

2016 Priorities

510,000 Floridians are living with Alzheimer's disease, and over 1 million people are caring for them. The Florida Coalition of the Alzheimer's Association is working towards making Florida a "dementia capable" state - that means

The ability to identify individuals with dementia and their caregivers, and to provide services that improve the quality of life for persons living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers.

In 2012, the Alzheimer's Association spearheaded the Purple Ribbon Task Force that developed the 2013 Alzheimer State Plan. In 2016, the Alzheimer's Association supports:

1 Increase Respite Services

Dementia caregiving is a billion-dollar unpaid industry in Florida. More than 1 million Floridians provide daily unpaid care for persons with dementia. For the past two years, the Alzheimer's Association worked with the Legislature to increase funding for respite services by \$5.8 million. However, more than 3,600 are on the waiting list to receive respite services. In 2016, we will work to:

Increase STATEWIDE funding for Alzheimer caregiver respite (ADI Respite Line Item). We support the Governor's recommendation of an additional \$1.7 million.

2 Enhance Dementia Training

The Alzheimer's Association has consistently been in the forefront of the development of standards for dementia training in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult day cares, home health agencies, and hospice. In 2016, we are working with Alzheimer's Association chapters nationally to:

Establish updated standards of best practices in dementia care training and assure that these standards are met by all facilities in Florida who promote themselves as "dementia care" qualified.

3 Ensure Multi Cultural Outreach

Studies have shown that African Americans are twice as likely, and Hispanics are one-and-a-half times as likely to have Alzheimer's than Caucasians. In 2016, we will work to:

Partner with the Department of Elder Affairs, Dpt. of Health, and Dpt. of Children & Families to develop a public campaign that will promote dementia-specific initiatives for Hispanics and African Americans.

4 Support Alzheimer Research

The Alzheimer's Association is the largest private funder of Alzheimer's disease research in the U.S. In 2016, we will work to:

Support increase funding of \$6 million for the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Research program.

5 Promote Early Diagnosis

A study this year showed that almost half of the people with Alzheimer's were diagnosed in time to allow them as patients, and their families, to put together a support plan. In 2016, we will work to:

Work with the Dpt. of Elder Affairs through the Memory Disorder Clinics to implement a statewide awareness campaign to support early diagnosis.