



## Invest in the American Care Infrastructure

President Biden proposed including \$400 billion in funding for home-and-community-based services (HCBS) in his federal infrastructure plan, known as the American Jobs Plan. This funding is desperately needed, and it would benefit all Americans by boosting the economy, allowing workers to earn a living wage, expanding services to older adults and people with disabilities, and allowing family caregivers to return to work or continue working.

### We must invest in our home care workforce...



Home care workers provide essential services and care to older adults, people with disabilities, and children with complex medical needs, but struggle to earn a living – exacerbating the inequities already faced by women, people of color, and immigrants. Because of low wage and other poor job quality, the U.S. is already experiencing a high turnover and worker shortage that will only worsen without government action.



Over **2.3 million** home care workers provide services in the United States.

Home care workers earn an average hourly wage of **\$12.12** and have average annual earnings of only **\$17,200**.

Almost **1 in 5** home care workers live in poverty.

**61%** of home care workers are people of color, **87%** are female and **21%** are immigrants.

### ...so that older adults, people with disabilities...



A growing number of older adults and people with disabilities require HCBS, and many of them rely upon Medicaid to provide it. Additional investments in our HCBS system are needed to ensure that all who prefer to receive care in the community have access to it.



Over **8 million** Americans need help with daily activities such as bathing or dressing.

Nationally, Medicaid is the largest funder of HCBS, covering **57%** of costs.

Up to **3.7 million** people receive HCBS through Medicaid.

## ...and family caregivers...



Expanding access to HCBS would relieve the physical, emotional, and financial strain put on family caregivers.



Almost **48 million** family caregivers provide care to loved ones who are 18+.

**Over half** of family caregivers feel they did not have a choice in becoming a caregiver.

**45%** of family caregivers reported that caregiving negatively impacted their finances.

## ...can receive the services and care they need.



Many Americans struggle to access HCBS due to the home care workforce shortage, Medicaid wait lists, or funding challenges.



From 2018-2028, the U.S. will need to fill over **4.4 million** home care job openings.

Almost **820,000** Americans are on Medicaid HCBS wait lists - waiting an average of over **3 years**.

**88%** of Americans prefer to receive care in their home rather than a senior community or nursing home.

## Investing in HCBS will benefit us all.



Investing in HCBS will enable more workers to earn family-sustaining wages, more families, older adults and people with disabilities to access the services they need in the community, and more family caregivers to continue working. Importantly, it will also create an economic boost that would benefit all Americans and will help the country recover from the impact of COVID-19 and build a durable care infrastructure.



Create and support over **1.1 million** new jobs each year over ten years, nearly **800,000** of which are "living wage" care jobs.

Add an estimated **\$40 billion** additional income for current workers and their families each year.

For more information, visit [WomenEffectFund.org](https://WomenEffectFund.org).

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