



## The Evolving Workforce: Redefining Health Care Delivery in South Carolina

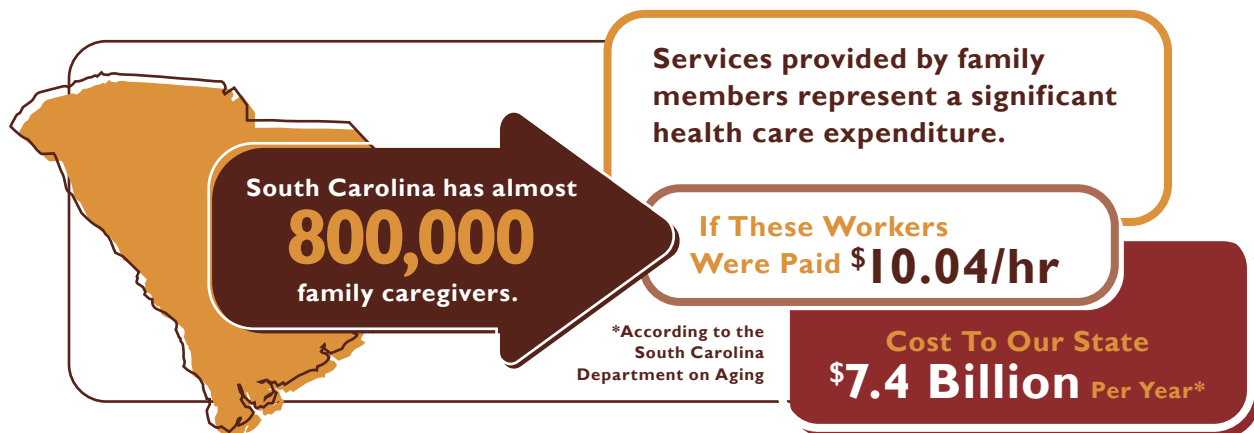
The South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health (IMPH) is a nonpartisan convener with the mission to collectively inform policy to improve health and health care. The Workforce for Health Taskforce was launched in April 2018 to determine South Carolina-specific policy changes and health care workforce solutions needed to create sustainable, person-centered systems of health care that promote population health.

The Taskforce represented more than 60 of the state’s leading experts from health care systems, state agencies, consumer groups, academia, community-based organizations, nonprofits and philanthropic organizations.

In the report *The Evolving Workforce: Redefining Health Care Delivery in South Carolina*, state specific, evidence-based practice and policy solutions are outlined in four key areas:

- Embracing the evolution of health and human service roles,
- Training and educating health and human service providers,
- Behavioral health workforce needs and
- Setting the stage for the evolving workforce.

### Supporting Caregivers



With the changing health care landscape and state population, South Carolina must create a system to support, educate and train family caregivers. Community-based providers such as direct-care workers, family caregivers and behavioral health workers (among others) have customarily taken a backseat to other health care providers in terms of funding, support, visibility and inclusion in care teams. Yet, the demand for both in-home caregivers and home health aides are projected to increase sharply over the next 10 years as our state’s elderly and medically complex population continues to grow.

The Workforce for Health Taskforce recommends:

- Community Based Organizations (CBO) partner with government agencies to expand learning and support networks for special needs families. Many families confront additional hurdles in their efforts to provide in-home care; additional support is needed for families caring for children with cystic fibrosis or other medically fragile conditions, foster children, seniors aging in place, individuals with serious mental illnesses, individuals with special needs who live in group homes and medically fragile children who are transitioning to adulthood.
- The State Legislature explore the feasibility of creating and funding a statewide 24-hour hotline for family caregivers. While many statewide resources exist to support caregivers, creation of a South Carolina hotline would allow caregivers to access support at any time of the day or night and would be staffed with workers familiar with local resources, processes and procedures.
- Health and human service providers should identify and connect family caregivers with local resources to ensure caregivers are supported and receive information related to improving self-care and other important issues.
- South Carolina hospitals and health systems should follow the guidelines of the Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act during patient discharge. The CARE Act was developed to provide extra support for caregivers who provide nursing or medical care to their family member. Guidelines include recording the name of the family caregiver on the medical record, informing the family caregivers when their loved one is to be discharged and providing the family caregiver with education and instruction of care to provide patient at home.

**For more information and to download the full report, please visit [IMPH.org](https://www.imph.org) or contact Brie Hunt at [Brie@IMPH.org](mailto:Brie@IMPH.org)**

#### References:

Reference: "Family Caregiver Support." South Carolina Department on Aging. Accessed March 2, 2019.  
<https://aging.sc.gov/programs-initiatives/family-caregiver-support>

