



alzheimer's from the frontlines: challenges a national alzheimer's plan must address

What people in **COLORADO** are saying...

Impact of Alzheimer's in Colorado:

72,000 people 65 years and
older with Alzheimer's in 2010

227,372 caregivers provided unpaid care
valued at over
\$3.1 billion

Source: 2011 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures

The *National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA)*, Public Law 111-375, requires creation of a national strategic plan to address the rapidly mounting Alzheimer's crisis and will coordinate Alzheimer's disease efforts across the federal government.

In response to this, the Alzheimer's Association gathered input from Americans across the country. More than 43,000 people participated, including residents of Colorado. Ten key challenges emerged that participants believe the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services must address in the National Alzheimer's Plan now being created through the implementation of NAPA:

1. A lack of public awareness
2. Insufficient research funding
3. Difficulties with diagnosis
4. Poor dementia care
5. Inadequate treatments
6. Specific challenges facing diverse communities
7. Specific challenges facing those with younger-onset Alzheimer's
8. Unprepared caregivers
9. Ill-equipped communities
10. Mounting costs

"Families need help with ADLs [activities of daily living], e.g., bathing assistance, incontinence assistance. It takes two adults to change Mom at this point, and even with two people, it is extremely difficult physically."

– Grand Junction, CO

*"It cost us \$10,000 per month for both of our mothers' care in a nursing home years ago, plus medications, but **what are you going to do? It's your mom.**"*

– Colorado Springs, CO

*"I am the sole caretaker of two parents with Alzheimers. My 'job' has been 24/7 for the last three years. I have had to give up my job, my savings are gone, and I've had to declare bankruptcy. My parents are living on Social Security, so that is three of us stretching a budget that is extremely small. **They are \$50 over Medicaid guidelines.**"*

– Aurora, CO

*"My husband, Cliff, died recently at age 62 of younger-onset Alzheimer's disease I'm frustrated that **so few NIH funds go to Alzheimer's research.**"*

– Centennial, CO

*"The cost of care for a patient, especially an early onset patient, is **enough to bankrupt the patient and caregiver.** I would like to see affordable care in every state."*

– Loveland, CO

For more information, visit the Alzheimer's Association's *From Act to Action* web site at alz.org/napa.