

Alzheimer's is a Public Health Crisis Devastating **North Dakota**

In 2020,

14,000

North Dakotans

were living with Alzheimer's.

11.1% of

North Dakotans

over 65 were living with Alzheimer's.



In 2023 **19,000**

family caregivers provided

25 million

hours of unpaid care valued at



\$465 million



Medicaid costs of
caring for people with
Alzheimer's in 2020



\$190 million

Medicaid costs are
expected to increase

13.2%

by 2025.



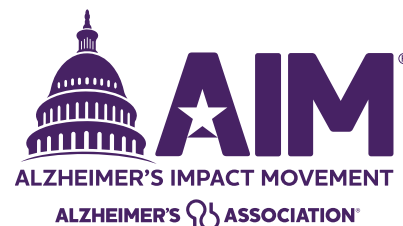
Alzheimer's is the

5thth

leading cause of death in

North Dakota

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What **North Dakota** Officials Can Do to Address the Crisis



Dementia Care Services Program

The Alzheimer's Association has served North Dakota residents through the Dementia Care Services Program since 2010 to improve disease management and increase family support to people living with dementia and their caregivers. The language in North Dakota Century Code 50-06-33 has not been updated in that time.

Services Provided

The Alzheimer's Association provides care consultation to individuals with memory loss and their care partners, physician outreach to inform health partners about the importance of early detection and diagnosis, and education through classes for the general public, professionals, care partners, medical professionals, and law enforcement. These services are all provided at no cost to the client.

Proposed Changes

The first proposed change is to remove the definition of dementia and define who is eligible for services. This shifts the focus away from the severity of cognitive decline and onto the earliest symptomatic point. The Dementia Care Services Program can provide assistance and connect clients to resources much earlier than waiting for symptoms to interfere with daily life severely enough to be "dementia".

Next, we propose removing the designation of providing services "in each area of the state served by a regional human service center".

This will be replaced with "a statewide dementia care services program". Our staff covers every part of the state, changing this language removes any potential for confusion on who and where the program operates.

Finally, we are updating the services that are included to provide a clear description of the help and information we are able to provide to our clients, professionals, and the general public.

None of these changes will alter the goals or purpose of the Dementia Care Services Program.