

The Case for Action: Long-Term Services and Supports

LTSS needs are growing as families are becoming less able to meet them

Among those turning 65 today:

70% will need help with 1+ Activity of Daily Living (ADL, e.g. eating, bathing, dressing) or experience some loss of cognitive function

52% will have significant LTSS need (2+ ADLs or significant cognitive impairment)

Among those needing LTSS today:

40% are working-age adults, many of whom require lifelong services and supports

Between 2015 and 2050:

208% population growth projected among people aged 85+

12% population growth projected among people under 65



is the projected decline in the ratio of potential family caregivers (people aged 45-64) to each person 80+

Current system leaves most families paying out-of-pocket when need strikes

LTSS can be costly

\$266,000

is the average cost of LTSS for the half of Americans who will have significant LTSS needs in old age

➔ and about half of that will be paid out of pocket

This does not include the forgone wages of family caregivers or the economic value of family care provided

Many families will struggle under this financial burden

\$10,000

is the total retirement (401(k)/IRA) savings of the typical household approaching retirement

Access to Medicaid LTSS fragmented and means-tested



Middle class not eligible unless they surrender financial independence

Home and personal care services are optional for states; long waiting lists due to funding limitations

Private long-term care insurance (LTCI) not a broad-based solution

Less than 7% of 50+ have LTCI coverage today



Strapped households prioritize more urgent needs (student loan debt, mortgage, day care, college)

Those with highest LTSS risks or needs are typically priced out of or denied private LTCI coverage

States are left holding the bag



Growing LTSS costs compete with other state priorities like health care, education, and infrastructure



As families reduce labor market participation to care for loved ones, economic growth suffers



Unmet LTSS needs drive up medical costs and harm quality of life for people with disabilities