Paid caregiver shortages will impact everyone

A consumer

Meredith Westerveld of Altoona, earned her CNA certification in 2017. She was offered positions at three skilled nursing facilities, but turned them down because she wants to be able to support her family and save for the future.

"I would have rented an apartment," Westerveld said. "I think that's the best decision I've made." For the most part, she says, the job market is good, but she's having a hard time finding a job that pays well enough to support her family.

A family caregiver

Michelle Reimann, a woman in her 60s, works as a caregiver for her mother.

"I get paid minimum wage, and I have to work three jobs to make ends meet," she said. "I'm doing it just to survive." Reimann said she's had to take on extra work to support her family, and that it's been tough.

A paid caregiver

Pam Loretto is a certified home aide who works for a home care agency.

"I love my job," she said. "I feel like I'm making a difference. I'm helping people, and I'm doing it for the right reasons."}