

alzheimer's disease in Nebraska

Public Policy Priorities - 2012 In the Fight Against Alzheimer's Disease

6th Leading cause of death	37,000 Nebraskans have Alzheimer's	44,000 Nebraskans by 2025	77,632 Unpaid Nebraska caregivers	\$1 billion Value of unpaid care
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The Alzheimer's crisis is no longer emerging, it is here. Across the United States an estimated 10 million baby boomers will be diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. With the first wave of Nebraska's baby boomers having reached age 65, Alzheimer's impact on our state's families, communities and businesses will be devastating.

State Plan—Develop and implement a comprehensive Nebraska Alzheimer's disease plan that will identify critical issues, explore solutions, and construct a roadmap to guide Nebraska's development into a dementia-capable state.

Dementia Training—Ensure that training in dementia care is provided to all individuals employed in the delivery of care in residential, home and adult day settings. The training standards should be based on individuals achieving competency in caring for someone with dementia, not an arbitrary number of hours.

Ensure Access to Medicaid Coverage for Dementia Care—Nearly forty percent of people receiving home and community based services have dementia and more than half of nursing home residents have dementia. Medicaid is the primary governmental source of long term care funding for individuals with dementia. The Nebraska Alzheimer's Association believes it is critical to preserve the Medicaid safety net for long term care and to ensure that all programs meet the needs of those with dementia. **Call to Action:** The Nebraska Alzheimer's Associations ask policymakers to oppose cuts to financial eligibility, tightening the level of care criteria for long term care services, reducing services, or modifying existing waiver programs that assist persons with dementia.

Surveillance/Public Health—Continue surveillance and data gathering on cognitive impairment and caregiving, primarily through the annual or biennial use of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), and ensure that such data is released

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