

NARRATOR:

The Disability & Philanthropy Forum presents Maria Town, President and CEO of the American Association of People with Disabilities.

MARIA TOWN:

So when we say care and the care movement and care economy and care infrastructure, what we are talking about is a segment of the economy in our society that makes all of our other work possible to quote the great Ai-jen Poo. The care economy and care infrastructure is inclusive of both paid and unpaid care work and includes things like care for older adults or elder care, childcare, paid family and medical leave and disability care or what Rahnee and I have both referred to as home and community-based services. The movement, the care movement is fighting for things like increased wages and better job quality for direct support workers and childcare workers, more flexible policies that allow family members to work and care at the same time.

And I think it's really important to acknowledge that when we're talking about who comprises the care movement, again, as Anna's already mentioned, and we've already demonstrated disabled people are both recipients of care and our care workers ourselves. Children and young people are often care workers as well as adults and older adults. And care work is often disabling. So one of the things I'm hoping we can talk about today is how this kind of binary of a care worker and a disabled person has been really disruptive because both care and disability are natural parts of the human condition.

NARRATOR:

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