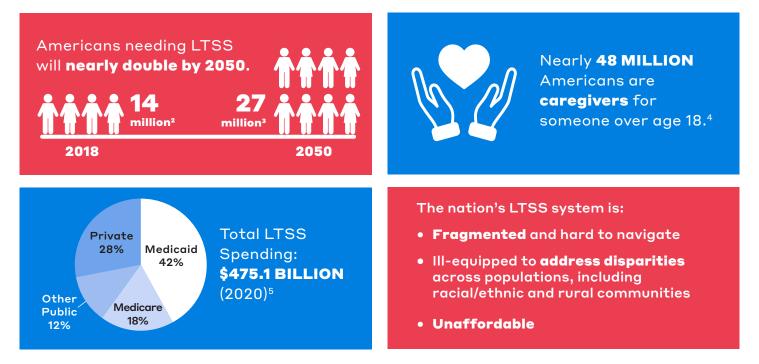


# Transforming LTSS Systems: State Trends & Bipartisan Reform Opportunities

August 2023

Despite interest among federal policymakers and states to develop high-performing long-term services and supports (LTSS) systems, the U.S. lacks a national solution to reduce disparities in care and to address growing demand. LTSS include medical and nonmedical services that help individuals with functional limitations complete daily tasks (e.g., bathing or medication management).<sup>1</sup> Federal policymakers should drive bipartisan reforms for high-value LTSS systems nationally.

## THE U.S. LACKS A NATIONAL SOLUTION FOR RESPONSIVE, HIGH-VALUE LTSS



#### **EXAMINING STATES' LTSS SYSTEMS**

In 2009, AARP began measuring states' LTSS system performance through its LTSS State Scorecard. Using data from AARP's 2011, 2014, 2017, and 2020 Scorecards, BPC evaluated trends in states' LTSS system performance.<sup>6</sup> In 2024, BPC will release a brief with data from **AARP's September 2023 Scorecard** and bipartisan federal policy solutions to improve LTSS nationally.

- 1 Bipartisan Policy Center. An Updated Policy Roadmap: Caring for Those with Complex Needs. March 2022. <a href="https://bipartisanpolicy.org/report/a-policy-roadmap-caring-for-those-with-complex-needs/">https://bipartisanpolicy.org/report/a-policy-roadmap-caring-for-those-with-complex-needs/</a>.
- 2 Hado and Harriet. AARP Public Policy Institute. Long-term Services and Supports. August 2019. <u>http://www.advancingstates.org/sites/nasuad/files/LTSS%20</u> Fact%20Sheet%202019.pdf.
- 3 United States Senate, Commission on Long-term Care. Report to Congress. September 30, 2013. <u>https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GPO-LTCCOMMISSION/</u> pdf/GPO-LTCCOMMISSION.pdf.
- 4 AARP Public Policy Institute, Caregiving in the U.S., Research Report, May 2020. <u>https://www.aarp.org/ppi/info-2020/caregiving-in-the-united-states.</u> <u>html#:~:text=The%20report%20highlights%20the%20nearly.up%20from%2018%25%20in%202015</u>.
- 5 Congressional Research Service. Who Pays for Long-Term Services and Supports. June 15, 2022. <u>https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF10343</u>.
- 6 Reinhard et al., AARP. LTSS State Scorecard 2020 Edition. September 24, 2020. https://www.longtermscorecard.org/2020-scorecard/preface.

### **DIMENSIONS OF A HIGH-PERFORMANCE LTSS SYSTEM®**



# STATES ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM ARE IMPROVING LTSS, BUT DISPARITIES BETWEEN STATES PERSIST

#### From 2011-2020:6

- Highest performing states: Minnesota and Washington.
- Most improved overall: Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Vermont.
- Improvements among Democratic and Republican states aligned most closely on "**quality** of life and care" & "affordability and access." These areas may offer the most promising opportunities for bipartisan reform.
- Significant disparities persist between states in other LTSS system performance dimensions.<sup>7</sup>

## **BIPARTISAN OPPORTUNITIES TO ADDRESS LTSS SYSTEM GAPS**

Inadequate, unaligned LTSS data across programs limits accountability and equitable care



Congress should encourage aligned LTSS data reporting across programs and by demographics, including data disaggregated by race and ethnicity.



Wide disparity in LTSS access for people with disabilities limits work

Congress should improve access to Medicaid Buy-in for Workers with Disabilities programs.



Burdensome transitions for nursing home residents

Congress should support transition programs for residents who wish to return to the community.



Significant shortages of direct care workers

Congress should grow the workforce through enhanced support & recruitment.



Minimal understanding of & support for family caregivers

Congress should establish a tax credit to assist family caregivers.



Lack of cross-sector coordination creates complex systems for consumers



Congress should encourage multi-sector strategic planning & coordination to promote high-value, consumer-friendly systems.

These are potential opportunities and not necessarily  ${\sf BPC}$  's positions.

7 Based on a BPC analysis of AARP's LTSS State Scorecards (2011-2020) and Fivethirtyeight's Partisan Lean Score (2018). AARP's LTSS State Scorecard reports are available at: https://www.longtermscorecard.org/; Fivethirtyeight's partisan lean score is available at: <u>https://github.com/fivethirtyeight/data/blob/master/partisan-lean/2018/fivethirtyeight\_partisan\_lean\_STATES.csv</u>.