

## FEDERAL PRIORITIES 2013

Alzheimer's disease is a growing crisis for our families and the economy. The federal government must address the challenges the disease poses and take bold action to confront this epidemic now.

### 1. Implement the *National Alzheimer's Project Act*

[www.alz.org/napa](http://www.alz.org/napa)

In 2050, up to 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's disease, creating an enormous strain on the health care system, families, and the federal budget. Recognizing this growing crisis, Congress unanimously passed and President Obama signed into law the *National Alzheimer's Project Act* (NAPA), calling for the creation of a National Alzheimer's Plan. In May 2012, the first-ever National Plan was released. In support of the Plan, the President's fiscal year 2014 budget proposal includes \$100 million in additional funding for research, education, care, and support.

#### ➤ Increase the commitment to Alzheimer's research

Over the next 40 years, caring for people with Alzheimer's will cost our country \$20 trillion. Nearly 60 percent of that will be borne by Medicare. If we had a treatment that delayed onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, Medicare spending would be reduced on those with the disease by 45 percent in 2050. Unfortunately, the chronic underinvestment in Alzheimer's research persists. The President's budget proposal would take a first step toward finding the needed treatments, prevention, and cure by including an additional \$80 million for Alzheimer's research.

#### ➤ Expand education efforts and caregiver assistance

Despite the growing number of Americans directly affected by Alzheimer's, the country is ill-equipped to meet the increasing demand. Services and supports for individuals and their caregivers are lacking, and health care providers are unprepared and undertrained. The President's budget proposes \$20 million to educate and train providers, enable states to improve dementia services and supports, and connect caregivers to community resources.

### 2. Increase access to diagnosis and care planning

[www.alz.org/hopeact](http://www.alz.org/hopeact)

In order to ensure high quality medical care and better outcomes for individuals with Alzheimer's, the disease must be diagnosed, care must be planned, and the diagnosis must be noted in the individual's medical record. Studies also suggest that an early diagnosis and care planning improve a caregiver's long-term health. Yet, about half of those with Alzheimer's and other dementias have not been diagnosed. Consistent with the National Alzheimer's Plan's call for timely diagnosis and education for newly-diagnosed individuals, the *Health Outcomes, Planning, and Education (HOPE) for Alzheimer's Act* (S. 709/H.R. 1507) would increase diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, provide information on medical and non-medical services for newly-diagnosed patients and their families, and document the diagnosis in the patient's medical record.