

# Who needs care?

- Children and adults with disabilities
- Children and adults with chronic special health care needs
- Children and adults with medical complexity
- Children and adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- Children and adults with Physical disabilities
- Children and adults with traumatic injuries, chronic conditions, early onset diseases
- Older adults



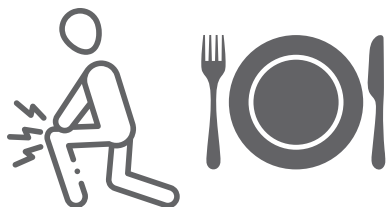
# Who is a caregiver?

A caregiver can be a family member or other individual who has a significant relationship with the person, who provide essential care.

spouse, parents, children, grandchildren, siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles	Friends	neighbors, co-workers, faith community members	Paid caregiving workforce (private duty nurses, home health, personal care, direct service professionals)
			

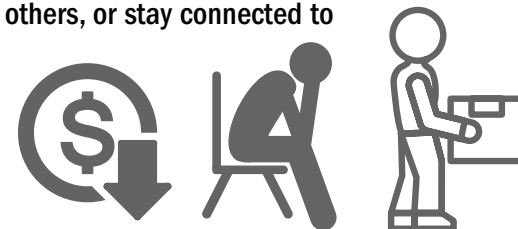
# What kind of care do they need?

- Assisting with meals and eating
- Getting in and out of wheelchairs
- Assistance using the bathroom
- Ventilator & Tracheostomy care
- Wound care
- Private duty nursing needs for children and adults with health care needs or disabilities
- Managing pain, medications, and vitals
- Prevention of hospitalizations or declining condition
- Support at medical appointments



# What happens when there are no caregivers?

- People who could live in their own homes are forced into expensive nursing homes
- Family members are forced out of their jobs to fill in care gaps
- Individuals can't remain in their homes, attend work or volunteer, school or maintain relationships with others, or stay connected to their communities.



# What we need policymakers to do



**Wisconsin health care and community based long term care systems depend on unpaid caregivers to keep people out of hospitals and nursing homes.**

- Involve unpaid caregivers in hospital discharge planning and **train them** to provide the complex medical care patients of all ages need at home after they have been discharged from the hospital (CARE Act).



**Wisconsin's Direct Care workforce is critical part of our health care system. It must become a valued state asset.**

- Create collaborative health insurance fund and standardized health plan for care workers so all care workers serving Medicaid participants have the same quality health care coverage no matter where they live and work in the state.



**Increase worker wages to ensure direct care workers can afford live in the communities they serve and to do complex skilled health care they love.**

- Establish a dedicated fund to pay care workers living wages that can be adjusted for inflation and reflect competitive salaries for workers with similar health care skills and duties.



<sup>1</sup> Including Medicaid-funded CNAs, Private Duty Nurses, Direct Service Professionals, Home Health Aides, and Personal Care Workers.