WE CHAMPION, SUPPORT, AND CELEBRATE YOUTH WHO CARE FOR CHRONICALLY ILL, INJURED, ELDERLY, OR DISABLED FAMILY MEMBERS.

American Association of Caregiving Youth ®

aacy.org

The Voice for kids in the United States.

CAREGIVING YOUTH INSTITUTE

of the American Association of Caregiving Youth

AACY is a leader in Caregiving Youth issues in the United States. The Caregiving Youth Institute (CYI) seeks to raise awareness of the multi-system needs of all Caregiving Youth, advance national solutions, align with international efforts, and support this large, underrecognized population through Connection, Advocacy, Research, and Education (C.A.R.E.). We connect people who care with each other.

CONNECTION

AACY CYI fosters connections between Caregiving Youth, their families, advocates, researchers, and organizations supporting this underrecognized population, including those focused on specific health conditions. AACY brings together people, organizations, and initiatives working to advance recognition and support for Caregiving Youth. By sharing information, building partnerships, and connecting efforts across the United States and internationally, CYI helps strengthen the growing network of people working on this issue.

ADVOCACY

AACY advocacy informs and educates U.S. federal, state, and local legislators and other influential individuals about the important role of Caregiving Youth in society, including recognizing their current and future contributions as educated adults and potentially future healthcare workers. Ultimately, policy changes and appropriations made at the local, state, and federal levels should include provisions for Caregiving Youth just like adult family caregivers. The goal is national recognition and awareness of their vital role in healthcare delivery, with long-term recognition as care providers.

RESEARCH

Research on Caregiving Youth in the U.S. continues to grow. AACY established the Caregiving Youth Research Collaborative, which focuses on U.S. Caregiving Youth while engaging researchers internationally. Its goals are to advance understanding of Caregiving Youth and their families and facilitate new studies and publications. Professionals in social sciences, social work, nursing, medicine, psychology, and other fields contribute to these efforts, strengthening knowledge of this underrecognized population.

EDUCATION

Educating the public, schools, healthcare professionals, and communities about Caregiving Youth is a national priority. Through national media coverage, press outreach, storytelling, and social media, AACY raises awareness and amplifies the voices of Caregiving Youth. Education also includes partnerships with healthcare systems, universities, and other organizations, along with conferences, podcasts, video productions, published research, and presentations that help people better understand and support these young people.

"The Caregiving Youth Institute was made possible by an initial grant from the Schmidt Family Foundation, a charitable foundation that provides grants to local non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations."

The Voice of Caregiving Youth

AACY launched Caregiving Youth Action Day USA:
AACY spearheaded Caregiving Youth Action Day USA. In collaboration with Carers Trust UK and US partners, they held the first-ever international recognition day for Caregiving Youth in the United States. The initiative aligns with worldwide efforts to raise awareness and outreach for young carers and their families.

US Recognition of Caregiving Youth - H.Con.Res.114 - 117th Congress:
AACY's efforts made history in the US Caregiving Youth movement in 2022 as Congress recognized Caregiving Youth for the first time. Representatives Lois Frankel, Barbara Lee, and Maria Elvira Salazar introduced a resolution designating November 13-19, as National Caregiving Youth Week, recognizing the sacrifices of youth caring for loved ones. Co-sponsoring representatives from California, Florida, Texas, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and North Carolina joined.

U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report:
AACY's advocacy helped prompt Representatives Lois Frankel, Barbara Lee, and Bobby Scott to request a national study of Caregiving Youth from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in 2022. Released in May 2025, the report examined the needs of Caregiving Youth and gaps in federal support. It recommended that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) clarify when young caregivers may qualify for existing support services.

Caregiving Youth Institute Conference:
The Caregiving Youth Institute Conference brings together researchers, professionals, policymakers, educators, and caregivers to address the unique needs of Caregiving Youth. The conference features keynote speakers, workshops, and panel discussions on various topics related to Caregiving Youth, that intersect the systems of healthcare, education, legislation, and the community. Attendees can network with peers and experts in the field and learn about new research, resources, and best practices.