



# Dementia-Capable WISCONSIN Resources

## Addressing the Challenges of an Aging Population

In Wisconsin, 115,000 people are living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, which cause a decline in cognitive abilities resulting in challenges that include memory loss, disorientation, and difficulty performing simple tasks. As our population ages, the number of parents and grandparents, and friends and neighbors, facing the challenges of dementia will increase to an estimated 242,000 people by 2040.

Department of Health Services Secretary Kitty Rhoades launched the Dementia-Capable Wisconsin initiative to ensure Wisconsin's long-term care system can support the dramatic increase in dementia cases. Dementia-Capable Wisconsin is a comprehensive, collaborative approach to improving the lives of those living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, as well as the family members who care for them. The mission of the Dementia-Capable Wisconsin initiative is to make sure appropriate, safe, and efficient services are available for those who need them, throughout the course of the disease.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dementia/index.htm>

## Wisconsin Dementia Care System Redesign Plan

Following a Dementia Care Summit to obtain input from key stakeholder groups, the Department published a Dementia Care System Redesign Plan in February 2014. The Redesign Plan focusses on steps the Department can take, working with its many partners, to create a Dementia-Capable Wisconsin. The Redesign Plan addresses gaps in the current care delivery infrastructure and expands community and crisis services for people with dementia. It is a living plan, that is revised as progress is made on the initial priorities and lessons learned along the way. The full Redesign Plan can be viewed on the Department's website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dementia/history.htm>

The priority areas included in the original Redesign Plan include:

- Community Awareness and Services
- Facility-Based Long Term Care
- Crisis System
- Dementia Care Guiding Principles and Training
- Research and Data:  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dementia/priorities.htm>

## Resources for a Dementia- Capable Wisconsin

These and other helpful resources can be found on the website for a Dementia Capable Wisconsin.  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dementia/index.htm>

- A Toolkit for Building Dementia Friendly Communities:  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dementia/communities.htm>
- Dementia Care Guiding Principles:  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dementia/gp-home.htm>
- Dementia Friendly Employers Toolkit (with resources for both employers and working caregivers):  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dementia/employers.htm>
- Tips for Working Caregivers:  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01174.pdf>
- A catalog of dementia training opportunities:  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dementia/training-list>



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