

2024–2028 State Dementia Plan Executive Summary

The Wisconsin State Dementia Plan presents goals and strategies informed by a year-long community and partner engagement process. The success of the State Dementia Plan will require the involvement of community, medical, social, crisis and protective services, advocacy, and provider networks. The State Dementia Plan provides a road map to help Wisconsin improve the quality of life for the thousands of families affected by Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, and to minimize the public and private costs of these devastating conditions.

For more information or to get involved, visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wdsc/index.htm> or email dhsdementiawebmail@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

2024–2028 State Dementia Plan Goals and Strategies

Public Education and Community Support

1. Educate the public about brain health, risk reduction, treatment, dementia-friendly strategies, health disparities, and caregiver support.
2. Support people living with dementia, caregivers, and family members through culturally appropriate educational programs, resources, support services, and partnerships.

Professional Development and Workforce

3. Grow a dementia-capable and culturally humble professional workforce to care for older adults and people living with dementia throughout the continuum of care.
4. Promote consistent, high-quality, and appropriate care by supporting standardized and evidence-based dementia training for professionals in the medical, public health, crisis care, community-based care, facility-based care, and social services fields.
5. Support public safety, legal, and financial organizations through culturally responsive initiatives to ensure the safety of people living with dementia who are at risk of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation.

Coordinated Care

6. Coordinate access to care and improve communication between professionals who care for people living with dementia. Coordinated care includes health care and long-term care facilities, crisis care organizations, and community-based service providers.
7. Encourage partnerships to develop and expand dementia support services that reach clients from various cultural identities across the lifespan.

8. Develop a coordinated system of dementia-related crisis response that promotes stabilization-in-place efforts when safe and appropriate. This multi-disciplinary approach should be inclusive of informal supports and include clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

Data and Research

9. Support researchers and organizations through data-sharing and networking opportunities.
10. Champion and strengthen research and data collection aimed at preventing and treating Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, including participation from people representing a variety of cultural identities.
11. Facilitate access to research findings to inform programs and improve health outcomes, such as by collaborating with public health agencies to encourage equitable risk-reduction strategies and address social determinants of health.
12. Evaluate the State Dementia Plan's goals to measure whether the plan has efficiently, effectively, and equitably improved dementia care.

Policy and Advocacy

13. Include and seek input from people living with dementia and their caregivers in the development of policies and programs that effectively and equitably address individual and community needs.
14. Coordinate and inform state budgetary, legislative, and regulatory actions that impact all people living with dementia and caregivers.
15. Promote local-level policies and programs that support dementia inclusion and friendliness.
16. Support the development of policies and programs that address health disparities and social determinants of health that increase risk factors for dementia.

BOLD Grant Goals and Strategies

17. Increase integration with other chronic disease efforts.
18. Increase data availability, quality, and utilization.
19. Increase public knowledge about brain health, risk factors for dementia, and benefits of early detection and diagnosis.

Conclusion

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services would like to thank all the partners, caregivers, leaders, institutions, communities, and individuals who contributed to the success and accomplishments of the 2019–2023 State Dementia Plan. An additional thank you to those who actively participated in the surveys and community conversations that informed priorities for the 2024–2028 State Plan.