

News from the Family Caregiver Alliance's (FCA) National Center on Caregiving (NCC) 2007 National Policy Statement

The National Center on Caregiving (NCC) at Family Caregiver Alliance (FCA) issued its 2007 National Policy Statement earlier this year.

What does the Family Caregiver Alliance (FCA) do?

The FCA's National Center on Caregiving (NCC) works to set the national agenda and highlight priorities, policies, and federally-funded initiatives to support the estimated 44.4 million Americans who are family caregivers. According to the FCA, 78% of adults who receive long-term care at home, which includes adults with disabilities and people who are elderly and in need of support for daily living activities, rely exclusively on family and friends to provide them with support.

What priorities did the FCA set for 2007?

The FCA made many recommendations to Congress. Their top three recommendations are (1) for Congress to authorize and fund a National Resource Center on Caregiving; (2) to modernize Medicare and Medicaid to better support family caregivers; and (3) to commission an Institute of Medicine (IOM) study on family caregiving. Other initiatives focus on tax credits to caregivers, the expansion of the family and medical leave benefits to workers caring for ill or disabled relatives, and more. Their website (www.caregiving.org) provides detail on these priorities, information on caregiving initiatives in other states, and important research on caregiving.

How can I get more information about the National Center on Caregiving and the Family Caregiver Alliance?

The FCA has a wonderful website, that can be found through this link: [Family Caregiver Alliance](http://FamilyCaregiverAlliance.org) or at www.caregiver.org. Their website notes that they are "a central source of information and technical assistance on family caregiving for policymakers, health and service providers, program developers, funders, media and families." You can e-mail questions to PolicyDigest@caregiver.org or subscribe to their bi-weekly Caregiving Policy Digest using the following link: www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=836. You also can call the Family Caregiver Alliance using their toll-free phone number: 800/445-8106.