



The
John A. Hartford
Foundation

Age-Friendly Insights: Direct Care Workers

The John A. Hartford Foundation (JAHF) asked people in America about their perceptions about direct care workers. The main finding is clear.

An overwhelming majority of people believe **direct care workers need support now.**

Direct care workers provide hands-on care with daily tasks like bathing and dressing in peoples' homes and in long-term care facilities, including nursing homes.

People underestimate the care they'll need as they age.

Nearly 50% of people don't think they will need support from a direct care worker as they age; in reality 66% will



Most people in America support higher pay and more training for direct care workers.

The median wage for direct care workers is \$13/hr



72% of people overestimate the median wage for direct care workers



73% of people think direct care workers are underpaid



60% of people think direct care workers would benefit from more training



People expect the government to help direct care workers protect older adults.



JAHF is investing in the direct care workforce. Learn more:

- **Advocating for the Direct Care Workforce**

[PHI](#) advocates for high-quality training, a living wage and greater awareness of the important role direct care workers play.

- **Advancing Training and Leadership Skills**

The [Teaching Nursing Home](#) model pairs academic nursing schools with long-term care facilities to improve training and education for staff, including direct care workers, providing them opportunities to foster and grow their careers and leadership skills.

- **Redesigning Nursing Home Care**

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's [Committee on the Quality of Care in Nursing Homes](#) is preparing recommendations for improving the quality of care in today's nursing homes, partly by investing in a highly-skilled direct care workforce.

The poll is part of *Age-Friendly Insights*, a series measuring opinions on issues related to improving the care of older adults. [Learn more.](#)