



LTQA Webinar Recap

Supporting Family Caregivers: Progress Towards Implementation of the 2022 Strategy

Event: October 9, 2024

Speakers:

- Scott Bane, The John A. Hartford Foundation
- Greg Link, Administration on Community Living
- Wendy Fox-Grage, National Academy for State Health Policy

The [National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers](#), launched in 2022, is a comprehensive framework designed to address the needs of millions of family caregivers in the U.S. Family caregivers provide critical support to individuals with chronic conditions, disabilities, or those aging, ensuring their independence and quality of life. This strategy highlights the importance of integrating caregivers into healthcare and long-term care services, promoting their financial and workplace security, and improving access to supportive services. The October 2024 LTQA webinar, titled "Supporting Family Caregivers: Progress Towards Implementation of the 2022 National Strategy," provided updates on the progress of this national strategy, with insights from experts involved in its development and implementation.

Below is a summary of the key points from the event.

Scott Bane, The John A. Hartford Foundation

Scott Bane opened the session by discussing the mission of The John A. Hartford Foundation, which has long supported aging-related healthcare initiatives, including family caregiving. Bane underscored the foundation's priority areas, including Age-Friendly Health Systems, family caregiving, and end-of-life care.

Bane emphasized that caregiving touches everyone, as 53 million people in the U.S. are caregivers to individuals close to them. He reiterated the importance of family caregivers in the healthcare system, noting that over two-thirds of Americans will need assistance as they age. He also outlined the foundation's approach to improving healthcare systems' ability to identify, assess, and support family caregivers, while advocating for more awareness and policy change to ensure these caregivers receive adequate support.

Greg Link, Administration for Community Living (ACL)

Greg Link provided an overview of the key legislative milestones in family caregiving support, including the RAISE Family Caregivers Act (2018) and other caregiver-focused legislation. He



outlined the three main components of the RAISE Act: the Family Caregiving Advisory Council, the Initial Report to Congress, and the development of a National Family Caregiving Strategy.

Link discussed the key goals of the 2022 National Strategy, which include:

1. Raising awareness and outreach for family caregivers.
2. Engaging caregivers as partners in the healthcare and long-term services and supports (LTSS) systems.
3. Improving access to services and supports.
4. Ensuring financial and workplace security for caregivers.
5. Promoting research and evidence-based practices to support caregivers.

He also highlighted the "whole-of-society" approach called for in the strategy, which brings together government entities, healthcare systems, community organizations, and businesses to support caregivers across various sectors. Link also discussed the release of the [2024 Federal Progress Report](#), which tracks the federal implementation of the strategy.

Wendy Fox-Grage, Senior Director, National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP):

Wendy Fox-Grage focused on the role of state-level policy in supporting family caregivers. She introduced NASHP's Caregiving State Policy Learning Collaborative, which invites states to participate in an 18-month initiative to strengthen family caregiving policies.

This initiative, supported by The John A. Hartford Foundation and the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, aims to share best practices and align state policies with the National Strategy's goals. Fox-Grage also discussed the [RAISE Impact Report](#), which showcases the early outcomes of the National Strategy in various states and communities. States and communities are making significant strides in implementing respite care programs and other services that address the needs of caregivers.

In conclusion, the three speakers highlighted the ongoing progress in implementing the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers, as well as the importance of continued collaboration between federal, state, and community-level stakeholders, and between the public and private sector. The strategy's comprehensive approach aims to integrate family caregivers into healthcare systems, ensure their financial security, and promote equitable access to resources. With continued focus and effort, the strategy is poised to significantly improve the lives of caregivers across the nation.