About the Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer’s Association® is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer’s care, support and research. Founded in 1980 by a group of family caregivers and individuals interested in research, the Association includes our home office in Chicago, a public policy office in Washington, D.C. and a presence in communities across the country.

Worldwide, more than 55 million people are living with dementia. In the United States alone, more than 6 million have Alzheimer’s, and over 11 million are providing unpaid care. The Association addresses this crisis by providing education and support to the millions who face dementia every day, while advancing critical research toward methods of treatment, prevention and, ultimately, a cure.

We provide care and support to all those facing Alzheimer’s and other dementia.

- Our free 24/7 Helpline (800.272.3900), staffed by master’s-level clinicians and specialists, provides confidential support and information to all those affected in over 200 languages.
- Our website, alz.org®, is a rich resource designed to inform and educate multiple audiences, including those living with dementia, caregivers and health care professionals.
- We conduct online and face-to-face support groups and education programs in communities nationwide, while ensuring these services reach underserved populations. ALZConnected®, a free online community, offers those affected by dementia another place to share support and information.
- We offer a suite of interactive online tools to help people living with dementia and their caregivers navigate the journey after diagnosis and locate a wide variety of resources in their area. ALZNavigator™ allows users to create customized action plans after a diagnosis. The Alzheimer’s Association & AARP Community Resource Finder is a comprehensive database of dementia and aging-related resources that makes it easy for families to find local programs and services.
- We provide culturally relevant resources to support those living with Alzheimer’s and their caregivers, working alongside partner organizations to strengthen our outreach to every community.
- To help individuals receive an accurate and timely diagnosis, and to improve access to care and treatment options, we provide tools for clinicians, including continuing medical education and a cognitive assessment toolkit.
We drive research toward treatment, prevention and, ultimately, a cure.

- As the world’s largest nonprofit funder of Alzheimer’s research, the Alzheimer’s Association is currently investing more than $360 million in over 1,000 active best-of-field projects in 53 countries. We’ve entered an exciting era of Alzheimer’s treatment, with multiple FDA-approved drugs that treat the underlying biology of the disease. Through the Association’s investment in promising research, we are accelerating innovation to advance and diversify the treatment pipeline, building upon these recent victories.

- We advance the field by convening the annual Alzheimer’s Association International Conference® (AAIC®), the world’s largest and most influential forum for the dementia research community.

- We are leading the New IDEAS Study, which will help ensure that everyone, regardless of race or ethnicity, can be accurately diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. The study is a follow-up to the Imaging Dementia-Evidence for Amyloid Scanning (IDEAS) study, and examines how PET amyloid scanning (a kind of brain scan) can help doctors diagnose and treat Alzheimer’s and other dementias. New IDEAS will enroll up to 7,000 participants, with over 50% identifying as Black/African American or Latino/Hispanic.

- In this new era of treatment, the Association is working with a team of partners to establish the Alzheimer’s Network for Treatment and Diagnostics (ALZ-NET), which is designed, in part, to track the long-term clinical response and safety outcomes of enrolled patients being treated with novel FDA-approved Alzheimer’s therapies.

- We play a key role in increasing knowledge about prevention and risk reduction. Association-funded research has shown that healthy habits are good for the brain. To accelerate this field of study, in 2017, the Association funded and implemented the U.S. Study to Protect Brain Health Through Lifestyle Intervention to Reduce Risk (U.S. POINTER), a clinical trial designed to evaluate whether lifestyle changes can protect cognitive function in people at risk of developing dementia. As of March 2023, the trial is fully enrolled, with over 2,100 participants.

- We accelerate research through TrialMatch®, a free clinical studies matching service for people living with the disease, caregivers and healthy volunteers.
We advocate to improve the lives of all those affected by Alzheimer’s and dementia.

- The Alzheimer’s Association is the leading voice for dementia advocacy, working at the federal and state levels to garner the support our movement needs.
- Working with the Alzheimer’s Impact Movement (AIM), a separately incorporated advocacy affiliate of the Alzheimer’s Association, we assemble and train a nationwide network of advocates who engage elected officials.
- We relentlessly pursue equitable access to treatment, calling on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and private payers to provide full and unrestricted coverage for FDA-approved Alzheimer’s drugs.
- We help pass landmark legislation such as the National Alzheimer’s Project Act, which mandated the creation of a national plan to fight Alzheimer’s and coordinates efforts to prevent and effectively treat the disease by 2025.
- We advance commitment to funding from the federal government. In government fiscal year 2023, Alzheimer’s and dementia research funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) reached more than $3.7 billion annually. The Alzheimer’s Association, AIM and our advocates have driven bipartisan support for this rapid increase.
- We work with bipartisan congressional champions to introduce legislation — such as the Equity in Neuroscience and Alzheimer’s Clinical Trials (ENACT) Act, key provisions of which were signed into law in December 2022 to increase underrepresented individuals’ participation in Alzheimer’s clinical trials.
- We fight to protect people living with Alzheimer’s and dementia. The Alzheimer’s Association, AIM and our advocates championed the Promoting Alzheimer’s Awareness to Prevent Elder Abuse Act, which requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to develop training materials for professionals who encounter and support individuals living with Alzheimer’s and dementia.

Learn more and join our cause. Visit alz.org.

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