

Date of Hearing: April 23, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE

Adrin Nazarian, Chair

AB 568 (Reyes) – As Amended April 22, 2019

SUBJECT: Caregiver resource centers: volunteer workforce.

SUMMARY: This bill would establish, until July 1, 2026, the California Care Corp Act to be administered by California Volunteers to provide respite care for a person who is at least 65 years of age, or who have a cognitive impairment and meet specified criteria.

Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Allows California Volunteers to enter into contracts directly with nonprofit Care Corp Grantees on a bid or non-bid basis.
- 2) Establishes selection criteria for prospective volunteers and specified training requirements.
- 3) Allows Care Corp volunteers to receive a stipend and an educational award, as specified.
- 4) Requires the appointment of an advisory council consisting of a group of stakeholder organizations and qualified academic leaders to conduct a review and evaluation of the program.
- 5) Specifies that the pilot program is intended to incentivize high school graduates to volunteer to provide in-home respite care and to expand the current in-home care workforce.
- 6) Requires that there be no more than 150 Care Corps volunteers in total per year spread across the various Care Corps Grantees.
- 7) Each Care Corps Grantee will select and place volunteers and be responsible for providing adequate training to their volunteers.
- 8) A person may apply to be a volunteer by submitting an application to a Care Corps Grantee and contain the information the Care Corps Grantee requires.
- 9) The pilot program shall begin on July 1 of each year, and the application deadline shall be two months prior to the commencement of training in order to provide time for administrators to select applicants. A volunteer may not serve for more than 24 months, and may not serve for not more than two terms consisting of not more than 12 months each. A person is eligible to serve as a volunteer if he or she meets both of the following criteria:
 - a) He or she turns 18 years of age on or before December 31 of the calendar year in which he or she begins participation in the program.
 - b) He or she passes a criminal background check consistent with those performed on IHSS workers.
- 10) A person is eligible to receive volunteer services pursuant to this section if he or she meets all of the following criteria:

- a) He or she is at least 65 years of age or has a cognitive impairment.
 - b) He or she has difficulty with self-care or living independently.
 - c) He or she has an unpaid caregiver who does not qualify to provide services pursuant to the In-Home Supportive Services program, when the person is initially selected to be a recipient of these services.
- 11) The pilot program will provide volunteer services to populations that consist primarily of low-income individuals.
- 12) Each CRC shall provide training to volunteers, as follows:
- a) Each volunteer shall complete a six-week internship consisting of eight hours of training per week.
 - b) Each volunteer shall receive a stipend during the internship.
 - c) The first week of training shall include eight hours training modules developed by the Care Corps Grantee or a local partner organization with experience in respite care.
 - d) Week's two to six, inclusive, of training shall include pairing interns with unpaid family caregivers to enable the interns to shadow the family caregivers.
 - e) An intern who is well rated and who continues to express interest in the program shall receive 32 hours of further training, if accepted, as a volunteer.
 - f) Volunteers shall provide services that do all of the following:
 - i) Result in person-to-person, supportive relationships with each individual served.
 - ii) Support the achievement and maintenance of the highest level of independent living for each individual in need.
 - iii) Are supported by appropriate orientation, training, and supervision.
 - iv) Are provided in support of, or in coordination with, a caregiver, if applicable.
- 13) Volunteers shall not provide the following services:
- a) Professional medical services.
 - b) Administrative support services of the program.
 - c) Care in an institutional setting.
 - d) Care prohibited by state law.
 - e) Financial services.
 - f) Any other services determined by the director to be inconsistent with the purposes of programs funded pursuant to this section.
- 14) Each volunteer shall be assigned to several recipients in order to provide brief respites for the caregivers. If a caregiver subsequently qualifies to provide in-home care pursuant to the In-Home Supportive Services program, then the volunteer shall be assigned to a single recipient.

- 15) Each Care Corps Grantee shall provide a stipend to each volunteer exceeding no more than fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) per cycle.
- 16) Each caregiver resource center (CRC) shall provide educational awards, in addition to the stipend, to volunteers, as follows:
- a) If a volunteer completes less than 12 months of full-time service in the program as determined by the CRC, he or she shall not receive an educational award.
 - b) If a volunteer completes 12 months of full-time service in the program, as determined by the CRC, the volunteer shall receive an educational award in the amount of either of the following, as applicable:
 - i) Six thousand dollars (\$6,000).
 - ii) If a volunteer commits to using an educational award granted pursuant to this section to complete a degree, a certificate, or training in a health care profession, or in a social services profession related to the delivery of long-term services and supports to older adults and people with disabilities or to their caregivers, ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).
- 17) In addition, for each additional six months of service after the initial 12-month period, the volunteer shall receive a prorated amount of that award. The total educational award to a volunteer shall not exceed a total amount of twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) if the award is made pursuant to clause (i) of subparagraph (B), or twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) if the award is made pursuant to clause (ii) of subparagraph (B).

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires the Director of Health Care Services to, among other things, maintain or enter into contracts directly with nonprofit caregiver resource centers (CRCs) to provide direct services to caregivers of cognitively impaired adults, as defined, throughout the state. These services include, but are not limited to, specialized information, family consultation, respite care, short-term counseling, and support groups.

FISCAL EFFECT: This bill has not yet been analyzed by a fiscal committee.

COMMENTS:

Currently, there are more than 4 million unpaid family caregivers in California. The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) has estimated that by 2030, the number of seniors in need of in-home care services will have doubled to over 900,000. This number does not take into account those who will be in nursing homes, something that most middle and low-income families cannot afford. According to a different statewide study, caregivers of adults with cognitive disorders like Alzheimer's provided an average of 84 hours of care per week.

California was the first state to establish a statewide network of support organizations for caregivers. The Caregiver Resource Centers are nonprofit entities throughout California that provide respite care or financial assistance for care to those requiring assistance with in-home care. There are eleven CRCs throughout California. Currently, the resource centers provide in-house training to their caregivers and track all respite care being provided.

In an effort to alleviate costs for low-income families, programs such as In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) were created. However, IHSS caseloads have grown over 300% in the past two decades. Furthermore, the cost for assisted living facilities and nursing homes consume 69.7% and 161%, respectively, of the median annual income of Californians, something that Medicare and Medi-Cal are unable to cover effectively.

California Volunteers was established by Executive Order S-24-06. Consistent with federal and state law, the duties and responsibilities of California Volunteers include, but not be limited to:

A. Recruiting and mobilizing citizens for volunteer service by identifying service opportunities throughout the state and by recognizing citizens for the contributions they make as volunteers and participants in public service programs;

B. Serving as the state's lead agency for community service and volunteerism, informing the public of the value of and need for greater community service and volunteerism in California, calling upon all Californians to become involved, and challenging public and private institutions to create and support community service and volunteer opportunities; and

C. Partnering with other public agencies at the state, county and local levels, and the private and not-for-profit sectors to leverage greater resources and create more opportunities for service and volunteerism.

Argument in Support: Public Law Center writes, “Supporting the California Care Corps will help dramatically assist in decreasing the growing financial burden on In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), which in turn helps reduce the financial burden on Long Term Care Medi-Cal because in-home care helps delay the placement of low-income aged and disabled individuals into expensive nursing homes. In addition, this would also allow unpaid family caregivers to re-enter the workforce of complete their education. Furthermore, it could serve as a youth workforce development program, pipelining youth who become Care Corps volunteers into the gerontology-associated workforce of the future necessary to care for the growing aging population.”

Argument in Opposition: None.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Alzheimer’s Association
 Alzheimer’s Los Angeles
 Alzheimer’s Orange County
 Alzheimer’s San Diego
 Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA)
 California Collaborative for Long-Term Services & Supports (CCLTSS)
 City of Oakland
 Congress of California Seniors
 Family Caregiver Alliance
 Public Law Center
 One individual.

Opposition

None on file.

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