



## Family Caregiver Assistance Program (FCAP)

Family Caregivers are the greatest asset to the Medicaid system. In Oregon, according to the most recent AARP data, more than 470,000 unpaid family caregivers provide more than 440 million hours and \$8.7 billion worth of care, including about \$4.4 billion worth

of care for those with dementia according to the Alzheimer's Association. About two-thirds of this unpaid work is done by women, and the financial, physical, and emotional stresses of providing care to a loved one takes a significant toll.

**Allowing caregivers to get some respite – breaks from providing constant care – will lead to lower health care costs, better care for their loved ones, and delayed entry into Medicaid and higher levels of care settings.**

According to a survey of 900 Oregon voters aged 40+ conducted by AARP in the Fall of 2018, 71% of current and former caregivers reported emotional stress, and 75% say they would find respite helpful to them. Furthermore, 83% of those surveyed said that they support providing respite to Oregon caregivers.

### The Family Caregiver Assistance Program (FCAP)

would create a new eligibility category and benefit package for people who are “at risk” of needing long-term services and supports in the future who don't currently meet Medicaid financial eligibility criteria (up to 400% of federal poverty level). The benefit would be limited to \$500 per month that can be used for Adult Day Services, Home Care Services, or other approved services that provide a caregiver with a break from caregiving. There is a significant need for these services in Oregon, and a small investment now pays off with better outcomes for all involved and lower costs.

FCAP is currently in final review at CMS for the necessary waiver. APD referenced this program in slide 46 in its February 21 committee presentation. **We urge the Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Human Services to recommend full funding of FCAP this biennium to ensure access to these services when the waiver is approved.**