Most Florida residents age 45 and older have experiences as family caregivers, or believe they are likely to be caregivers in the future. Florida residents age 45 and older say they have provided care—either currently (21%) or in the past (48%) —on an unpaid basis for an adult loved one who is ill, frail, elderly or who has a disability. Of those who have never provided care, nearly half (49%) say it is at least somewhat likely they will do so in the future. Typical family caregivers in Florida are women (65%) and over 55 years old (80%). They are likely to be married (61%), and have a college degree (67%). The average age of the person they care for is 65 years old or older.

Where Do Florida Registered Voters Age 45-Plus Want to Live When Basic Life Tasks Become More Difficult? (n=1782)

- At home with caregiver assistance: 82%
- In an assisted living facility: 11%
- In a nursing home: 3%
- Not sure/no answer: 4%

Caregiving Experiences of Florida Registered Voters Age 45-Plus

- Currently providing care (n=1782): 21%
- Previously provided care (n=1408): 48%
- Likely to provide care in the future (n=1048): 71%

Many (71%) current and past caregivers say it is likely that they will need to provide care again in the future. As such, nearly all of these caregivers believe it is at least somewhat important to be able to provide care so that their loved ones can keep living independently in their own home (99%). Most also say having more caregiver resources and training that allows family caregivers to continue to provide in-home care is at least somewhat important (94%).
AARP Florida Statewide

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Importance of Having Services that Allow People to Stay in Their Own Homes as They Age* (n=1048 current or former caregivers)

- Extremely/very important: 96%
- Somewhat important: 3%
- Not very/not at all important: <1%
- Not sure/no answer: 1%

Importance of Having More Resources and Training for Caregivers* (n=1048 current or former caregivers)

- Somewhat important: 14%
- Not very/not at all important: 5%
- Not sure/no answer: 1%

*Due to rounding the chart may not total 100%

Among the top community services that Florida respondents age 45 and older believe are extremely or very important to help people remain in their own homes as they age are well-trained certified home health care providers (87%), visiting nurses (86%), special transportation (80%), personal care services (78%), and breaks for family caregivers (77%).

Top Community Services of Importance to Florida Respondents Age 45-Plus (N=1782)

- Well-trained certified home health care providers: Extremely important (52%) / Very important (35%)
- Visiting nurses: Extremely important (49%) / Very important (37%)
- Special transportation: Extremely important (44%) / Very important (36%)
- Personal care services: Extremely important (43%) / Very important (35%)
- Breaks for family caregivers: Extremely important (42%) / Very important (35%)
- A central place for caregiver information and resources: Extremely important (40%) / Very important (37%)
- Programs providing health services and/or social activities: Extremely important (35%) / Very important (35%)
- Chore or homemaker services for low-income and older persons: Extremely important (35%) / Very important (34%)
- Congregate meals: Extremely important (32%) / Very important (34%)
More than 60,000 older Floridians are currently on waiting lists for critical services that help them remain at home and out of taxpayer-funded institutional care. Nearly 90 percent of Florida registered voters’ age 45-plus support measures to use surplus state budget funds to end waiting lists for critical services (87%) and to provide access to services needed to live independently (88%).

Support for Proposals to Spend State Budget Surplus (N=1782)

- Using Florida’s state budget surplus to access services for independent living: 88%
- Using Florida’s state budget surplus to end waiting list for critical services: 87%

*Percentages less than 10 percent are not shown.*
Independent Living and Budget Surplus

AARP Florida commissioned a telephone survey of 1965 registered voters age 45-plus to learn about their experiences with family caregiving. This report highlights results from residents interviewed between May 27 and June 16, 2016. The data was weighted to reflect registered voters in Florida age 45-plus. The survey has a margin of error of ±2.3 percent. The survey annotation will be made available at www.aarp.org/research.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of nearly 38 million, that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse. We advocate for individuals in the marketplace by selecting products and services of high quality and value to carry the AARP name as well as help our members obtain discounts on a wide range of products, travel, and services. A trusted source for lifestyle tips, news and educational information, AARP produces AARP The Magazine, the world's largest circulation magazine; AARP Bulletin; www.aarp.org; AARP TV & Radio; AARP Books; and AARP en Español, a Spanish-language website addressing the interests and needs of Hispanics. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to political campaigns or candidates. The AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. AARP has staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Learn more at www.aarp.org.

State Research brings the right knowledge at the right time to our state and national partners in support of their efforts to improve the lives of people age 50+. State Research consultants provide strategic insights and actionable research to attain measurable state and national outcomes. The views expressed herein are for information, debate, and discussion, and do not necessarily represent official policies of AARP.

AARP staff from the Florida State Office, Campaigns, State Advocacy and Strategy Integration and State Research contributed to the design, implementation and reporting of this study. Special thanks go to AARP staff, including Jeff Johnson, and Jack McRay, AARP Florida; Chryste Hall, Campaigns; Bill Clark, State Advocacy and Strategy Integration; Rachelle Cummins, Cheryl Barnes and Kadeem Thorpe, State Research. Please contact Aisha Bonner Cozad at 202-434-3531 for more information regarding this survey.

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