



# Helpful Caregiving Resources

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## About These Resources

There are many available resources for caregiving families and new resources become available frequently. Here we have identified some websites that may help you to find the resources which best meet your family's unique needs.

Although Our Family, Our Way does not endorse any one resource over another, we want to make sure that you are aware of a very valuable resource that is available to all Americans - your local, government-funded **Area Agency on Aging (AAA)**

AAAs are long-term care experts and can provide you with the most up-to-date information about resources in your area. Many AAAs also offer assessment and support services. Information on how to identify the AAA that serves your area is located on page 4.

### **Important Note:**

All of the resources mentioned in this booklet are equipped with web links. If you are viewing this booklet on a computer with an internet connection, the web links will take you directly to the resource when you click on them. All web links appear in blue and are underlined.

## Area Agencies On Aging

Created by the Older Americans Act of 1965, Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) respond to the needs of older adults in the communities they serve. They are advocates, planners, funders, and educators, as well as providers of information and referral services. Area agencies work with public and private partners to respond to the unique needs of older citizens and families in their areas.

AAAs around the nation provide direct support to caregivers, primarily through the **National Family Caregiver Support Program** (Title III E of the Older Americans Act), which was created in 2000. Services include respite care (temporary supervision of the care recipient to provide rest for the caregiver, which is the most requested service); individual counseling and support groups; caregiver education classes/training; and emergency assistance.

There are currently over 600 AAAs nationwide which serve specific regions. The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (also known as n4a) website has a tool to help you find the AAA that serves your area.

**National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)**

**Website:** [www.n4a.org](http://www.n4a.org)

## AARP Resources for Caregivers

**Website:** [www.aarp.org/caregiving](http://www.aarp.org/caregiving)

In the Family Caregiving section of their website, AARP offers numerous web-based tools to help you find services, keep track of health records, and more.

### Caregiving Guides

These guides provide resources and tips for:

- » First-time caregiving
- » Caring for a loved one at home
- » Common caregiving conflicts
- » Long-distance caregivers
- » Caring for a loved one with dementia
- » Caring for a loved one with cancer

### Long-Term Care Calculator

AARP offers the long-term care calculator to assist families with finding the best, affordable care by estimating the cost of long-term care in a specific geographic area. Options include expenses for care in a nursing home, assisted living facility or adult day care, and use of a home health aide or homemaker service.

### Prepare to Care: A Caregiving Planning Guide for Families

Prepare to Care was developed by AARP and includes information on how to have vital conversations with older family members, organize important documents, assess care needs, and locate important resources.

## Administration for Community Living (ACL)

**Website:** [www.acl.gov](http://www.acl.gov)

ACL manages a variety of programs (authorized by several statutes), providing assistance on health and wellness, protecting rights and preventing abuse, supporting consumer control, strengthening the networks of community-based organizations, funding research, and much more.

### National Family Caregiver Support Program

The National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) provides grants to states and territories to fund various supports that help family and informal caregivers care for older adults in their homes for as long as possible. NFCSP grantees provide five types of services:

- » Information to caregivers about available services
- » Assistance to caregivers in gaining access to the services
- » Individual counseling, organization of support groups, and caregiver training
- » Respite care
- » Supplemental services, on a limited basis

### Eldercare Locator

The Eldercare Locator is a public service of the U.S. Administration on Aging connecting you to services for older adults and their families. You can also reach them at 1-800-677-1116.

### LongTermCare.gov

LongTermCare.gov is maintained by the U.S. Administration on Aging and provides basic information on long-term care, Medicare and Medicaid, aging in place, advance care planning, and how to pay for long-term care.

## Alzheimer's Association

**Website:** [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)

The Alzheimer's Association advances research to end Alzheimer's and dementia while enhancing care for those living with the disease. The Alzheimer's Association works on a global, national and local level to provide care and support for all those affected by Alzheimer's and other dementias. Their website provides information about Alzheimer's and dementia, caregiving, care options, resources, and options for connecting with other families through their online community, local chapter activities, and support groups.

## ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center

**Website:** [www.archrespite.org](http://www.archrespite.org)

The ARCH National Respite Network includes the [National Respite Locator](#), a service to help caregivers and professionals locate respite services in their community, the [National Respite Coalition](#), a service that advocates for preserving and promoting respite in policy and programs at the national, state, and local levels, and the [Lifespan Respite Technical Assistance Center](#) which is funded by the Administration for Community Living in the US Department of Health and Human Services.

## Caregiver Action Network (CAN)

**Website:** [www.caregiveraction.org](http://www.caregiveraction.org)

CAN is a non-profit organization providing education, peer support, and resources to family caregivers across the country free of charge. CAN serves a broad spectrum of family caregivers ranging from the parents of children with special needs, to the families and friends of wounded soldiers; from a young couple dealing with a diagnosis of MS, to adult children caring for parents with Alzheimer's disease.

### [Family Caregiver Toolbox](#)

CAN's Family Caregiver Toolbox provides caregiver links to a wide range of information to make your caregiving experience more successful.

## Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

**Website:** [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

Medicare.gov is the official U.S. Government site for Medicare. The site provides information about signing up for Medicare and changing plans, estimating Medicare costs, what Medicare covers, drug coverage (Part D), supplements and other insurances, claims and appeals, and other forms and resources.

### [Your Guide to Choosing a Nursing Home or Other Long-Term Services & Supports](#)

This official government booklet explains how to find and compare nursing homes and other long-term care options; how to pay for nursing home care; your rights as a nursing home resident; and alternatives to nursing home care.

## Family Caregiver Alliance National Center on Caregiving

**Website:** [www.caregiver.org](http://www.caregiver.org)

The Family Caregiver Alliance National Center on Caregiving provides comprehensive caregiving information and advice, fact sheets, reports and studies, discussion groups and newsletters for caregivers, practitioners, policymakers and researchers.

### [Family Care Navigator](#)

The Family Care Navigator is a service of the Family Caregiver Alliance National Center on Caregiving and links families to resources in the following categories: legal help and advocacy; general information and assistance; services and policies for family caregivers; resources on living arrangements for care recipients; services for care recipients living at home; disease-specific organizations; and government health and disability programs.

### [Holding a Family Meeting](#)

This resource provides guidance on several aspects of holding a family meeting: Who Should Attend; How Should We Begin?; The Meeting; Potential Challenges; Win/Win Situations; and When Do You Need Outside Help? Where Can You Get It?

### [How to Compensate a Family Member for Providing Care](#)

A formal agreement among family members can provide a way to compensate a person providing care if he or she is no longer able to hold other employment. One way of protecting the caregiver as well as the person receiving care is by putting the care relationship in writing. This is a binding agreement, also called a long-term care personal support services agreement, elder care contract, or family care or caregiver contract. Most often, it is called a personal care agreement.

## Geriatric Care Managers

### Aging Life Care Professionals

Website: [www.aginglifecare.org](http://www.aginglifecare.org)

An Aging Life Care Professional, also known as a Private Geriatric Care Manager, is a health and human services specialist who acts as a guide and advocate for families who are caring for older relatives or disabled adults. The Aging Life Care Professional is educated and experienced in any of several fields including, but not limited to nursing, gerontology, social work, or psychology. He/she is able to address a broad range of issues related to the well-being of their client. They often have knowledge about the costs, quality, and availability of resources in their communities.

## Mediation Services

### What Is Elder Mediation?

The National Care Planning Council provides this information about elder mediation: Elder mediation provides a forum for family decision-making. It is private, confidential and completely voluntary. Mediators facilitate a purposeful and directed conversation in which family members are encouraged to express their interests and concerns. Meetings are informal and are held in locations which meet the family's needs, including private homes, mediators' offices and senior living facilities.

### How to Choose an Elder Mediator

AARP provides some helpful tips on finding someone to help your family navigate difficult caregiving issues.

There is no national credentialing or formal licensing for elder mediators, and states have different requirements. Choose a mediator familiar with elder issues. For referrals, try these sources:

- » [Mediate.com](http://Mediate.com)
- » [National Care Planning Council](http://National Care Planning Council)

## National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA)

Website: [www.naela.org](http://www.naela.org)

NAELA is dedicated to improving the quality of legal services provided to people as they age and people with special needs. Their website provides information about elder law and can assist you with finding an elder law attorney.

## National Association for Home Care & Hospice

**Website:** [www.nahc.org](http://www.nahc.org)

The National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) provides consumer information about the basics of home care and hospice and how to select a home care provider or hospice.

## National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

**Website:** [www.nhpco.org](http://www.nhpco.org)

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) provides free consumer information on hospice care and puts the public in direct contact with hospice programs.

## Next Step in Care

**Website:** [www.nextstepincare.org](http://www.nextstepincare.org)

Next Step in Care is a program of the United Hospital Fund that provides easy-to-use guides to help family caregivers and health care providers work closely together to plan and implement safe and smooth transitions for chronically or seriously ill patients.

## Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving

**Website:** [www.rosalynncarter.org](http://www.rosalynncarter.org)

The Rosalynn Carter Institute establishes local, state, national and international partnerships committed to building quality long-term, home and community-based services with the goal of supporting caregivers, both family and professional, through efforts of advocacy, education, research, and service. The Institute offers information on a variety of caregiver support programs and products for caregivers. In 2017, the Rosalynn Carter Institute partnered with the Georgia Division of Aging Services to provide the Dementia Capable Webinar series for family caregivers.

## Services & Advocacy for LGBT Elders (SAGE)

**Website:** [www.sageusa.org](http://www.sageusa.org)

SAGE connects lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) older people to innovative services and programs. Through initiatives ranging from cultural programs to employment and health services, SAGE offers support to LGBT older people around the country. SAGE also provides counseling, information, support groups and more to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender caregivers.

## Veterans Administration Caregiver Support

**Website:** [www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov)

The Veterans Administration Caregiver Support Program provides supports and services for families caring for veterans. The program offers training, educational resources, and connections with local caregiver supports programs for veterans including:

- » Caregiver Support Line
- » Caregiver Support Coordinator
- » Peer Support for Caregivers
- » Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) Centers
- » Home-Based Primary Care
- » Skilled Home Care
- » Homemaker and Home Health Aide Program
- » Home Telehealth
- » Respite Care
- » Home Hospice Care

## Webinars

Some organizations focused on caregiving offer webinars that can be accessed through their websites. We have included a few below as an example, but there are many more available.

### [Caregiving.com Webinars for Family Caregivers](#)

Caregiving.com provides monthly webinars which help family caregivers as well as professionals working with family caregivers.

### [Dementia Capable Webinar Series](#)

The Rosalynn Carter Institute on Caregiving and the Georgia Division of Aging Services partnered to provide these educational webinars for caregivers caring for someone with dementia, not necessarily a family member.

### [Family Caregiver Alliance Webinars](#)

The Family Caregiver Alliance offers webinars for family members, partners, and friends caring for a loved one living with a chronic or disabling health condition.