

OREGON'S CARE ECONOMY A SNAPSHOT

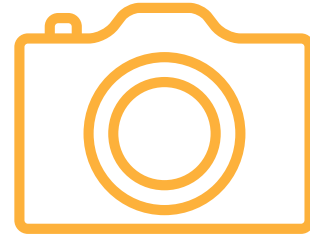


WHO PROVIDES CARE • WHO RECEIVES CARE
WHY INVESTING IN CARE BENEFITS ALL OREGONIANS

JUNE 2018 • OREGON CAREWORKS

OREGON'S CARE ECONOMY: A SNAPSHOT

Hundreds of thousands of Oregonians play a role in Oregon's vast and largely invisible care economy—as providers, consumers, or family members. Yet care is priced out of reach for many who need it, providers are underpaid, and families lack the support they need. Without desperately-needed public investment, Oregon's care crisis is about to get a lot worse. Demand for in-home care and personal support services is skyrocketing, driven by a significant increase in the senior population and rising costs at care centers. **To meet growing demand, Oregon must commit to significant public investment in the care economy.**



This **Snapshot** describes our state's care economy: who gives and receives care, how much care costs, and where it's provided. By making care visible and advocating for increased public investment in care services, we aim to change the way we care for each other in Oregon.

WHAT IS THE CARE ECONOMY?

All care labor, paid and unpaid, provided to children, seniors, families, and people with disabilities



Care settings

- Institutions such as
- nursing homes
 - assisted living facilities
 - adult foster homes
 - group homes



Childcare centers

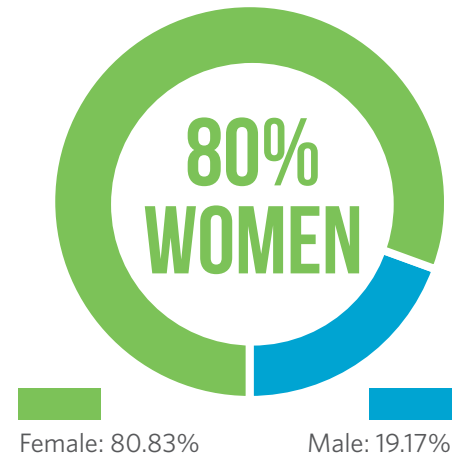
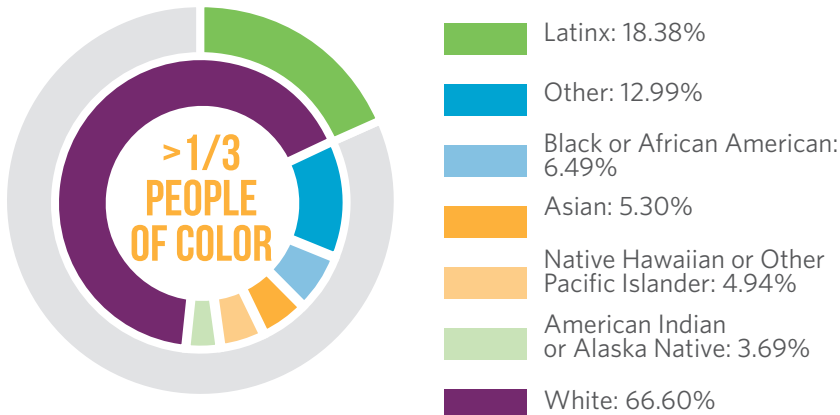
In-home care



WHO PROVIDES CARE?

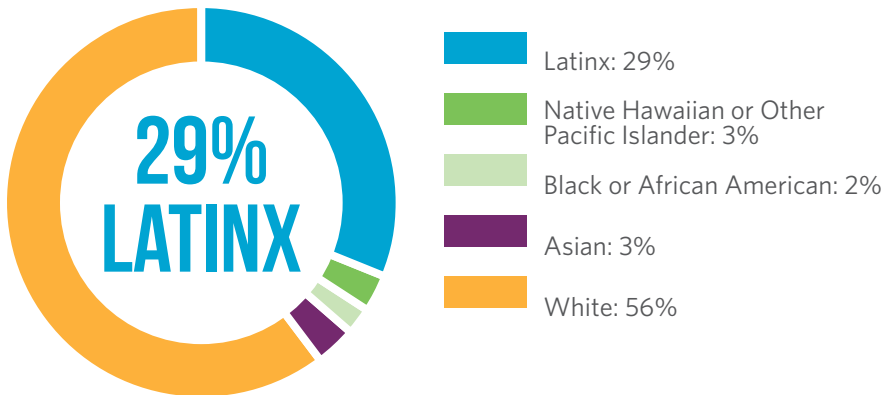
Oregon's paid care workforce consists of more than 70,000 workers and is growing fast.¹

DEMOGRAPHICS OF OREGON'S LONG TERM CARE WORKFORCE:²



Numbers do not add up to 100 because Hispanic/Latino is collected as a category separate from and overlapping with race. **People of color in every racial and ethnic category are overrepresented in the caregiver population as compared to the general population in Oregon.**²⁰

DEMOGRAPHICS OF OREGON'S CHILD CARE WORKFORCE:³



One in four direct care workers in long-term care settings is an immigrant.⁴

"I have been a childcare provider for many years. Most childcare providers make minimum wage or sometimes even less. You can't do much with that. Lots of providers have to work two or three jobs. You can't get any rest or do any job well. The thing that concerns me most is that most people cannot even afford childcare. Sometimes two people are working, and they still can't afford childcare. That's the most important thing: getting affordable day care."



Maxine Brown, Care Provider
Aloha

OREGON CARE WORK

LOW PAY

*Self-Sufficiency Wage, Multnomah County, Family of Four
(Two Adults, One Preschooler, One School-Age Child)



SELF-SUFFICIENCY
WAGE,
MULTNOMAH
COUNTY*

\$70,744²⁶



OREGON
MEDIAN
HOUSEHOLD
INCOME

\$53,270²⁵



POVERTY
LEVEL
FAMILY
OF 4

\$25,100²⁴

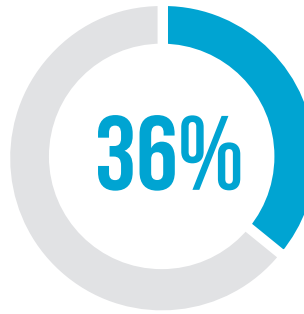


OREGON
CAREGIVER
AVERAGE
ANNUAL PAY

\$20,580²³

Paid caregivers—nearly all women and disproportionately women of color—are underpaid for the essential work they do. Far too many live below the poverty line and are forced to rely on public assistance like food stamps just to make ends meet.

HIGH TURNOVER



STATE HOMECARE WORKERS
ANNUAL TURNOVER²⁷



GROUP HOME WORKERS
ANNUAL TURNOVER²⁸

Low job quality leads to high turnover, which undermines the quality of care. The average annual turnover rate among direct care workers in group homes serving adults with developmental disabilities is a staggering 90 percent.²¹

UNPAID AND UNSEEN



Unpaid care provided by family members represents nearly half a billion hours of work in Oregon each year. Women provide at least twice as much unpaid care as men do.²²



Becky Nakasone,
Care Provider,
Portland

"I have two adult daughters with disabilities. When they were younger I cared for them full time without pay while my husband worked. Supporting a family of 6 on one income was tough, we struggled a lot. Now I work as my daughters' paid caregiver full-time. Unpaid family providers need more support. Being able to get paid to do this work has been life-changing for me, but 1 in 4 Oregon women still do unpaid family care work every day."

RISING DEMAND FOR CARE



Demand for care and support services is growing fast, driven by demographic shifts and eligibility changes.

↑ **43%**
SENIORS

PREDICTED INCREASE IN OREGON
SENIORS 85+, 2025–2035²⁹

10% ↑
**PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES**

PREDICTED INCREASE IN OREGON I/DD
CASELOAD, 2017–2021³⁰



Mariam Norry,
Care Consumer, Portland







"I get by on the modest supports I receive from state services, including a few hours a week from a homecare worker. As a person with a disability, my passion for independent living has been influenced by my experience of being forced into an in-patient care facility. Expanding the in-home care system would allow me to maintain independence by providing a care provider with enough available hours to meet my needs."

"I only make \$11.25/hr in my job as a childcare worker, far below a living wage for the Portland area. Childcare is critical to supporting a diverse workforce, and proper investment means expanding childcare services and providing workers in the childcare field adequate pay, benefits, and support in their workplaces."



Lacey Clark, Childcare Worker
Portland



OREGON CARE SETTINGS

		FACILITIES	PROVIDERS	CONSUMERS ⁵
	SKILLED NURSING FACILITY	141 ⁶	11,907 ⁷	4,348 ⁸
	COMMUNITY-BASED CARE	522 ⁹	25,894 ¹⁰	11,887 ¹¹
	IN-HOME CARE AGENCY	160 ¹²	N/A	N/A
	I/DD GROUP HOME	829 ¹³	7,223 ¹⁴	3,192 ^{*15}
	CHILD CARE CENTERS	1332 ¹⁶	12,561 ¹⁷	75,111 ^{*18}
	STATE HOMECARE (APD & DD)	N/A	28,940 ¹⁹	N/A

CARE PRICED OUT OF REACH


High costs of care across settings have pushed many into lower cost—and often lower quality—alternatives. Many households must piece together frequently unreliable family or neighbor care, or simply drop paid work hours altogether. Too many—such as young children ages 5 to 14 who care for themselves during the week—go without care at all.

\$12,600 \$10,903

A YEAR OF TODDLER CARE COSTS MORE THAN COLLEGE TUITION³¹



 GROUP HOME
\$110,892^{†33}

HIGH COST, LOW QUALITY

In 2015, group homes represented 70% of all substantiated abuse claims reported in Oregon's licensed settings serving people with I/DD.³⁴

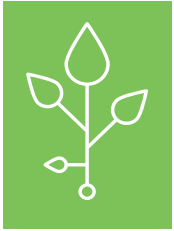
MEDIAN ANNUAL COST OF PRIVATE ROOM IN SKILLED NURSING FACILITY^{†32}

\$111,143 \$124,283 \$130,123

OREGON MEDIAN PORTLAND EUGENE

† Median cost per year. Care in group homes and skilled nursing facilities is paid for by the State of Oregon, out of Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance funds, and is not typically paid directly by care consumers.

INVESTING IN CARE



Care investments generate stronger economic growth; strengthen families and communities; and promote gender and racial equity. To change the care economy, the State of Oregon must invest resources directly into it.

Nobody should have to live in poverty because of the high costs of care or because caregiving jobs pay such low wages. All families should have access to the high-quality services they or their families need.

Nobody should lose all the income their family relies on — or risk losing their job — because they need to care for a family member.

People who work hard and give so much of themselves to care for others should earn enough to provide a good quality of life for their own families.

As the care economy grows, **we need public investment to fill the gap** between what consumers can afford to pay for care and the wages providers need to make ends meet. This investment will directly support the children, seniors and people with disabilities who depend on that care, as well as the low-wage women of color who do most of the care work.

“I was diagnosed with Parkinsons in 1989. The State of Oregon did an assessment and determined that I am eligible for care — help with Activities of Daily Living to keep me independent. But that care is so expensive that I can’t afford to get it. I depend on friends and family members to help me out whenever they can, otherwise I go without. **We need to change the way our society views caregiving. We need investment from the state so people like me can stay independent and out of nursing homes.**”



Kay Burrell, Care Consumer
Portland

CareWorks is a community of families, care providers, seniors and people with disabilities taking action together to change the way we care for each other in Oregon. We are leading campaigns to make sure care jobs are good jobs, win quality, affordable care and create the support families need for caregiving.

CareWorks is a project supported and led by the members of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 503. SEIU 503 is the state's largest union for care providers including those working in public and private home care, in group homes for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, adult foster care and child care.

ENDNOTES

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