



Assessing Extended Family Exemptions for Individual Providers

Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee

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How does Washington define...

Long-term care workers work in assisted living facilities, adult family homes, or for home care agencies or directly for the state in Medicaid-eligible homes (*not* in hospitals or nursing homes)

Home care aides are long-term care workers certified by the Department of Health

Individual providers are those workers paid by the state to provide in-home care to Medicaid-eligible clients

- Some are exempt from full home care aide training and certification (parents and adult children)
- Exempt providers still complete some training

Why examine broadening family exemptions?

Why we did the audit

- Biennial performance audits required by Initiative 1163 (2012)
- Stakeholders testified interest in expanding exemptions
- Government and industry experts anticipate a future shortage of care workers

Our audit questions

- What is the extent of unmet need for individual providers in Washington?
- What are the benefits and risks of broadening exemptions from full training and certification for individual providers who are extended family members?

A note about recommendations

This audit did not make recommendations.

Rather, it serves to lay out the considerations for a legislative policy change to expand exemptions.

What is the extent of unmet need for individual providers?

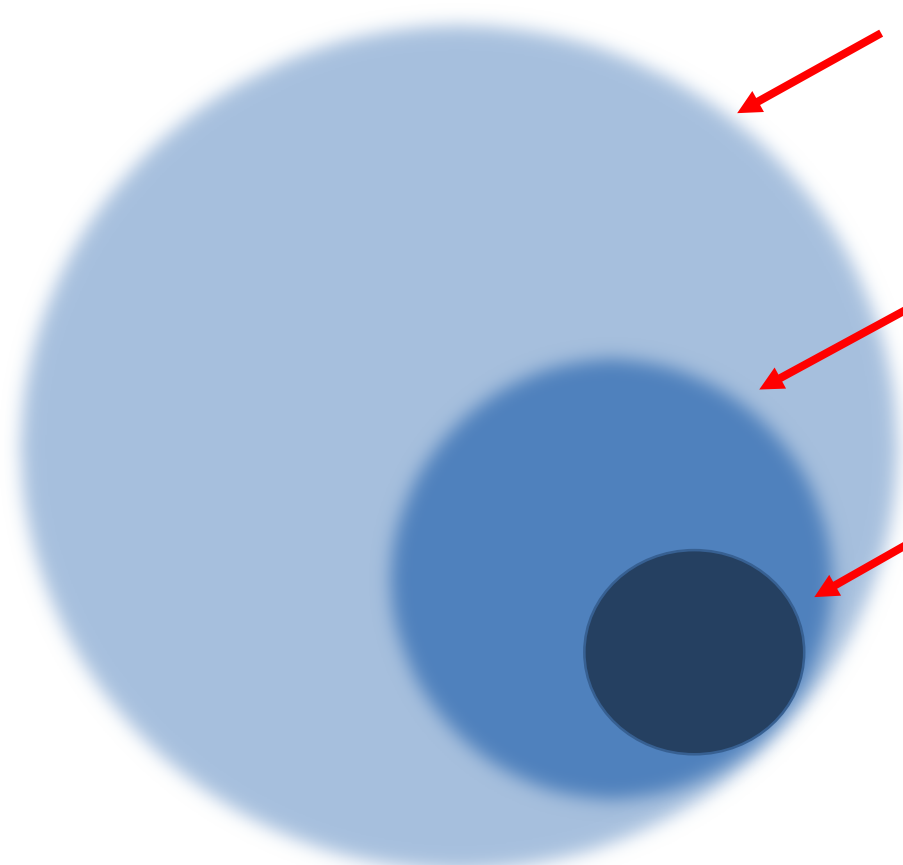
Washington lacks data to determine the extent of unmet need

- Federal employment data categories do not align with Washington definitions
- The state does not track all long-term caregivers

Key data needed to estimate supply are primarily estimates

- The total number of long-term care workers in Washington is *estimated* by AARP
- Paid versus unpaid caregivers are also *estimated* by AARP
- Only the numbers of individual providers (both certified and exempt) and other certified home care aides are known

Only a small portion of long-term care workers are known



AARP **estimates** around 1.06 million long-term care workers in state – 80% (850,000) of whom are unpaid

This suggests around 212,500 long-term care workers in state are paid

State **data confirm** 55,500 home care aides, including:

- 41,000 individual providers (certified and exempt)
- 14,500 other credentialed HCAs

Demand for long-term care workers also is not known

Aging baby boomers will drive unprecedented need for long-term caregivers — exactly how much is unknown

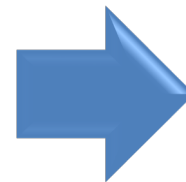
- U.S. Census Bureau estimates that Americans 65+ will outnumber those below 18 by 2035 — first time in history
- OFM estimates the proportion of people aged 65+ in Washington to grow significantly by 2030

Policies and studies suggest growing unmet need

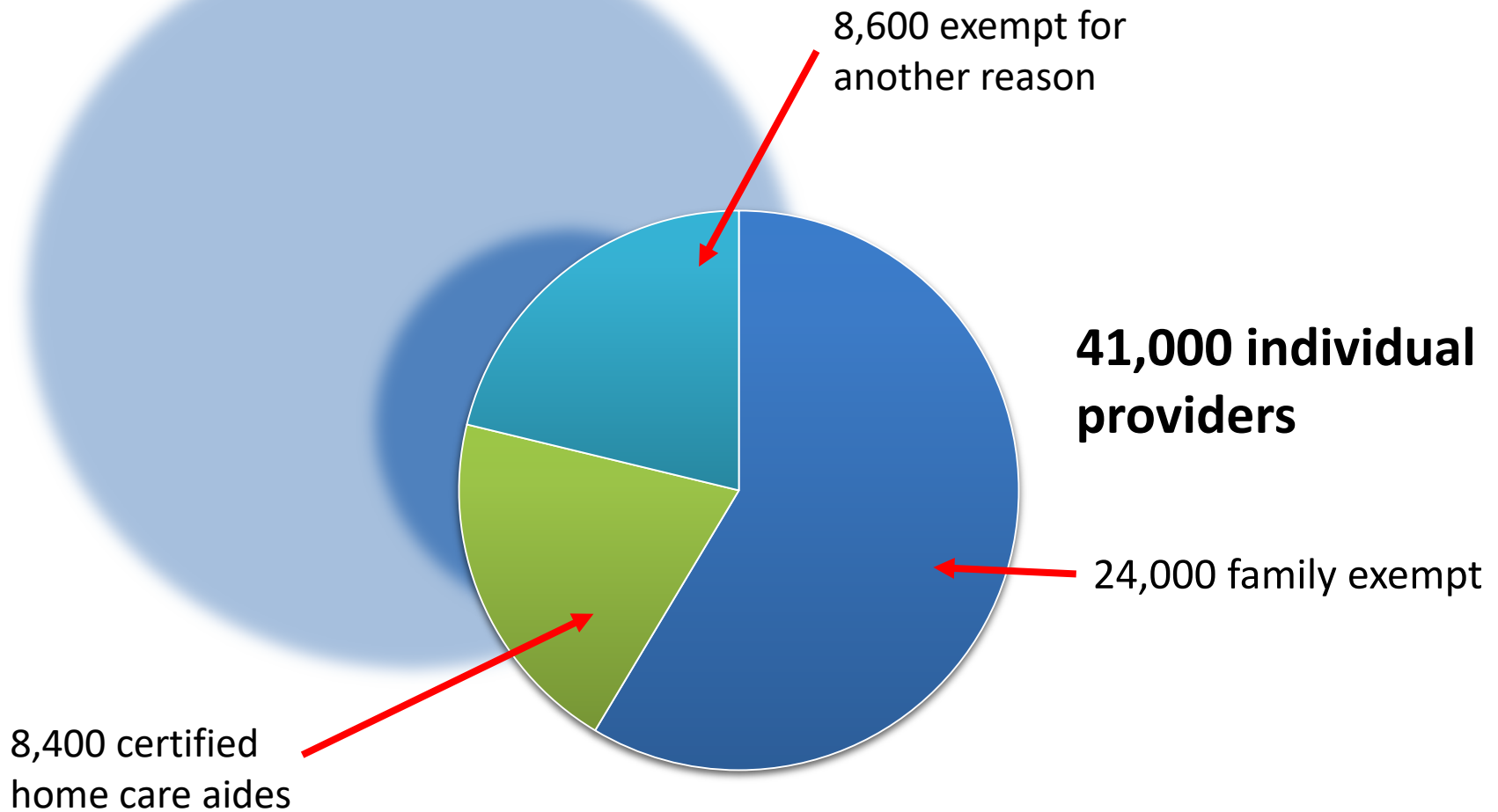
Shift from institutional care to in-home care

- DSHS caseload data confirms
- State and federal policies focus on “aging in place”

National studies point to growing difficulty in finding care, particularly for in-home clients



Most current individual providers are exempt



Could expanding family exemptions help reduce a shortage?

As aging population grows, the total amount of long-term care available to in-home clients *may* increase with expanded exemptions and help reduce a shortage

- Family members *currently providing* unpaid care may be enticed to provide more care with pay
- Family members *not currently providing* any care could become paid caregivers

However, the actual growth in the number of caregivers is unknown



Potential benefits and risks of reduced training

Benefits

- Unpaid family caregivers are not required to take any training – when they become paid, reduced training may be better than no training

Risks

- Family members who become paid caregivers without previous experience may benefit from the full training
- With expanded training exemptions, program costs *could* rise as more paid caregivers provide in-home care, though the amount is unknown
- Exempt extended family would fall outside DOH's licensing and regulatory umbrella

Questions?

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