

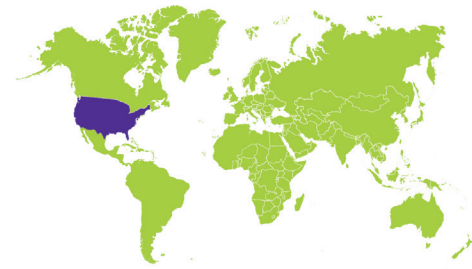
Number of Carers

Estimated number

43.5 Millionⁱ

Percentage of population

16.6%



Current Practices	Opportunities to Increase Support
Unpaid carers are formally recognized but are not considered a protected class at the federal level. ⁱⁱ	Nationally recognize unpaid carers as a federally protected class. Pass federal legislation that gives unpaid carers the right to an assessment of their needs.
Unpaid carers can receive some financial assistance, income, or tax breaks that can reduce the burden of the cost of caregiving. These options are embedded in various government programs and tax incentives if certain qualifying criteria are met. ⁱⁱⁱ Through the Kupuna Caregivers Act, Hawaii provides financial assistance to support employed carers to remain in the workforce. ^{iv}	Create one national initiative that provides financial support to unpaid carers.
The US lacks a national mandate on comprehensive paid family leave. California, Rhode Island, New York and New Jersey provide some variation of paid family leave. ^v	Create a national mandate for paid family leave and financially support employers that promote a work-life balance.
Unpaid carers can apply for Social Security disability benefits for the care recipient. There are two types of disability benefits; Supplemental Security Income (need based) and Social Security Disability (based on previous employment). ^{vi}	Pass federal legislation that would provide a Social Security pension credit of up to five years of uncompensated care, to unpaid carers for the time they would have earned wages but could not due to their caring responsibilities.
Respite programs for unpaid carers are provided under the National Family Caregiver Support Program and the Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006, which was intended to improve the delivery and quality of respite care services available to families across all age and disability groups. ^{vii} Other federal programs offer limited access to respite services.	Make respite care more readily available and easier to access.
Unpaid carers have access to training and information through the non-profit organizations Family Caregiver Alliance, AARP, the National Alliance for Caregiving, and the Caregiver Action Network. The VA Caregiver Support Program and the National Family Caregiver Support Program both offer training and educational resources. ^{viii}	Increase awareness of training and services currently available to unpaid carers.

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



Government Recognition

Recognize, Assist, Support and Engage (R.A.I.S.E.) Family Caregivers Act

The Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006

Older Americans Act

Family and Medical Leave Act

Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act

VA Mission Act

State-specific Legislation:

The Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (C.A.R.E.) Act

The Kupuna Caregivers Act in Hawaii

Medicaid Consumer-Directed Care Program (also known as Cash and Counseling), available under Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver Program

Paid Family and Medical Leave

Older Americans Act - National Family Caregiver Support Program

State Caregiving Task Force Legislation

References

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- iii Caregiver Homes from Seniorlink. (2017). Financial Support for Caregivers. Page 1. <https://blog.caregiverhomes.com/financial-support-for-caregivers-the-ultimate-guide-to-home-care-costs-financial-aid-and-financial-planning-for-caregivers>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]
- iv Hawaii Aging and Disability Resource Center. (2017). Kupuna Caregivers Program. Page 1. https://hawaiiadrc.org/Portals/_AgencySite/KCG%20Info%20sheet%20071117_FINAL.pdf. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]
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- vi Disability Benefits Center. (2016). Applying as a Caregiver of an Adult with an Illness. Page 1. <https://www.disabilitybenefitscenter.org/blog/applying-as-caregiver>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]
- vii Administration for Community Living. Lifespan Respite Care Program. Page 1. <https://www.acl.gov/index.php/programs/support-caregivers/lifespan-respite-care-program>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]
- viii US Department of Veteran Affairs. VA Caregiver Support. Page 1. <https://www.caregiver.va.gov/>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]