



PEOPLE

Promote the Well-Being and Safety of People Living with Dementia at all Ages and Stages

- Help people living with dementia and their families more readily connect with information and resources.
- Increase access to training, education and support for family caregivers and care partners of people living with dementia.
- Promote ways to help people stay safe at home and in their community.
- Share tools and facilitate training for individuals, family members and others who may interact with people living with dementia to prevent abuse and financial exploitation.
- Ensure that services for people living with dementia are person-centered, affordable, culturally appropriate, and accessible regardless of where people live.

PARTNERSHIPS

Mobilize Multidisciplinary Partnerships to Strengthen the Service Network

- Pursue practical opportunities to improve coordination across the continuum of care for people living with dementia.
- Identify and remove administrative barriers to collaboration.
- Ensure that individuals working in Michigan's health care and long-term care systems have the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to provide high quality dementia supports and services.
- Increase and strengthen the direct care workforce to reduce turnover and improve job satisfaction.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Recognize and Promote Dementia as a Public Health Priority

- Increase public awareness about brain health, dementia and risk factors.
- Promote early detection and diagnosis, and opportunities to participate in clinical trials.
- Improve data collection regarding dementia in Michigan.
- Increase participation of community stakeholders in public health decisions regarding dementia.
- Reduce disparities by providing underserved population groups and geographic areas with equitable access to quality services.

POLICIES

Enact Policies that Strengthen Families, Communities and the Economy

- Meet the current unmet need and prepare for increased future demand for home and community based services for people living with dementia.
- Increase access to and information about quality, affordable respite services for people living with dementia and their families.
- Meet the growing need for affordable, reliable transportation services for people living with dementia.
- Identify policy or regulatory changes to help prevent abuse and financial exploitation of people living with dementia.
- Incentivize professionals to specialize in geriatrics to better prepare for our state's increasingly older population.
- Engage and equip employers to prepare for a growing population of employees balancing work and family caregiver responsibilities due to dementia.



Dementia is the general term for a loss of cognitive functioning and behavioral abilities that is severe enough to interfere with a person’s daily life and activities. Alzheimer’s is the most common type of dementia and accounts for 60 to 80 percent of cases. Other types include vascular dementia, dementia with Lewy bodies, frontotemporal dementia, and Huntington’s disease. An estimated 180,000 Michiganders age 65 and older have Alzheimer’s dementia, and more than half a million family members in Michigan are caring for loved ones with Alzheimer’s or other dementias. [Source: 2018 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures]

The **Michigan Dementia Coalition** is a group of organizations and individuals working together to improve quality of life for people living with dementia and their families. Our vision is to make Michigan a dementia capable state.

In a dementia capable state:

- People living with dementia are recognized as the real-life experts when it comes to living with dementia.
- Stigma is no longer a barrier to discussing, diagnosing and living with dementia.
- There is public awareness about brain health, dementia, risk factors and current research.
- Services for people living with dementia are available and easily accessible across the state, regardless of socioeconomic status.
- Individuals working in Michigan’s health care and long-term care systems have the skills they need to provide timely, accurate diagnoses and high quality services to people living with dementia.
- Physical and social environments are adapted to include, enable and empower people living with dementia and their care partners.
- Local communities and agencies partner with families to promote the well-being and safety of people living with dementia at all ages and stages.
- Employers are equipped to support family caregivers and the aging workforce.
- Decision makers use a common dementia roadmap in determining policy and resource allocations.



The Michigan Dementia Coalition consists of representatives from the Alzheimer’s Association Michigan Chapters, AARP Michigan, Michigan Alzheimer’s Disease Center (researchers from Michigan State University, University of Michigan and Wayne State University), Michigan’s Area Agencies on Aging, Michigan Assisted Living Association, Rethinking Dementia: Accelerating Change, Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation, Beaumont Health System, Elder Law of Michigan, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and many other partners.