

District of Columbia's 2017 STATE POLICY PLATFORM

More than 9,000 District of Columbia residents are living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. This number is projected to remain at 9,000 in the District of Columbia by the year 2025.

Given the sweeping economic, social, and psychological impact Alzheimer's disease has on District of Columbia (DC) residents, the state needs a proactive response to this issue. The Alzheimer's Association will focus on the following policy priorities in DC in 2017:

Policy Priority #1: Improve Dementia Training Standards

The District of Columbia needs to ensure that people with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and their families are receiving information, support and care from qualified professionals who have received dementia-specific training and certification. Enhancing training requirements and requiring certification will increase competency and knowledge of dementia-specific information and available services, and allow professionals to more accurately identify and support people with the disease and their families to ensure their safety, health and well-being.

- **Introduce legislation to require completion of dementia training certification for clinical/licensed professionals, direct care providers, state agency staff, first responders, caregivers, guardians, and conservators.** Integrate and continue basic level of dementia-specific training and education for public safety responders and nursing home staff through collaboration with DC Office on Aging and other local agencies. Allocate resources and advance legislation to promote dementia training for first-responders. ***(Goal 4: Training and Workforce Development, Recommendation 1 in the DC State Plan on Alzheimer's)***

Policy Priority #2: Expand home and community-based services

Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE®) provides adult day care, in-home health care, medical care, respite care, meals, and coordinated transportation. Paid for Medicare and Medicaid, nearly half of those in PACE programs nationwide are people living with Alzheimer's and dementia, including younger-onset Alzheimer's.

- **Increase access to home and community-based services – adult day care and in-home supportive services – for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias.** Working with Age-Friendly DC and PACE-DC Advisory Group, bring PACE to DC. Targets include DC Office of Chief Financial Officer, DC Office of Budget and Planning, and DC Council for oversight hearings. ***(Goal 2: Quality of Care, Recommendation 1 in the DC State Plan on Alzheimer's)***

Policy Priority #3: Implement the Public Health Road Map

Based on DC Department of Health 2015 BRFSS (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System) Cognitive and Caregiver module results, 50% of those with memory problems have not talked to a health care provider. For those with worsening memory problems (subjective cognitive decline), nearly half say it interfered with work or social activities.

- **Incorporate messages on brain health, including how to reduce the risk of cognitive decline, in existing, relevant public health campaigns, particularly among diverse communities who are at greater risk of developing Alzheimer's disease.** Working with DC Office of Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) and Executive Office of the Mayor, disseminate information including but not limited to November as National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month (NADAM) and June as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month (ABAM).
- **Conduct culturally-appropriate public health campaigns among the public to increase understanding and awareness of early warning signs of Alzheimer's and other dementias and the value of early detection and diagnosis.** Working with DC Office on Aging, publicize Know the 10 Signs campaign and raise Alzheimer's awareness. ***(Goal 3: Public Outreach and Awareness, Recommendations 5, 7, & 11 in the DC State Plan on Alzheimer's)***

To view DC State Plan on Alzheimer's, visit <http://dcoa.dc.gov/publication/district-columbia-state-plan-alzheimers-disease-2014-2019>. To view the Healthy Brain Initiative: A National Public Health Road Map to Maintaining Cognitive Health, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/aging/healthybrain/roadmap>.

For more information on these issues, please contact:

Sadaf Ahmad
State Affairs Lead
Phone: (703) 766-9027
Email: sahmad@alz.org

Alzheimer's Association Chapter Serving District of Columbia

National Capital Area Chapter
8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 400
McLean, VA 22102
703-359-4440 alz.org/nca

Contact the Alzheimer's Association's toll-free **Helpline at 800.272.3900** for emotional support, local resources, and information about Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. We're here to help you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The mission of the Alzheimer's Association 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.