How A Living Wage Benefits Us All

DIRECT CARE WORKERS IN THE U.S.

Direct care workers are undervalued and poorly compensated.

- 15.6% of all health workers
- 3.5 million nursing assistants, personal care aides, and home health aides
- $474.79 average take-home pay
- 48.2% earn less than living wage
- 1 in 8 live in poverty
- 56.5% receive some form of public assistance

WHO PAYS FOR LTSS?

Inadequate funding means providers struggle to cover wages.

- Government and private resources pay for a significant amount of the nation's bill for long-term services and supports (LTSS).
- 8% Private Insurance
- 19% Consumers
- 51% Medicaid
- 21% Other Public Programs

A BETTER WAY: THE IMPACT OF A LIVING WAGE

Higher wages would bring benefits to all of us.

- 75.3% of direct care workers would feel benefits
- Reduced turnover and staffing shortages within care settings
- $5.5 billion expected minimum increase in total productivity
- Enhanced quality of care
- $1.6 billion could be saved each year by public assistance programs
- $17–$22 billion added to local economies