



As Americans live longer and outlive our savings, millions of us need care and support to grow old with health and dignity. Many older Americans and their families are in need of extra help as they age.

The Aging U.S. Population is Creating a Growing Need for Aging Services

- Our population is aging. By 2060 the number of older Americans [will have doubled to 98 million in 2060](#).
- According to AARP, over [7.9 million people](#) over 65 needed long-term services and supports in 2018, and [around half of Americans](#) who turn 65 will need aging care and services during their lives.

Families Stretched to Pay for Care While Caregivers are Strained

- More than [40 million Americans](#) provide some form of unpaid caregiving for an older adult – at an average of [34 unpaid hours a week](#) in care. [More than a quarter \(26%\)](#) are caring for someone with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia.
- By 2029, it’s estimated that [54% of middle-income older adults](#) won’t be able to afford the housing and long-term care they need. Almost half of Americans have no retirement savings, and even among those approaching retirement age, [nearly half have saved less than \\$25,000](#).
- From 2016 to 2060, the [older adult population is expected to double](#) while the 18 to 64 year old population, who is most likely to provide care, will increase by only 15%. As a result, the [caregiver support ratio](#) (the ratio of those aged 18 to 64 years old, who are most likely to provide care, to those aged 85 and above, who are most likely to need care) will shrink dramatically, from 31 to 1 in 2016 to only 12 to 1 by 2060.

Needs for Home and Community-Based Services

- **Current Use:** [4.5 million people](#) use home-based care. 82% of consumers of home-based care are 65 and older (~3.7 million older adults).
- **Needs:**
 - More than 188,000 seniors and people with physical disabilities were on [a waiting list for Medicaid HCBS](#) in 2018.
 - Because HCBS benefits and state programs vary, [not everyone who needs or is eligible for Medicaid HCBS can access these benefits](#).
 - To meet demand, employment of [home health and personal care aides is expected to jump 34% from 2019 to 2029](#), according to the Labor Department. The aging baby-boom generation and the growing elderly population are the main reasons for the increase.



- Home health and personal care aides represent the [sixth-fastest growing occupation](#) in the country, according to Labor Department data, but the pay is low at about \$12 per hour, or \$25,000 per year.
- [49% of home care worker households](#) are dependent on some form of public assistance, with 51% living on incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level.

Needs for Affordable Housing

- **Current Use:** [2.8 million older adults](#) live in federally assisted affordable senior housing, which provides affordable housing to low-income older adults.
- **Needs:**
 - Nearly 10 million Americans 65 and over must [pay 30% or more of their income for housing](#) (more than 50% of whom pay half or more of their income).
 - Only [36% of those](#) who qualify receive housing assistance benefits (roughly 1.4 out of 4 million households).
 - The length of time senior households spent on waiting lists for public housing and Housing Choice Voucher increased by [18%](#) between 2016 and 2017.

Needs for the Workforce

- **Current Use:** The direct care workforce grew by half within a decade, from 3 million workers caring for older adults and people with disabilities in 2009 to almost [4.6 million in 2019](#).
- **Needs:**
 - Direct care workers earned an [average of \\$13.36 an hour](#) in 2019. One in 8 workers (12.6%) lived in poverty in 2018, with almost half (48.2%) earning less than a living wage. Most (84.4%) lacked a retirement benefit through their employer in 2019, and 14.2% had no health insurance.
 - To meet demand, the long-term care sector is expected to add a further [1.3 million direct care jobs](#), primarily personal care aide positions, from 2018 to 2028—more new jobs than any other occupation in the U.S. economy.
 - Long-term services and supports in the United States will need an additional [3.5 million](#) workers by 2030 to keep up with the aging population.
 - During the COVID-19 pandemic, [long-term care lost 342,000 jobs](#) from February to December 2020, due to decreased use and as workers left their jobs.