

Home and Community-Based Services

Background

Home and community based care services, such as meal delivery to seniors living at home, adult day services, and programs providing medication cost and property tax relief, are important services for Illinois families who care for loved ones with Alzheimer's and other dementias. These programs are crucial to allowing seniors to remain in their homes, when that is the option of choice and avoid premature and unnecessary hospitalization or placement in a residential facility.

Reductions in critical services for persons with Alzheimer's disease who are living at home and receiving home and community based services are currently under discussion. These reductions would eliminate important pharmaceutical assistance programs, cut funds for home delivered meals, reduce the benefits afforded with the Circuit Breaker program and further limit eligibility to Community Care Programs.

Why is this important?

- Seniors and persons with Alzheimer's and other dementias who are able to remain in their homes and receive community based services experience a high sense of independence when given the ability to receive services in the setting of their choice.

- Home and Community based services are a less costly option as compared to a premature residential placement.
- At any one time, it is estimated that 70% of people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias live at home; they and their unpaid caregivers, who number in the tens of thousands, count on the support afforded by home based services.
- The FY 12 budget adjustments, as proposed, will financially effect seniors living at home, as well as prevent the accessibility of meal and prescription programs that may make the difference between remaining at home and moving for reasons other than medical and health status needs.
- Thousands of unpaid Illinois caregivers are able to provide high quality care with the support of home and community based services while decreasing the stress associated with caregiving.

What action do I need to take?

Contact your Illinois Senator and Representative and ask him or her to support providing a significant, broad range of options for care of persons living with Alzheimer's and other dementias in Illinois and to save the state funds associated with the cost of premature residential facilities.

VISION

A world without Alzheimer's disease.

MISSION

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.

What is dementia?

Dementia is a general term for a decline in mental ability severe enough to interfere with daily life. Memory loss is an example. Alzheimer's is the most common type of dementia.

What is Alzheimer's Disease?

Alzheimer's is a type of dementia that causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior. Symptoms usually develop slowly and get worse over time, becoming severe enough to interfere with daily tasks.

Alzheimer's is not a normal part of aging, although the greatest known risk factor is increasing age, and the majority of people with Alzheimer's are 65 and older. But Alzheimer's is not just a disease of old age. Up to 5 percent of people with the disease have early onset Alzheimer's (also known as younger-onset), which often appears when someone is in their 40s or 50s.

We enhance care and support

The Alzheimer's Association works on a global, national and local level to enhance care and support for all those affected by Alzheimer's and related dementias. We are here to help.

We advance research

As the largest non-profit funder of Alzheimer's research, the Association is committed to accelerating progress of new treatments, preventions and ultimately, a cure. Through our partnerships and funded projects, we have been part of every major research advancement over the past 30 years.

We advocate

The Association is the leading voice for Alzheimer's disease advocacy, fighting for critical Alzheimer's research, prevention and care initiatives at the state and federal level. We diligently work to make Alzheimer's a national priority.

We serve the entire state of Illinois.

The Illinois Chapter Network, made up of volunteers, is the leading advocate for legislation and public policy at the state level on behalf of more than half a million residents-210,000 people with Alzheimer's, as well as family members and caregivers.

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