



**JOIN US!** Together we can ensure that unpaid, informal caregivers have the support and resources they need.

### Unpaid Caregivers Are the Largest Healthcare Workforce

Nationwide, more than 53 million people (1 out of 5 of us) are caregivers providing essential support to family members and friends who can no longer live independently. It's estimated that the care they provide is worth nearly half a trillion dollars — making caregivers the largest healthcare workforce in the country and a vital resource for the nation.

In Illinois, about half (47%) of voters 50+ have experience as family caregivers. Among this group, 64% said they worked paying jobs while providing care. So what can we do to support caregivers, who are often unpaid for their labor providing care to older adults, mastering complex medical-nursing tasks, spending their own funds for caregiving expenses, caring for children and grandchildren, and have little time to attend to their own self-care?

**“** There are only four kinds of people in the world: those who have been caregivers, those who are currently caregivers, those who will be caregivers, and those who will need caregivers. **”**  
— Rosalynn Carter, Former U.S. First Lady



### The Illinois Family Caregiver Coalition relies on all of us working together:

- Unpaid caregivers
- Advocacy groups
- Human services organizations
- Policymakers
- Businesses
- Disease-specific groups
- Policy research groups
- Healthcare providers
- Kinship care providers
- The LGBTQ+ community
- Veterans & their families
- Disability & behavioral health communities

### We Need to Support Unpaid Caregivers Now

The Illinois Family Caregiver Coalition (IFCC) is an inclusive, state-wide, nonpartisan coalition supporting and advocating for unpaid, informal caregivers.

To support unpaid caregivers, the IFCC is:

- Identifying, promoting, and advocating for policy changes benefitting caregivers,
- Launching a public awareness campaign in Illinois, spotlighting the importance of caregiving and offering resources for caregivers,
- Discussing 2021 recommendations from the federal RAISE Family Caregivers Act with national stakeholders and developing strategies to ensure their implementation,
- Reviewing best practices for caregiving in Illinois, as well as other states, and promoting them broadly.



#### Contact Us!

[www.illinoisfamilycaregiver.org](http://www.illinoisfamilycaregiver.org)

Contact Amy Brennan, Executive Director  
Illinois Family Caregiver Coalition

773-727-9340

[info@illinoisfamilycaregiver.org](mailto:info@illinoisfamilycaregiver.org)

#### Coalition Founders

- AgeGuide (Lombard, IL)
- AgeLinc (Springfield, IL)
- AgeOptions (Oak Park, IL)
- AgeSmart Community Resources (O'Fallon, IL)
- Central Illinois Agency on Aging (Peoria, IL)
- Chicago Dept. of Family & Support Services (Chicago, IL)
- East Central IL Area Agency on Aging (Bloomington, IL)
- Egyptian Area Agency on Aging (Carterville, IL)
- Midland Area Agency on Aging (Centralia, IL)
- Southeastern IL Area Agency on Aging (Mt. Carmel, IL)
- West Central IL AAA (Quincy, IL)
- Western IL Area Agency on Aging (Rock Island, IL)

#### Funded by

- RRF Foundation for Aging
- Illinois Department of Aging
- TCARE Inc.
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois

# Informal Caregiving: By the Numbers

The COVID-19 pandemic has shined a light on the essential role of unpaid, informal caregivers in Illinois and throughout the country and the support they need to care for their families and friends.



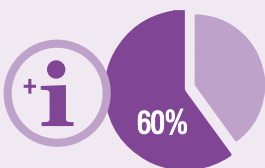
## Unpaid, Informal Caregivers Nationwide



**1 out of 5 Americans**

served as caregivers for family members and/or friends during the pandemic

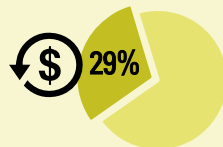
Informal caregivers provide **30 billion hours** of uncompensated care each year, an average of **24 hours a week**



**6 out of 10 caregivers** say they need more information and support



## Financial & Health Challenges



**29% of caregivers** have struggled financially, including nearly half who lost jobs during the pandemic

Caregivers spend an average of **26% of their income** on costs around providing care for older adults



**6 out of 10 caregivers** consider their situation stressful, and **1 out of 5** report physical strain due to caregiving duties



**61%** of caregivers' employment situations have been negatively impacted

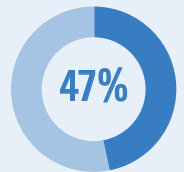


## Illinois Facts



**80%** of Illinoisians aged 40+ would prefer to be cared for at home by a caregiver if they needed help

47% of voters in Illinois age 50+ have experience as family caregivers, and of that group, 64% also worked while providing care



Two out of three current and former caregivers worked jobs while they provided care. **2/3**



Caregivers provide companionship (92%), help with errands/transportation (90%), provide complex care including managing medications (64%), bathing/dressing (52%), and medical/nursing support support (51%)



**6 out of 10** used their own money to provide care.

Illinois Aging Services (IAS) is a non-profit organization of professionals in the field of Aging Services. Our purpose is to assess the needs of older adults and their caregivers, assure access to needed services and offer education to service providers.

For more information on IAS, please visit [www.illinoisagingservices.org](http://www.illinoisagingservices.org).

Sources: AARP Family Caregiving in IL; NORC at the University of Chicago on behalf of the CDC Foundation and NAC