



Massachusetts Caregiver Coalition

The **Massachusetts Caregiver Coalition** is an innovative team of leading employers, advocates, and government partners committed to recognizing, supporting, and building creative solutions that allow family caregivers to continue to thrive in the workplace while also caring for family at home. The group launched the Coalition in 2019 to assess – and address – the **needs of unpaid caregivers** who work across the Commonwealth. The launch was marked by the release of a Massachusetts State of Care Survey— Embracing Carers™ and an Employer Toolkit providing best practices for employers to support family caregivers within their workforces.

- AARP/ The National Alliance of Caregivers estimates that there are 53 million caregivers in the US, and that is **21% of Americans** providing unpaid care to an adult 18+ in the last 12 months, equating to approximately **1 million** Mass residents.
- A 2017 study found that informal caregiving **cost Massachusetts employers** an estimated **\$982 million** per year as a result of increased turnover, absenteeism, and presenteeism.

A year after the Coalition’s launch, the reality of caregiving has been gravely impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. A study by ARCHANGELS in May of 2020 found that over 60% of adults report that they are worrying about, taking care of, or looking out for a friend, neighbor, or family member due to COVID-19. Tasks caregivers perform also have become more difficult due to the loss of social supports (childcare, adult day health, etc.), economic hardship, or illness from the virus itself. ARCHANGELS also collaborated with the research team at The COPE (*COVID-19 Outbreak Public Evaluation*) Initiative to include unpaid caregivers as a critical focus. Data from this study was published by the CDC in multiple reports, with findings that only increase our sense of urgency to support caregivers:

- **Caregivers during the pandemic are 10x more likely to seriously consider suicide than non-caregivers.** One in three in the thirty days leading up to the CDC published MMWR in August 2020.
- **Delaying or avoiding urgent or emergency care during the pandemic is 5x more common** for unpaid caregivers. **Avoiding routine care is 1.5x more common** for unpaid caregivers than non-caregivers.

MISSION

To work with employers to increase awareness of - and support for - the more than **one million unpaid family caregivers in the Commonwealth** and ensure that all employers have the tools necessary to recognize, honor and support family caregivers.

RECOGNIZE

HONOR

SUPPORT

VISION

Every employer in Massachusetts actively works to **recognize, honor, and support** the family caregivers in their workforce.

JOIN THE COALITION

Membership

The Massachusetts Caregiver Coalition invites all employers in the Commonwealth to join the Coalition in acknowledging family caregiving as a critical workforce opportunity and supporting fellow employees with their caregiving responsibilities.

Members publicly endorse the mission and vision of the Coalition and actively work to recognize, honor, and support employees who are family caregivers.

Email info@macaregivercoalition.org to join employers across Massachusetts in this critical effort. To learn more about the Massachusetts Caregiver Coalition please visit <https://www.macaregivercoalition.org>