



2014 delaware public policy priorities

It is estimated that **nearly 26,000** Delawareans are living with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. Alzheimer's is the most under-recognized public health crisis of the 21st century, and the need for support has never been more urgent. The burden of Alzheimer's disease is far-reaching, and Delaware must take bold action to confront this epidemic now.

Implement the Delaware State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders

We have worked over the past year with a variety of stakeholders from the Delaware community on the development of a comprehensive state plan for Alzheimer's that addresses the Alzheimer's epidemic with a thoughtful, integrated, and cost-effective approach. The plan lays out five main goals:

1. Strengthen the support of caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease
2. Promote public awareness of Alzheimer's disease
3. Improve the delivery of services to persons with Alzheimer's disease
4. Improve and expand Alzheimer's and dementia-related infrastructure (data, quality assurance, research) in Delaware by supporting the creation of a Delaware Center for Alzheimer's and Related Dementias
5. Achieve an Alzheimer's-competent workforce in the State of Delaware

Accomplishing these goals will require ongoing collaboration between a number of stakeholders from the public, private and non-profit sectors. In 2014, we will work with members of the Delaware Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force and other partners to implement the recommendations of the plan.

Improve Dementia Training

As persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias progress through the stages of their disease, they need access to a broad array of services. It is vital to:

- Ensure that training in dementia care is provided to all individuals employed in the delivery of care in all types of care settings.
- Support effective enforcement of dementia care regulations.

Maintain Medicaid access for persons with Alzheimer's

Medicaid provides health services, nursing home care and various home- and community-based services for individuals who meet program eligibility requirements. It is important:

- We work with elected officials, government agencies and stakeholders to ensure that current Medicaid benefits are at a minimum preserved and that expanded benefits are adopted given the needs of our State's growing aging population.

For more information, please contact:

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Contact us toll-free for emotional support, local resources, and information about Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. **800.272.3900**

We're here to help you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Alzheimer's Association Delaware Valley Chapter serves Southeastern Pennsylvania, South Jersey and Delaware; and is the local chapter of the National Alzheimer's Association. We are an alliance of family members and professionals dedicated to helping people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their families through education, advocacy and support.

Our vision: A world without Alzheimer's disease

Alzheimer's Association Mission Statement:

To eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all those affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.