













Number of Carers

Estimated number **427,000ⁱ**
 Percentage of population **0.9%**



Current Practices	Opportunities to Increase Support
 <p>The Law 39/2006 on the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Care for Dependent People (Dependency Law) defines unpaid carers as people of the family not linked to a professionalized attention service.ⁱⁱ It is important to note that certain regions in Spain have a broader definition of an unpaid carer.</p>	<p>Expand the definition of unpaid carer on a national level.</p>
 <p>The Spanish Government provides financial benefits for dependent people if they cannot access social services as a first option. This support will pay for care costs in an accredited center or for care offered by non-professional carers, such as family members.ⁱⁱⁱ</p>	<p>Reduce the bureaucratic hurdles so unpaid carers can easily receive financial support for care recipients.</p>
 <p>Unpaid carers are entitled to unpaid leave up to two years to take care of a family member for reasons of age, accident, illness or disability.^{iv}</p>	<p>Provide a national employment policy which includes paid and flexible care leave, flexible working conditions, and the promotion of a work-life balance.</p>
 <p>Only those unpaid carers who actively participated in the workforce can benefit from retirement pension. They have a right to flexible or partial retirement if they meet certain conditions.^v</p>	<p>Improve pension rights and benefits for unpaid carers that had to leave the workforce to provide care.</p>
 <p>There are limited respite care services depending on the region where the unpaid carer lives.</p>	<p>Nationally recognize respite care as a right and provide more funding to implement respite care in all regions.</p>
 <p>Training of unpaid carers at the regional level was regulated by a resolution to the Dependency Law. It requires regions to train and assess the skills of all carers.^{vi}</p>	<p>Provide support to regions to increase education and training. Implement an integrated approach of community support to unpaid carers so they can access community-based services.</p>

 Legislation	 Working arrangements	 Respite care
 Financial support	 Pension credits	 Information and training

Government Recognition

Law 39/2006 of Promotion of the Autonomy and Care of People in a Dependent Situation

Regional laws and policies

*As an EU Member State, Spain is impacted by the proposal for a [Directive on the Work-Life Balance for Parents and Carers](#), which covers carers' leave and flexible working arrangements.

References

- i ECPC and EUROCARERS. (2017). White Paper on Cancer Carers. Page 24. <http://www.ecpc.org/WhitePaperOnCancerCarers.pdf>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]
- ii Spain Ministry of Employment and Social Security. (2009). Agreement on common accreditation criteria for training and information for non-professional carers. Page 1. http://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2009-18959. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]
- iii European Commission. Spain Care for Dependents. Page 1. <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1129&langId=en&intPageId=4798>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]
- iv Spain Ministry of Employment and Social Security. (2015). Royal Legislative Decree approving the revised text of the Law on the Workers' Statute. Page 1. http://www.seg-social.es/Internet_1/Normativa/index.htm?dDocName=095296&C1=1001&C2=2010&C3=3036&C4=4015. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]
- v European Commission. Spain - Ordinary, partial and flexible retirement pension. Page 1. <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1129&langId=en&intPageId=4795>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]
- vi Spain Ministry of Employment and Social Security. (2009). Agreement on common accreditation criteria for training and information for non-professional carers. Page 1. http://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2009-18959. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]