Home Care in Oregon

What is Home Care?
Professional home care workers support their elderly and disabled clients with activities of daily living. This workforce enables their clients to remain in their homes and supports their clients’ family members to participate in the labor force.

Growing Need for Home Care Workers

- There are 32,120 professional home care workers in Oregon.4
- This occupation has grown 76% over the past 10 years in Oregon.
- Oregon is projected to add an additional 41,290 home care jobs by 2028.5
- Due to high turnover, each year there are projected to be 5,860 home care job openings in Oregon.

Rapidly Growing Occupation

Home care is one of the largest and fastest growing occupations, but the need exceeds the supply, drawing unpaid family caregivers from full-time employment to help fill the gap.

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Rising Revenues, Persistent Low Wages, High Costs of Home Care

- The annual median cost of home care in Oregon is $66,352 up from $53,448 in 2009.7 This has translated into rising revenues, while low wages persist.
- Home care industry revenues are $109.6B and projected to increase by 5.1% annually.8
- In 2019, Oregon home care workers received a median hourly wage of $13.47/hour and a median annual income of $28,740.
  - This rose to $14.33/hour and $30,730 annually in 2020, though this increase may be temporary as pandemic subsidies expire.9
Recruitment and retention of workers in this rapidly growing occupation can help support the Oregon economy.

+ Professional home care workers help family members—especially women—to remain in the workforce, but many families are waiting to receive this support.
+ Studies have found that raising wages for home care workers leads to lower costs from reduced turnover and from workers’ reliance on public safety net programs.
+ Low wages result in thousands of Oregon home care workers living in poverty.

### Worker Demographics

The Oregon home care workforce is disproportionately composed of women of color and immigrant women. Their median age is 50.

- **Women**: 82%
- **People of Color**: 18%
  - 15% being women of color
- **Foreign-Born**: 14%

### Economic Impacts and Racial & Ethnic Disparities

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#### Home care workers live in poverty including:

- **33%** of Black workers
- **17%** of Hispanic workers
- **10%** of Asian workers
- **19%** of White workers

#### Home care workers receive food stamps including:

- **47%** of Black workers
- **33%** of Hispanic workers
- **43%** of Asian workers
- **37%** of White workers
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Disclaimer
The views expressed here are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco or the Federal Reserve System.

Endnotes
11. U.S. Census Bureau. IPUMS microdata, American Community Survey: 2015-2019 (5-year Estimate). For comparison, the Oregon working age population is 14% people of color, including 7% women of color, and 13% foreign-born.

For additional state profiles and more on this topic, please visit: sffed.us/homecare