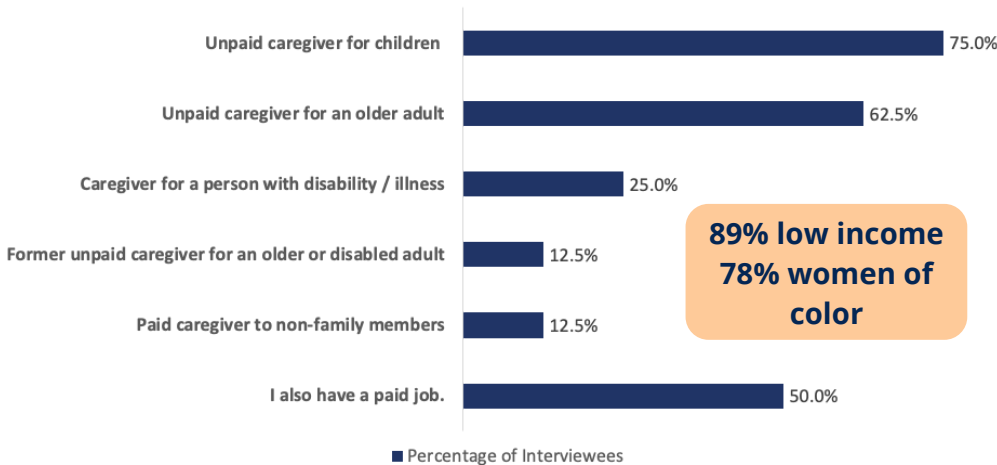




# Caregiving Pilot Survey Results

## Who we interviewed...



**89% low income  
 78% women of color**

## We found that...

- Many caregivers are seniors or have a disability themselves
- Mothers & other unpaid caregivers do essential work that is not recognized as work
- Most were not getting earned income tax credits or any \$\$\$
- One benefit can throw you off another

## What caregivers say they want...

1. Payments, including permanent Fully Refundable Tax Credits to go directly to mothers & unpaid family caregivers
2. No family member caregiver should be excluded from receiving Medicaid caregiving payments (spouse, child, parent, etc.)
3. Medicare dollars to go to pay family members for care work, NOT just go to outside agencies
4. End estate recovery by Medicaid (reclaiming a home or assets as reimbursement for care)

**"With tax credit payments, I would struggle less with buying foods for my disabled daughter's immune system that help her to walk."**

*-disabled mother of adult child*

5. Paid caregivers should get reimbursed for travel costs (time, expenses, insurance) while running errands and transporting the person cared for.
6. Getting one benefit should not reduce, cut, or disqualify you from getting another benefit.
7. Respite Care is needed, especially for those caring for someone 24/7.

**To take the survey, visit  
[www.bit.ly/cafes2021](http://www.bit.ly/cafes2021)**



CAFÉS a project of Crossroads Women's Wellness, a community coalition with Drexel College of Medicine, Family Practice and Counseling Network, and Germantown Friends Meeting Racial and Social Concerns funded in part by the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability Services. CAFÉS gathers caregivers, elders and those with disabilities together over healthy lunch to tell our stories and advocate for tax credits and other supports for caregiving.

The pilot survey was conducted in Philadelphia with a small test sample.

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# Quotes From Our Survey.

"If I had had [fully refundable tax credits] when my daughter was young, I would not have gone into debt every month."

*-mother of grown child*

"[With fully refundable tax credits,] I might have been able to get a car and not have to struggle with strollers on public transit."

*-mother of two children*

"Well, certainty tax credits and financial support would have always been helpful. Also, when you're mostly on the state healthcare, it's really hard to access good therapists. I ended up going into debt finding outside therapists and people because, when your kid is having problems, you do whatever you can do."

*-mother of special-needs adult*

"Taking care of someone without any help was difficult. Towards the end, my best friend said I changed into a different person. I think it's because I was not getting enough sleep that last year and a lot of stress. It took a toll on me mentally. Caregivers do need some kind of support."

*-caregiver for her disabled husband*

"It's a little bit funny that I will not be paid to work with my child. I am the one who understands him most. But somebody else can be paid to work with my child so I have to go work with somebody else."

*-mother of severely disabled child and caregiver for disabled adult*

"They cut my food stamps when my teenage son got a part-time job so that he could save money to be on sports teams and for college. What kind of lesson is that for a child?"

*-disabled mother of three children*

"I used to care for my nieces and nephews until DHS took them away from me because they thought I was too poor, and they gave them to more distant relatives who had more money. Monthly tax credits would've helped us stay together."

*-mother, grandmother, and caregiver for family members*

"Tax credits need to come directly to the mother. When my husband was in control of the tax refunds, he used it to get fancy new shoes when the children needed eyeglasses."

*-mother of five children*