



## **Budget Request for Wisconsin's Family Care Long-Term Care Providers**

**Wisconsin's Family Care providers thank Wisconsin lawmakers for their continued commitment to investing in the long-term care workforce. Your continued support is critical for our members who have been devastated emotionally, physically, and financially due to COVID**

Family Care is a long-term care program which serves frail elders and adults with disabilities and needs major investment to maintain quality care. As of December 1, 2020, there were over 50,000 people enrolled in the program. Our direct care workforce crisis has only worsened under COVID-19 and reimbursement does not cover costs of care.

### **OUR REQUEST:**

**Funding:** Wisconsin's long-term care provider community is asking the Legislature to invest a minimum **\$15 Million additional GPR annually in 2021-23 biennial budget** for a fixed amount increase to *direct care and services* for Family Care managed care organizations (MCOs).

We ask that these funds be allocated directly to care and service providers which will allow providers to increase caregiver wages.

***\*To reflect the state's continuing commitment to the Family Care program, the ALL FUNDS TOTAL would build on the direct care workforce funding provided in the last budget that we are asking to be included in the base of 2021-23 biennial budget.***

Wisconsin continues to face a crisis in the shortage of available caregivers, **with 1 in 4 caregiver staff positions remaining vacant.**<sup>1</sup> This serious shortage directly impacts all Wisconsin care and service organizations serving Family Care members. Some of the factors causing this serious shortage are:

- Wisconsin continues to experience high levels of caregiver vacancy rates in long-term care programs: average caregiver **vacancy rates are 23.5%**. There are an estimated **20,655 vacant caregiver positions** in Wisconsin assisted living and nursing facilities.
- On average, nearly 80% of a long-term care provider's operating budget is focused on workforce expenses. Providers have limited options, if any, to absorb reimbursement reductions and/or the lack of reimbursement increases.
- While providers are thankful for the Direct Care Workforce funding increases in the 2019-21 state budget, those increases do not offset the rate cuts or freezes providers have experienced for over 10 years.

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<sup>1</sup> The Long-Term Care Workforce Crisis – 2020 Report