

Making Illinois Dementia-Capable

A “Dementia-Capable State” means that Illinois and its long term care services, community-based services and dementia support systems have:

- The ability to identify people with dementia and their caregivers
- Information, referral, safety and service coordination that provides person -centered services to people with dementia and their caregivers
- Eligibility criteria for public programs that are equitable for people with dementia
- Access to appropriate services for people with dementia and their caregivers
- A rebalanced approach with a variety of service options for those with dementia ranging from strong home and community based services to quality skilled nursing care
- A professional healthcare workforce that is knowledgeable about dementia as well as how to serve people with the disease and their caregivers
- A coordinated public health system that embraces cognitive health as a priority and invests in its promotion through monitoring and evaluation, education and empowerment, developing policy and mobilizing partnerships, and assuring a competent work force.
- Quality assurance systems that take into account the unique needs of people with dementia and their caregivers
- Expanded Alzheimer’s and other dementias research through appropriate state revenue generation and disbursement opportunities

ABOUT ILLINOIS PUBLIC POLICY AND ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Efforts in public policy and advocacy by the Alzheimer’s Association®, with the help of thousands of Illinois Alzheimer Advocates and the Illinois Alzheimer Legislators Alliance, work to ensure that the needs of all those affected or impacted by Alzheimer’s disease are addressed where possible through legislative or regulatory change in partnership with state agencies, the Illinois Legislature and the Governor of the State of Illinois.

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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