



## Family Caregiver Support Program Advisory Council

Hosted by AgeSpan

AgeSpan is an Area Agency on Aging serving 28 cities and towns in northeastern Massachusetts. For more than 50 years, AgeSpan has provided older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers with services that support aging independently in their communities of choice. Many older adults also serve as caregivers for family members, including grandchildren or loved ones with dementia, often facing financial and emotional strain.

To expand support for caregivers, AgeSpan has partnered with Community Care Corps to incorporate volunteers into its Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP), which receives about 400 referrals annually. Community Care Corps is administered by the Oasis Institute with support from USAging, the Caregiver Action Network (CAN) and the Altarum Institute with funding from the Administration for Community Living (ACL). This national program supports local programs that mobilize volunteers to assist older adults, people with disabilities or family caregivers with non-medical care in their own homes to help maintain their independence.

The Advisory Council will play a key role in ensuring that both older adults and family caregivers have a strong voice in the planning and delivery of local aging services.

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### **The Council's responsibilities include:**

- Advising on local plans and priorities for older adults and caregiver services
- Identifying community needs and gaps
- Help connect caregivers and older adults to programs and resources
- Reviewing and sharing feedback on policies and services
- Support volunteer recruitment and engagement efforts
- Foster two-way learning between caregivers, volunteers and staff
- Share insights to strengthen the Family Caregiver Support Program

### **Membership and Meetings**

The Council will include older adults, caregivers, and professionals dedicated to improving life for older people and their families. Meetings will be staffed by the Director of the Family Caregiver Support Program and will be held quarterly via virtual platform. Discussions focus on caregiving, aging, and community support.

The Council will meet quarterly on a virtual platform and will meet bi-monthly for one hour on Microsoft Teams.

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### **Joining the Council**

Advisory Council membership is both rewarding and impactful. Members serve as trusted links between the community and AgeSpan, ensuring that the voices of family caregivers and older adults are heard. AgeSpan welcomes new members who are passionate about improving the lives of caregivers and the older adults they support.