

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, during November, Washington state honors unpaid family and kinship caregivers for providing countless hours of assistance to loved ones, friends and neighbors with chronic illness, disabilities and other special needs; and

WHEREAS, more than 820,000 family caregivers of adults in Washington state are the backbone of our long-term support and services, and are estimated to provide 770 million hours and over 16 billion dollars in unpaid essential services; and

WHEREAS, 48,000 children are living in kinship-headed households, where grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, and siblings step in to assume responsibility for children whose parents are unable or unwilling to provide care, and these kin work to ensure that children have a healthy, safe and happy childhood; and

WHEREAS, evidence shows that respite or short breaks from caregiving are mentally and physically restorative for family caregivers, and Washington's Family Caregiver Support Programs seek to fill that need by serving unpaid family caregivers with consultation, respite care, training, support groups and other services through our 13 area agencies on aging; and

WHEREAS, the majority of family caregivers of adults must balance full- or part-time work with caregiving, and Washington is one of 11 states, along with Washington, D.C., that have laws requiring paid family leave, which covers an individual's serious health condition and/or time off needed to care for a ill family member; and

WHEREAS, innovative programs like the Tailored Support for Older Adults and WA Cares, Washington's long term care trust, will bring new sources of funding to help unpaid family caregivers get a break from caregiving, learn new skills and access self-care and wellness resources; and

WHEREAS, given the expected increases in the state's older population, the workforce challenges we face and the population shifts that will decrease the number of family members available to care for their older relatives, we must provide comprehensive support for family caregivers;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim November 2024 as

Family Caregiver Month

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.



Signed this 23rd day of October, 2024

Governor Jay Inslee