



Alzheimer's Association Project ECHO®

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



# WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL REPORT



By the Numbers: Our Journey Since 2018







We are proud to present the inaugural Alzheimer's Association Project ECHO® 2025 Annual Report. This transformative model of "telementoring" continues to make a profound impact on improving care delivery for those affected by Alzheimer's disease and all other dementia.

Over the past six years, our Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO program has been at the forefront of empowering professionals who care for those living with cognitive impairment, and it now spans the entire dementia care continuum. From identifying factors to reduce dementia risk, to navigating the complexities of early diagnosis and access to novel treatments, to the long-term management of symptoms and end-of-life care, ECHO addresses these challenges by offering ongoing education, support, and a collaborative network. This approach brings increased knowledge, confidence, and resources to local communities so that high-quality, person-centered care is delivered at every stage of the disease.

This report highlights our progress and key milestones, including becoming the world's first Superhub for Alzheimer's and all other dementia in 2024. Through these efforts, we have strengthened partnerships, expanded our reach, and empowered professionals to improve outcomes in local communities, across the nation, and around the globe.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the thousands of professionals across the country for engaging in the Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO Program with us and remaining steadfast in their commitment to delivering best practice dementia care to their communities. We are also deeply grateful to the dedicated faculty members who generously provide their time and expertise to Project ECHO, playing a crucial role in democratizing knowledge and ensuring that high-quality care and resources are accessible to all, regardless of location or background. Finally, we express our sincere appreciation to the donors and sponsors who have supported Project ECHO at the Alzheimer's Association from the beginning.

Together — with the support of healthcare professionals, subject matter experts and donors — we are making great strides toward a future where quality dementia care is accessible to all.

Katii Evans

Katie Evans
Chief Programs & Mission Engagement Officer

## THE IMPACT OF PROJECT ECHO

Across the world, critical workforce shortages mean few people have access to the specialized dementia care they need. A groundbreaking telehealth initiative, Project ECHO bridges the gap between community-based healthcare providers and specialists by creating virtual learning networks that empower local expertise in all communities. Since 2018, the Alzheimer's Association has been at the forefront, offering Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO programs nationwide. In 2024, the Association achieved a monumental milestone by becoming an ECHO Superhub, now training and mentoring organizations globally to launch their own Project ECHO programs for dementia.

Together, with you, we envision a world where every community is empowered to deliver equitable, high-quality dementia care, transforming the lives of those impacted by the disease.

"I really appreciated this forum over the last 12 weeks to really feel like I have enhanced my understanding of not only the complexity of the disease processes but how we can all partner together to provide better care for our patients and families."

Christopher Glisson, DO Saint Francis Health System

#### Bridging Gaps Across the Dementia Care Continuum



The number of new cases of other dementias to double by



Across the world, critical workforce shortages mean few people have access to the specialized dementia care they need.



**ECHO** trains community-based professionals in dementia best practices, advancing health equity.



ECHO increases access to specialty care for all, promoting "The right care at the right time in the right place."

### Empowering Health Systems in Early Detection and Diagnosis

The Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO Program for Health Systems and Medical Professionals revolutionizes dementia care by connecting world-renowned specialists with community-based primary care teams. This program enhances the skills, knowledge, and confidence of healthcare professionals, empowering them to deliver early and accurate diagnoses and exceptional dementia care management. Following participation, clinicians report increased confidence in their clinical ability to diagnose, provide appropriate medical care, and support caregivers with local resources. Participants have the opportunity to earn continuing education credits, ensuring they stay at the forefront of dementia care excellence.



303 clinics participated in an ECHO program.



g6% agreed quality of care improved after participation.



Federally Qualified Health Centers participated in an ECHO program.



agreed participation positively influenced interactions.



healthcare professionals 1,264 joined an ECHO program.



made changes to care delivery after participation.



Since 2021, the Alzheimer's Association has partnered with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) on the Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO Program to connect clinical teams across the country with dementia care specialists, encouraging the adoption of a collaborative and comprehensive dementia care model while enhancing caregiver and patient outcomes.



Weill Institute for Neurosciences

Memory and Aging Center

The 2024 publication Strengthening Primary Care Workforce Capacity in Dementia Diagnosis and Care: A Qualitative Study of Project Alzheimer's Disease-ECHO emphasizes the value of cultivating a supportive learning environment and the benefits of resource sharing in the Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO Program. This is demonstrated by qualitative feedback from program participants in our collaboration with the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Memory and Aging Center.

"I had such a lovely
and productive meeting with the
patient and her family. We shared with
her that we had presented her case and she
appreciated the support of the ECHO team.
This built my confidence. We got the patient
referred to OT and more family training and
support. In the end, she felt her emotions
were so settled and we came up with
some really fun strategies."

Laura Ivy, LCSW
PeaceHealth Medical
Group

"It does my heart good to be in this group of experts and caring individuals." Nurse Practitioner, Santa Rosa, CA





#### Transforming Person-Centered Dementia Care

Guided by the Alzheimer's Association Dementia Care Practice Recommendations, participants in the Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO Program for Professional Care Providers enhance their knowledge and confidence in evidence-based, person-centered dementia care strategies. This program empowers caregivers in both long-term and community-based care settings, ensuring they are well-equipped to provide the highest quality of care across all settings throughout the disease course. Participants have the opportunity to earn NAB credits, elevating their expertise in person-centered dementia care practices.



768 professional care providers joined an ECHO program.



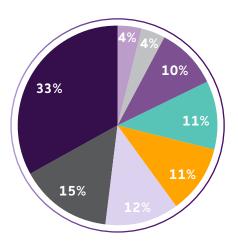
of providers reported that Project ECHO added value



communities participated in an ECHO program.



of participating communities we communities were rural or Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs).



#### Professional Roles in Team-Based Learning

33% Onsite Leadership

15% Administration

12% Other Staff

11% Medical Professional

11% Activities Professional

10% Therapeutic Professional

Memory Care Professional

Corporate



"ECHO has made the world, in our case, the network, smaller." What's really rewarding is that we all learn from one another in terms of what other environments have as strengths...the disparities exist but in each of those environments are solutions that the rest of us would have never come up with. ECHO lets us be global travelers in that, for many of us, when we are in an environment of care [we] think that that is the environment of care when, in fact, it is just a thumbprint of a much bigger pattern that's out there."

ERIC G. TANGALOS MD

Eric Tangalos, MD Mayo Clinic Alzheimer's Association Project ECHO Subject Matter Expert

### RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

#### Collaborative Approaches to Dementia Risk Reduction in Public Health Departments



A collaboration between the Alzheimer's Association Project ECHO team and the BOLD Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Risk Reduction, the Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO Program for Public Health Professionals connects dementia experts with state, regional and local health departments to bring increased awareness and action around dementia risk reduction.

Public Health Professionals demonstrated an increase in knowledge related to dementia risk-reduction, along with bolstered confidence in strengthening community partnerships and new collaborations, building organizational capacity, and securing leadership support to implement what they learned through the program.

#### The Alzheimer's Association's ECHO Superhub Leads The Way In Global Dementia Care









#### ECHO Superhub

Trains and supports organizations to start new dementia ECHO programs.

#### **Organizations**

Offer dementia ECHO programs to prepare the local workforce to address gaps in dementia care.

#### Health Professionals

Acquire new knowledge to apply best practice dementia care in their communities.

#### **Communities**

Access high quality dementia care locally.

In 2024, the Alzheimer's Association became the world's first ECHO Superhub dedicated to Alzheimer's and dementia care. The Superhub trains and mentors health systems, academic institutions, and community organizations to develop and lead their own ECHO programs for dementia, greatly expanding the reach and influence of the Association and enhancing access to high-quality person-centered dementia care and education around the globe.

Funding for the Alzheimer's Association ECHO Superhub is provided in part by:







# WHAT'S NEXT FOR PROJECT ECHO

In late 2025, the Alzheimer's Association will launch the Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO Program for Navigation, for dementia care navigators and care coordinators. By fostering a collaborative community of practice, this ECHO Program will help navigators overcome challenges, enhance communication, and deliver person-centered, comprehensive dementia care.

### MORE INFORMATION: alz.org/ECHO | projectECHO@alz.org

Alzheimer's and
Dementia Care ECHO
Program for Health
Systems and Medical
Professionals

**Learn More** 

Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO Program for Professional Care Providers

**Learn More** 

Alzheimer's Association Project ECHO Superhub

Learn More

The Alzheimer's Association leads the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support.

Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia<sup>®</sup>.

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