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All On Our Own: Part Time Help for Full Time Care

The lack of quality direct care workers has increased pressure on family caregivers to an unsustainable level. Families have been forced to fill in the gaps, even though they already provide 80% of all the care needed. 85% of families do not have enough direct care workers to staff all authorized hours.

This week's video exposes the volume and kind of care families provide, and the lack of paid help available to hire.

Watch this four-minute video on

[All On Our Own: Part Time Help for Full Time Care](#)

"There is literally no one to hire that can replace family caregiver contributions," said Lisa Pugh, Co-Chair of the Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations. "And now families can't find direct care workers to help for the 20% of care that is provided by paid staff."

"Families work long hours, every day doing complex personal and medical care," said Janet Zander, public policy coordinator for the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network. "For many families there are no breaks and no help to be had."

"80% of care translates into 19 hours per day, 134 per week, 6988 per year," said Lisa Schneider, Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance Co-Chair. "There is no one to hire that can replace their contributions, but it begs the question when families are unable to donate their labor, who will care?"

States that value the contributions of caregivers provide targeted caregiver supports and are seeing savings of \$20 million annually in taxpayer dollars, mostly due to delayed nursing home placement.¹

Wisconsin advocates for people with disabilities, older adults and their families are highlighting how the increasing burden on the state's family caregivers is creating an unsustainable crisis that threatens not only the health of caregivers themselves, but of the family members who rely on them for care.

Three organizations, including the Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations, Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network, and the Wisconsin Family Caregiver Alliance are releasing the 5th of 6 short videos focused on the daily challenges faced by Wisconsin's family caregivers as part of Family Caregiver Month.

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3202705/>
http://www.advancingstates.org/sites/default/files/Washington_%20State%20Plan%20on%20Aging.pdf

Meet Wisconsin's Family Caregivers

- **Watch:** All On Our Own: Part Time Help for Full Time Care (<https://youtu.be/KptgGUP-06U>)
- **Watch:** Hidden Costs, Real Expenses: What it Costs to Care (<https://youtu.be/Ulz3pLQMw0Y>)
- **Watch:** No time to be sick, no time to stay well: the physical and mental toll on family caregivers (https://youtu.be/n5_46XwkXI4)
- **Watch:** Two Jobs, No Breaks: Employed and Caregiving (<https://youtu.be/I5g2RiOBgxs>)
- **Watch:** Family Caregiver Press Event (<https://youtu.be/YrC1mRLij3Mb>)
- **Watch:** See Us: Wisconsin's Invisible Family Caregivers (https://youtu.be/_3-pILaEqaU)
- Policy solutions to support family caregivers (<https://arcwi.org/2021/09/23/support-for-family-caregivers-is-critical/>)

Quick facts: On Our Own, No Help to Hire

- 85% of families do not have enough workers to staff all authorized hours.
- Families fill in the gaps.
- Families work long hours, every day doing complex personal and medical care.
- 93% of personal care providers reported difficulties in filling job openings.
- The annual direct care workforce turnover rate is more than 50 percent.
- Few direct care jobs have any benefits.
- 50% of direct care workers rely on public assistance programs.
- 25% live below the poverty line.
- In 2020, the average wage for Wisconsin direct care workers is \$13.22 per hour.