

CAREGIVING 2031: THREE SCENARIOS OF A CRISIS AVERTED

In recent years, the issue of caregiving has received much more attention than it had in the past. A steady stream of studies and newspaper articles has highlighted the scale of caregiving and the challenges faced by caregivers. A number of states and local communities have passed laws to support caregivers. Advocates and policymakers have begun to talk about caregiving as a crisis needing action. **But what kind of action is needed?**



Neighbors Care



Angels in the Floorboards



CARER Act

To explore this question, the Institute for the Future (IFF) developed three video scenarios for caregiving in the year 2031 that portray different paths away from crisis: the first explores new social and financial arrangements for caregiving; the second examines the role of technology in supporting caregivers; and the third looks at the implications of integrating “informal” caregiving with the formal health care system. The scenarios focus primarily on care provided by family members and friends for older adults, who represent the majority of care recipients.

About the Project

With support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, IFTF conducted a project in 2015-16 to explore the future of caregiving. The project began with a literature review along with interviews with experts with diverse experiences and perspectives on caregiving. This was combined with IFTF’s existing research to develop a set of forecasts that describe how the key drivers of change over the next 10-15 years are likely to impact the caregiving experience. We used the forecasts to create the three video scenarios along with a toolkit designed to guide use of the scenarios to provoke a discussion about actions that can be taken now to improve support for caregivers and improve the quality of caregiving.

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About IFTF

The Institute for the Future is an independent, nonprofit strategic research group with more than 47 years of forecasting experience. The core of our work is identifying emerging discontinuities that will transform global society and the global marketplace. We provide organizations with *foresight* about alternative futures that leads to *insight* about current choices which leads to more informed *action*.

Our research spans a broad territory of deeply transformative trends, from health and health care to technology, education, the workplace, and human identity. IFTF is based in Palo Alto, California.

For more about the project and to access the scenarios, visit www.iff.org/caregiving2031