

MINNESOTA'S 2017 STATE POLICY PLATFORM

More than 91,000 Minnesota residents are living with Alzheimer's disease. This number is projected to grow to 120,000 in Minnesota by the year 2025.

Given the sweeping economic, social, and psychological impact Alzheimer's disease has on Minnesotans, the state needs a proactive response to this issue. The Alzheimer's Association will focus on the following policy priorities in Minnesota in 2017:

PREPARING MINNESOTA FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Identify gaps in dementia preparedness to create a clear set of priorities and objectives for policy makers as they consider the emotional and economic toll of this disease on families as well as on the state budget.

- Review, update and create an implementation plan for addressing Alzheimer's disease: It has been five years since the Alzheimer's Disease Working Group submitted recommendations to the legislature, Preparing Minnesota for Alzheimer's. While many of those recommendations have been implemented, it is time to update our State's strategic plan to ensure we have a clear plan for how the state will address this disease.

INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Create awareness, reduce stigma, and encourage early detection of Alzheimer's disease.

ENSURING QUALITY DEMENTIA TRAINING

Apply adequate training standards and requirements for individuals working in facilities or programs regulated by the State, as well as for other community professionals who may, in their line of work, encounter people living with the disease.

ADVANCING CAREGIVER SUPPORTS

Ensure that people living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers receive the support resources that will improve their ability to manage the disease, deal with the complexities of navigating the care continuum and reduce the burden.

- Maintain funding for dementia grants. The 2015 Legislature appropriated \$1.5 million for the current biennium to increase the rate of cognitive testing in the population at risk for dementias, promote the benefits of early diagnosis and connect caregivers to education and resources.

ACCELERATING RESEARCH

Advance research in the care, cure and prevention of Alzheimer's disease through the expansion of public funding efforts.

- Maintain funding for Alzheimer's disease research and explore possibilities to expand access of these funds to other qualified researchers in Minnesota. The 2015 Legislature appropriated funding to conduct Alzheimer's research through the Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics.
 - Continue policy maker education about the value of Alzheimer's research in Minnesota.
 - Identify avenues for expanding researcher access to grant funding.

For more information on these issues, please contact:

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The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's®.
Visit www.alz.org/mnnd or call our toll-free Helpline at 800.272.3900.
