support needs in our state with the goal of improving understanding and acceptance and identifying solutions.

Steering Committee:

- ▶ Create a WFACSA website
- ▶ Host exhibits and provide outreach at upcoming conferences related to caregivers
- ▶ Plan follow-up Wingspread events
- ▶ Plan events for National Family Caregiver Awareness Month
- ▶ Support WFACSA workgroups and track progress toward goals



Outreach and Awareness

- Hosting community listening sessions across the state for caregiving families in partnership with the Wisconsin Women's Council
- *Governor Proclamation: November 2018 Wisconsin Family Caregiver Awareness Month*
- *2nd Annual WFCASA gathering in Madison, July 26, 2018*





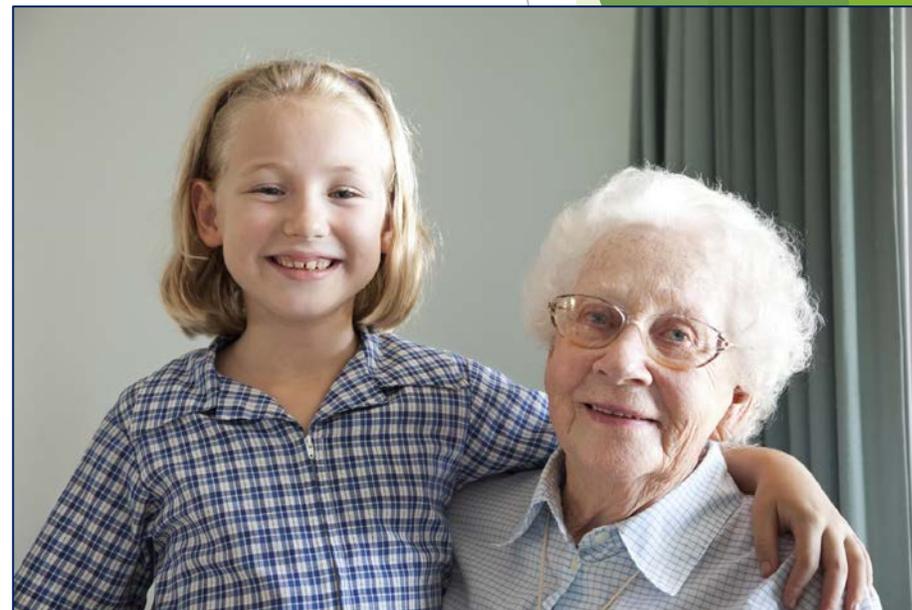
Goals

2. Promote Policy and Advocacy Efforts

The Alliance will inform public policy and engage in dialogue with policymakers and state agencies to advance solutions that result in the implementation of new, effective strategies.

Background Check Policy Workgroup

- ▶ Explore the possibility of making culturally appropriate exceptions to background checks and professional credentials.



Engage Policymakers in 2019

Members of the Alliance will be working on these and other issues:

- ▶ **Address the Direct Care Workforce crisis; raise wages.**
- ▶ **Pass Paid Family and Medical Leave.**
- ▶ **Develop a Statewide Caregiver Registry.** This would allow people with disabilities, older adults and families to be matched with quality (pre-screened) workers in their area. Include credentialing and recognition, and connecting family caregivers to necessary information and resources.
- ▶ **Pass a State Tax Credit for family caregivers.**
- ▶ **Pass the CARE Act in Wisconsin.** This would require hospitals to identify family caregivers, inform them about hospital discharge plans for their family member, and instruct them on health-related care tasks they will need to perform when the person returns home (36 other states already have it).
- ▶ **Increase Respite Care funding.**



Goals

3. Improve Systems Navigation and Access

The Alliance will consult with a diverse group of families, caregivers and professionals to identify gaps in resources and service provision with the goal of leading to concrete improvement in access to essential supports, information and resources.

System Navigation and Access Workgroup

- ▶ Improve family access to necessary information and resources; Increase the level and quality of assistance families receive to coordinate services and navigate through the service system.

Systems Navigation Survey

Key Findings

- ▶ Nearly 2/3 of professionals surveyed feel they are able to provide resources that meet family and caregiver needs most of the time or always.
- ▶ Professionals identify respite, in-home care and transportation as frequently requested by family caregivers, and among the services often unavailable from their agency or other providers in the community.
- ▶ Other requested but often unavailable services include funding for family caregiver support services, support groups and informational opportunities.
- ▶ School professionals reported that many families find support systems outside of school confusing, often due to lack of clear information about options.



Goals

4. Expand Family and Caregiver Support Options

The Alliance will expand the availability of supports for families and caregivers, in part by advancing collaboration and communication between aging and disability systems.

Expand Respite Options & Providers

- ▶ Expand the availability of respite services to families who need it.

Create Peer Supports

- ▶ Build community and statewide networks which can deliver the emotional, personal and peer support that families need.

Promote Future Planning

- ▶ Make affordable, high quality future planning available to all families in Wisconsin who need it.

Expand Respite and In-Home Care Options

- Promote the use of caregiver registries by families and care providers.
- Make respite and in-home care a rewarding career option, especially in underserved areas of the state.
- Develop and fund new kinds of respite programs. (RCAW)
- Improve background check rules for respite providers.
- Develop peer to peer networks for emotional support and to help in crisis situations.



Goals

5. Strengthen Community Support

Members of the Alliance will work in communities to promote better understanding of local challenges that prevent families from accessing quality care from paid and unpaid caregivers, and to promote the societal value of supporting caregivers.

Employer Engagement Workgroup

- ▶ Create more flexible and supportive work environments for employees who are supporting and caring for family members.

Underserved Families Workgroup

- ▶ Improve supports for families of color and other underserved populations.

Employer Engagement Survey

200 Employers Surveyed so far

Nearly 50% of employees are impacted, and women are impacted more.

Top 3 ways caregiving impacts business

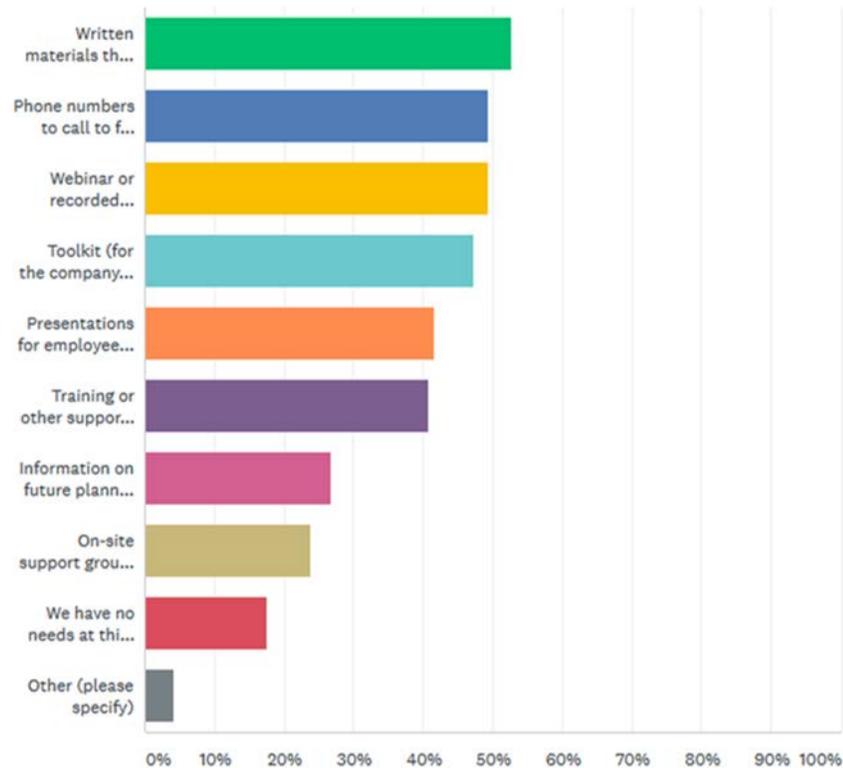
1. Increased emotional stress for employees/employer
1. Requests to change work schedules
1. Requests for personal time off or reduced hours of work

Top 3 ways employers respond

1. Allow flexible schedules
2. Refer to an Employee Assistance Program
3. Provide on-site education, including Lunch 'n Learns

What types of resources would be valuable? (check all that apply)

Answered: 142 Skipped: 0



Top 4 Resources Employers Want

1. Written materials that explain community resources & programs
2. Phone numbers for support
3. Webinar or recorded training for employees
4. Toolkits of information



WFACSA Workgroup Activities

- ▶ **Underserved Families Workgroup**
Distributing a job description that identifies qualities required to reach the caregiving needs of underserved families. Developed a policy brief.
- ▶ **Employer Engagement Workgroup**
Distributing a survey to learn what employers know and are thinking about the issue of supporting working family caregivers.
- ▶ **System Navigation and Access Workgroup**
Conducted a provider survey to identify systems barriers, which is being followed by a second systems barrier survey for family members.
- ▶ **Future Planning Workgroup**
Offering a series of statewide presentations showcasing Future Planning tools.
- ▶ **Respite Options and Access**
Sponsored a statewide Lifespan Respite Summit in June 2018, and in 2020 will be hosting an International Respite Summit in Madison.

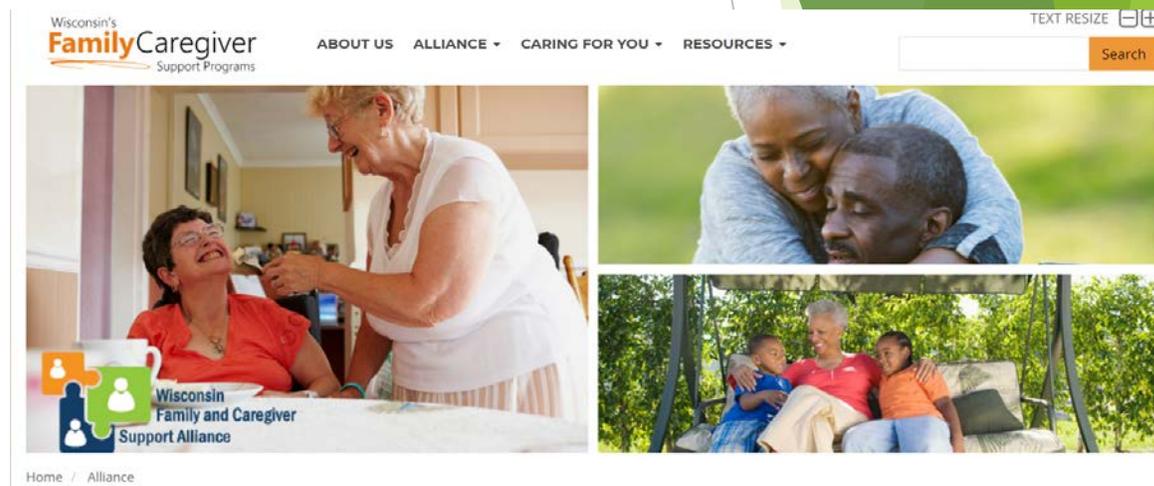


Contact Us

Learn more:

<http://wisconsincaregiver.org/alliance>

Join us: Interested organizations are invited to be listed as members of the Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance. For more information send an email to wfacsa@gmail.org



Learn more: Contact Wfacsa Co-Chairs Lisa Pugh Pugh@thearc.org or Lynn Gall Lynn.Gall@dhs.wisconsin.gov