

# What **FLORIDA** Officials Can Do to Address the Crisis



## 2021 STATE PRIORITIES

### #1 Establish uniformed Alzheimer's disease training requirements for long-term care staff

The Alzheimer's Association will advocate for the creation of uniformed training requirements including one hour of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) training for new staff of assisted living communities, nursing homes, adult day cares, hospices, and home health agencies. For all staff that have direct contact with residents living with ADRD; the Association will advocate for an additional three (3) hours of ADRD training within the first 90 days of employment. For select staff in certain facilities, the Association will advocate for an additional four (4) hours of initial ADRD training. Additionally, the Association will advocate for all direct care workers in these settings to receive four (4) hours of continuing education in ADRD every year.

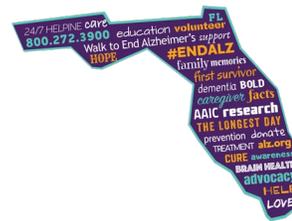
### #2 Establish Alzheimer's disease and related dementia training for medical licensees

The Alzheimer's Association will seek to enhance training for licensed medical personnel in Florida. This proposal would establish two (2) hours of continuing education related to Alzheimer's disease and related dementias for medical staff licensed under chapters 458, and, Florida Statutes. These statutes include physicians, nurses, nursing assistants, medical assistants, and physician assistants. All licensees would be required to complete training as part of their respective licensing boards' re-licensure process.

### #3 Maintain funding for the Brain Bus program

The Alzheimer's Association will seek to maintain funding in the amount of \$300,000 for the Brain Bus program. The Brain Bus is a mobile and virtual outreach initiative that prioritizes diverse and underserved populations throughout Florida. This program provides information on healthy living for the brain and body, early detection and diagnosis, caregiver resources and care planning, as well as emergency preparedness and information on COVID and caregiving. With funding from 2019, the Alzheimer's Association was able to take the Brain Bus program statewide and makeover 300 stops across Florida last year. In addition to community-based outreach, the Association has provided over 120 virtual memory education presentations in 2020.

# 2021 STATE PRIORITIES CONTINUED



## #4 Support funding for the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program

The Alzheimer's Association supports the continuation of the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program, which awards grants for Florida-based research relating to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure for Alzheimer's disease.

## #5 Support funding for home and community-based services and programs

The Alzheimer's Association will advocate in support of the Governor's Budget Recommendation for the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI) program and support funding for the Community Care for the Elderly (CCE) program. These programs provide vital respite services for the more than 1.1 million Floridians who provide daily unpaid care for persons living with dementia.\* There are currently thousands of Floridians on the waitlist for these critically-needed respite care services.

## #6 Continue funding for the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) optional Caregiver Module

Population-based data is needed to shape programs and policies that promote cognitive health and address cognitive decline, Alzheimer's disease and dementia in the state. THE BRFSS caregiver module provides data that can be used to determine the needs, extent, prevalence and burden of caregivers that Alzheimer's Disease, other dementias and other chronic conditions. The Caregiver Module assesses all caregivers, for any health condition or disability. But it also assesses specifically for Alzheimer's, dementia, or other cognitive impairment. The Alzheimer's Association is seeking funding and partnering with the Department of Health to fund the BRFSS Caregiver module for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

\*Alzheimer's Association 2019 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures, [alz.org/facts](https://www.alz.org/facts)