As policymakers and advocates articulate policy recommendations to support caregivers globally, nationally, and at state and local levels, there is evolving attention towards bridging siloed systems to deliver long-term services and supports for care coordination across the lifespan. A unified strategy for establishing caregiver support infrastructure is needed to coordinate efforts and to support the caregiving role across the nation and the lifespan. From Momentum to Movement advances the establishment of such infrastructure by presenting a strategic process intended to align the work of state caregiving advocates with multi-jurisdictional policy priorities in key person-centered domain areas.

A STRATEGIC PROCESS WITH CORE POLICY DOMAIN RECOMMENDATIONS TO GUIDE DEVELOPMENT OF STATE CAREGIVING PLANS

This report offers a six step strategic process, as well as examples from existing state caregiving plans, to guide states that have not yet created a statewide strategy to support caregivers across the lifespan:

1. Establish and maintain a formally recognized task force of family caregiving stakeholders.
2. Assess the needs of family caregivers statewide as well as the availability and capacity of existing services and supports to address those needs.
3. Learn from the successes and challenges of other states.
4. Develop a statewide strategy (i.e., a plan) with specific policy recommendations to address family caregivers’ needs across the lifespan in key person-centered domain areas.
5. Engage stakeholders in the design, adoption, and ongoing evaluation of the implementation.
6. Establish measurable goals for implementing the state plan that will guide the periodic evaluation of plan progress and, as appropriate, modification of the plan over time.

CORE POLICY DOMAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

- Identify system-wide caregiver entry points and utilize assessments to direct access to caregiver services and supports.
- Expand caregiver education and training to support caregiver well-being.
- Support caregivers’ financial security and caregiver-friendly workplaces.
- Expand respite and strengthen the network of services supporting caregivers.
- Foster person-and family-centered care and shared decision-making.

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For more information, contact Michael Reese Wittke, Vice President, Research and Advocacy, at mike@caregiving.org, or Karen L. Marshall, Director, Advocacy and Engagement, at karen@caregiving.org.