

## BACKGROUND

As our population increases in age, so too, do rates of chronic condition and progressive neurodegenerative diseases. Dementia, in particular, places a large strain on our healthcare system as it is currently the most expensive disease.<sup>1</sup> Exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, high rates of social isolation affects persons with dementia (PWDs), which negatively affects their health, ultimately leading to premature death.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, more than 40% of family caregivers for persons with dementia (PWDs) suffer from depression.<sup>1</sup> Ameliorating these concerns requires addressing the shortage of gerontologists, geriatricians, and care workers.<sup>3</sup>

## PROJECT

### Overview

Care Generation is a political entity that aims to bring to fruition a new national service model: Care Corps. The Care Corps will incentivize young American high school and college graduates to provide 1-2 years of respite care for older adults with dementia in exchange for a stipend and educational grants upon completion of the service.

### Innovation

Our Care Corps effort is based on a similar notion of national service as compared to its Corps' predecessors (AmeriCorps, PeaceCorps, etc.), yet it provides a unique model that benefits multiple generations and stakeholders to address the effects of our growing older adult population.

### Impact

This model would address family caregiver stress and depression, social isolation of PWDs, and help to prevent spend-down by families to qualify for Medicaid-funded in-home care. Additionally, a Care Corps could allow for family caregivers to re-enter the workforce, build a graduate-to-labor pipeline for caregiving, and save billions in taxpayer dollars through aging-in-place.

### Scope

Care Corps would target PWDs whose household income is above 138 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) and below 400 percent of the FPL, but could eventually serve as a Medicaid/Medicare supported program.

WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT

CAREGIVER  
RESPIRE

SOCIAL  
ISOLATION

## STATUS

POLITICAL LANDSCAPE ASSESSED

LITERATURE REVIEWED

FULL-LENGTH PROPOSAL CREATED

## POTENTIAL CHALLENGES

- MODEL OPTIMIZATION
- FEDERAL PARTNER
- PILOT FUNDING
- COST PROJECTIONS
- TEAM BANDWIDTH

## NEXT STEPS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Our team plans to spend the next six months identifying weaknesses in our model by discussing its details with advisory board members. During this time, we will iterate our full-length proposal and identify a project leader to oversee grant funding applications and ultimate pilot project administration. We plan to start securing pilot program funding in Q3 of 2022 and ultimately begin a pilot year upon receiving sufficient funds.

## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup><https://www.alz.org/alzheimers-dementia/facts-figures>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/09/16/coronavirus-dementia-alzheimers-deaths/>

<sup>3</sup>National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2016. *Families Caring for an Aging America*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/23606>.