

2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Support an additional \$50,000 to expand the Dementia Friends Program

Dementia Friends is a public awareness and anti-stigma program that teaches the public about dementia and the importance of a diagnosis. Dementia Friends programs currently exist in 20 counties and this investment will ensure that Washingtonians in all corners of the state have access to it.

Support \$150,000 for a dementia coordinator at The Department of Health

The Department of Health needs full-time staff dedicated to dementia. Washington state has an updated Plan to Address Alzheimer's, and DOH will be responsible for much of that implementation. This new position will be responsible for coordinating the Department's dementia work and working across agencies to ensure the best outcomes for people living with dementia.

Support \$2.1M to expand and improve guardianship services

Guardianship and decision-making services help address the issue of patients who are difficult to discharge from acute care hospitals. Providing funding for guardianship and decision-making services will help get people out of hospitals and into a setting designed to provide the right type of care.

- \$1.5M to expand the Office of Public Guardianship, which serves the most vulnerable Washingtonians
- \$500,000 for supported decision-making services to allow people to continue to make decisions that affect their lives
- \$100,000 for dementia training for professional guardians to ensure that people with dementia receive the best quality care from guardians. As the age wave continues and our society gets older, more people with a dementia diagnosis will need guardianship services. This funding helps ensure they receive the best possible care.

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