



Illinois Family
Caregiver Coalition

Powered by the Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging

ILLINOIS FAMILY CAREGIVER COALITION

Progress Update

Resident & Family Support Council

April 28, 2026

ILLINOIS FAMILY CAREGIVER COALITION (IFCC)

CREATED BY – the IL Area Agencies on Aging (I4A) & Illinois Aging Services (IAS) – December 2021

MEMBERSHIP – Coalition started with 13 members now includes 520+ members & growing!

CORE FUNDING:

- Retirement Research Foundation for Aging
- Illinois Department on Aging

LEVERAGED FUNDING:

- Funding from Blue Cross/ Blue Shield Illinois, Google, TCARE, family foundation funding & small donor online funding

IFCC Goals:

- ❖ Assemble a statewide group of advocates and stakeholder organizations that engage and support caregivers and launch a comprehensive approach to partnerships and advocate for policy change related to unpaid caregivers;
- ❖ Utilize the national RAISE Act for recommendations, identify gaps in the current Illinois caregiver program landscape & conduct a full exploration of potential policy areas and programs where Illinois can better support family caregiving and action in support of those policies;
- ❖ Collaborate with caregivers, and public & private organizations across Illinois to help caregivers self-identify, spread the word about resources for unpaid family caregivers and raise awareness of the critical role of unpaid family caregivers.

STEERING COMMITTEE PARTICIPANTS:

Illinois Area Agencies on Aging – I4A

Illinois Department on Aging

Alzheimer’s Association – IL Chapter

RUSH University Medical Center

Illinois Caregiver Action Network

IL Assn for Behavioral Health

Health & Medicine Policy Research Group & Illinois Aging Together

Illinois Hospice & Palliative Organization IL Assistive Technology Program

University of Illinois – Chicago

AARP Illinois

IL Respite Coalition

Blue Star Families-Chicago

Coordinated Care Alliance

Illinois Adult Day Services Assn

Northern IL University

IL LGBTQ Senior Council

University of Chicago Hospital – Aging Program/ SAFE Clinic

COALITION PARTICIPANTS –

Illinois Department of Human Services
Illinois Department of Healthcare & Family Services
Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
Illinois Department of Public Health
Illinois Long Term Care Ombudsman's & Home Care Offices
Illinois Public Health Association
Illinois Library Association
Illinois Caregivers for Compromise
Metropolitan Mayors' Caucus
Jewish Federation of Chicago / CJE SeniorLife
And many more (including caregivers) ...

Collaboration with State & National Organizations

- ❖ National Alliance for Caregiving – Care Nation State Network State Leader Committee
- ❖ Administration for Community Living Steering Committee for the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers
- ❖ Grantmakers in Aging – Family Caregiving Funders Community - Member
- ❖ NEW State of Illinois Multi Sector Plan on Aging Steering Committee
 - ❖ Co-Chair the “Investing in Caregivers” Workgroup
- ❖ Illinois Poverty Commission – Pillar 5 subcommittee – (added caregiving focus)
- ❖ Illinois Respite Task Force
- ❖ Bridging Aging & Disability Task Force
- ❖ Health & Medicine – Healthy Aging Advisory Committee

IFCC Policy Initiatives base on 2022 & 2024 RAISE Reports 150 Actions for States



Increase
Awareness &
Outreach



Advance
Partnerships &
Engagement



Strengthen
Services &
Supports



Ensure Financial
& Workplace
Security



Expand Data,
Research &
Evidence-based
Practices

Suggested Actions &
Recommendations
to Support Family
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PROGRESS REPORT

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#1 - Awareness & Outreach –

- Created a comprehensive Caregiver Stories booklet – 26 Caregiver stories from all over Illinois
- AARP/ IFCC/ AAA's/ DOA – held Caregiver Roundtables & Meet-Ups-Cook County & Chicago
- Caregiver Services Portal – DOA updated website – adding “caregiver tab”
- October & November – Caregiver Documentary Movie Screenings- Peoria, Canton & Effingham - Partnership – Governor’s Rural Affairs Council, IDOA, AAAs, IFCC & AARP
- Senate Resolution 214 (Sen. Murphy) Recognizing National Family Caregiver Month in Illinois

#2 - Advance Partnerships & Engagement –

- IL Family Caregiver Coalition – grew from 13 to 520 + members
- (More on partnerships in earlier slide)
- First Ever Legislative Caregiver Caucus (AARP & IFCC)

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#3 - Strengthen Services & Supports

- Funding for the Illinois Family Caregiver Act – passed in 2004 – first funded 2022
 - started as \$4million – now \$5.2million
- Multi Sector Plan on Aging (MPA)- Co-Chaired “Investing in Caregivers” Workgroup with Diane Slezak (one of 4 Focus areas in MPA) & invited to continue in the upcoming implementation portion of MPA. (See national recognition on next slide.)
- IFCC/ AAA’s suggested clarification for Lifespan Emergency respite support
- AgeOptions/ Rush –training modules for caregiver service providers

#4 - Ensure Workplace & Financial Security

- Working Caregiver Pilot Project – Metro East (AgeSmart) with DOA funding

#5 - Expand Data, Research & Evidenced-Based Practices

- TCARE Assessment tool – utilized in all 13 AAA Service Regions

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

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- July 2025 – received US Aging “Innovation Award at US Aging annual conference
- National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC) recognizes the “Investing in Caregivers” section of Illinois’ new Multi Sector Plan on Aging:
“Illinois Sets the Gold Standard for Aging and Caregiving...”
 - The Illinois Department on Aging has recently released **EngAging Illinois**—a decade-long plan to make the state a national leader in supporting older adults and family caregivers....
 - **NAC applauds Illinois for showing states need not wait for federal action to lead.**“

(source – National Alliance for Caregiving – Care Notes Update – 2/13/ 2026)



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CAREGIVING CAUCUS

Caregiving Caucus Co-Chairs & Members (as of 7/1/25)

Co-Chairs:

Rep. Robyn Gabel
Rep. Kim Lightford
Rep. Camille Lilly
Sen. Steve McClure
Sen. Anna Moeller
Sen. Jil Tracy

Senate Members:

Sen. Li Arellano
Sen. Chris Balkema
Sen. Bill Cunningham
Sen. Laura Fine
Sen. Erica Harriss
Sen. Dave Koehler
Sen. Laura Murphy
Sen. Mike Porfirio
Sen. Sue Rezin
Sen. Mike Simmons
Sen. Ram Villivalam

House Members:

Rep. Dagmara Avelar
Rep. Harry Benton
Rep. Kam Buckner
Rep. Mary Beth Canty
Rep. Anthony DeLuca
Rep. Laura Faver-Dias
Rep. Nicolle Grasse
Rep. Matt Hanson
Rep. Lisa Hernandez
Rep. Maura Hirschauer
Rep. Gregg Johnson
Rep. Nicole La Ha
Rep. Theresa Mah
Rep. Charlie Meier
Rep. Debbie Meyers-Martin
Rep. Yolonda Morris
Rep. Michelle Mussman
Rep. Rick Ryan
Rep. Brandun Schweizer
Rep. Anne Stava-Murray
Rep. Dan Swanson
Rep. Nabeela Syed
Rep. Janet Yang-Rohr