



THE STAFFING SHORTAGE IN SENIOR CARE IS A CRISIS, AFFECTING SENIORS AND FAMILIES IN EVERY CORNER OF THE STATE.

The Legislature must act to ensure access for all seniors who need care.

The state is responsible for ensuring seniors have care

In nursing homes, the State sets the rates for all who receive care. In assisted living, low-income seniors use Medicaid dollars through a state program for Elderly Waiver. In both cases, the rates set by the state do not cover the total cost of care, including competitive wages for professional caregivers

Investing in caregivers

Unless the state increases funding for nursing home reimbursements and Elderly Waiver, senior care providers will be unable to recruit and retain the caregivers needed to provide Minnesota seniors with the care they need.



The
**Long-Term Care
IMPERATIVE**

For more information, contact us:
 ltcimperative.org

SENIORS CAN'T ACCESS CARE

Minnesota seniors are being denied the care they need because there aren't enough caregivers. This access crisis is impacting entire families across the state.

KEY NUMBERS



Minnesota's seniors were turned away from long-term care 11,000 times in just one month, most due to lack of staff

There are more than 20,000 (20%) open caregiver positions across Minnesota's long-term care settings

With another 50,000 Minnesotans turning 80 in the next 5 years, we need solutions now.

LEGISLATIVE SOLUTIONS

Secure the safety net of senior care services and supports

Pay caregivers the wages they deserve

Facilitate wage increases for caregivers to attract new workers and reduce turnover

Reduce Payment Delay

Reform the 21-month delay in reimbursement for nursing homes

Invest in Elderly Waiver

Fully fund the state's Medicaid waivers that are intended to cover the costs of caring for seniors

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CAREGIVERS CAN'T MAKE A LIVING WAGE

Professional caregivers in aging services cannot make the wages needed to support their families. State leaders set rates for care, so our ability to recruit and retain caregivers depends on the state's programs. Current rates do not provide enough money for caregivers to make a living wage.

LEGISLATIVE SOLUTIONS

Invest in senior and their caregivers by raising rates for aging services

Rate Increases for Nursing Home

Providing a direct rate increase for nursing homes (\$52/day) to increase wages

Recategorize Caregiver Costs to the Value Based System

Make categorical moves of select staff from a price to cost to facilitate increased wages

Invest in Medicaid Waivers Used in Long-Term Care Settings

Invest in the state's Medicaid waivers to support higher wages for professional caregivers

STATE RESPONSIBLE FOR SOLUTIONS

Minnesota's seniors have a right to care in their communities. We must do everything we can to attract caregivers and encourage innovation to serve the growing population of seniors. It's the state's responsibility.

LEGISLATIVE SOLUTIONS

Find solutions to grow caregiver pipeline and reduce barriers to innovation

Increase the number of people who choose careers in LTC

- Promote opportunities for students to gain academic credit for working in long-term care
- Expand access to education and testing for the next generation of nurses and nurse aides
- Promote programs to broaden the availability of trained medication aide training programs
- Reduce barriers that slow or prevent hires from starting work

Reduce operational barriers that limit access to affordable care

- Continue advocacy and support of PACE
- Revise the assisted living statutes to improve access to safe and affordable assisted living care

Dedicated, diverse caregivers



Women, people of color, and immigrants are the majority of the senior care workforce. According to DEED data, it's the most diverse sector in the state.

\$16
PER HOUR

The starting wage for caregivers is about \$16 per hour, which is mainly determined by reimbursement rates. The living wage for a family in the metro area is almost \$26 per hour.

Inadequate funding for senior care is an equity issue for working families. We must support caregivers with the wages they deserve.



Access to senior care impacts access to care for everyone

When hospitalized seniors are unable to transition into long-term care, they are forced to stay in hospitals, preventing other Minnesotans from receiving the care they need.

Without action by the 2023 Legislature, today's caregiver shortage will worsen, preventing even more senior from receiving the care they deserve.