

2019-2022 ROADMAP FOR CREATING A DEMENTIA CAPABLE MICHIGAN 2023 UPDATE



The **Michigan Dementia Coalition** is a group of organizations and individuals working together to improve quality of life for people living with dementia and their families. Our vision is for Michigan to become a more *dementia capable state*.

Dementia is the general term for a loss of cognitive functioning and behavioral abilities in an adult that is severe enough to interfere with that person's daily life and activities. Alzheimer's is the most common type of dementia and accounts for 60 to 80 percent of cases. Other types include vascular dementia, dementia with Lewy bodies, frontotemporal dementia, chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), Huntington's disease, mixed dementia and many more.

An estimated 190,000 Michiganders age 65 and older have *Alzheimer's dementia*, and because this figure does not include people under age 65, those with other types of dementia, or those who are living with undiagnosed dementia, the actual number of Michigan residents living with dementia is even larger. Nearly half a million family members in Michigan are caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's or other dementias.

In a dementia capable state:

- People living with dementia are recognized as the real-life experts when it comes to living with dementia.
- Stigma is no longer a barrier to discussing, diagnosing and living with dementia.
- There is public awareness about brain health, dementia, risk factors and current research.
- Individuals who receive a dementia diagnosis are empowered with information and resources for living well before they leave their doctor's office.
- People living with dementia and their care partners have the ability to participate in clinical trials investigating treatments.
- High quality services for people living with dementia and their care partners are available and easily accessible across the state, regardless of socioeconomic status or language barriers.
- Policy makers provide sufficient funding to make high quality services and supports available to people living with dementia and their care partners throughout Michigan.
- Individuals working in Michigan's health care and long-term care systems have the skills they need to provide timely, accurate diagnoses and high-quality services to people living with dementia.
- Policy makers create pathways for healthcare professionals to receive dementia-specific training and implement best practices for serving people with dementia and their care partners.
- Physical and social environments are adapted to include, enable and empower people living with dementia and their care partners.
- Local communities and agencies partner with families and people living with dementia to promote well-being and safety at all ages and stages.
- Employers are equipped to support people living with dementia, family caregivers and the aging workforce.
- Decision makers use a common dementia roadmap in determining policy and resource allocations.





RECOMMENDED GOALS AND STRATEGIES FOR THE STATE OF MICHIGAN FOR 2023 AND BEYOND

PEOPLE

Promote the Well-Being of People Living with Dementia at all Ages and Stages

- Place the needs of people living with dementia in the center of state, local and community policy and program design by including their participation and voices.
- Build system and program capacity to help people living with dementia and their families more readily connect with information and resources.
- Ensure that services for people living with dementia are person-centered, affordable and accessible regardless of where people live.
- Increase access to training, education and support for family caregivers and care partners of people living with dementia.
- Promote inclusive environments to help people living with dementia stay safe at home and engaged in their community.
- Share tools and facilitate training for families, community members and others who interact with people living with dementia to prevent abuse, neglect and financial exploitation building on the training modules developed and implemented by the MDC Ending Exploitation & Abuse Committee in 2019-2023.
- Increase capabilities for delivering information, resources, services, and support in ethnically/culturally appropriate formats and languages.

PARTNERSHIPS

Build and Mobilize Multisector Partnerships to Strengthen the Service Network

- Leverage the new MDHHS Dementia Unit to engage multisector partners and promote collaboration.
- Pursue practical opportunities to improve coordination across the continuum of care for people living with dementia.
- Promote and incentivize collaboration among key stakeholders to create a more connected approach in implementing person-centered best practices across sectors.
- Facilitate relationships that increase exposure to the field of geriatrics and provide resources to ensure that individuals working in Michigan's health care and long-term care systems have the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to provide high quality dementia supports and services, making use of the recommendations of the MDC Provider & Health System Education Committee.
- Identify and engage organizations that serve historically underserved or underrepresented communities.
- Building on the ongoing efforts of the MDHHS Direct Care Workforce Task Force, collaborate with partners across the care continuum to diversify and strengthen the direct care workforce, improving job satisfaction, reducing turnover, and making use of new labor-saving technologies.
- Promote Dementia-Friendly Community initiatives in towns, cities and counties to decrease dementia's stigma and help persons living with dementia enjoy daily life in the community with less difficulty and more dignity.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Recognize and Promote Dementia as a Public Health Priority

- Increase public awareness about brain health, dementia and risk factors.
- Develop a statewide campaign to fight stigma related to adult cognitive disorders.
- Promote training for the primary care and public health workforce to improve early detection, diagnosis, care coordination with non-medical community-based supports and services, and opportunities for patients to learn about clinical research.
- Promote a standard of care that empowers individuals who receive a dementia diagnosis with access to information about their diagnosis, counseling, cognitive therapies, peer support and other social support systems before they leave their doctor's office.
- As part of the new MDHHS Dementia Unit's role, create and maintain a statewide dementia data collection strategy that provides an accurate the number of people living with dementia and the services and supports available to them in Michigan.
- Reduce disparities by identifying and addressing social barriers and providing underserved population groups and geographic areas with equitable access to quality services.
- Increase participation of community stakeholders and persons living with dementia in local public health decisions regarding dementia.
- Link to community organizations, including those that serve underserved populations and communities, to ensure access to in-language and culturally appropriate resources.

POLICIES

Enact Policies that Support and Strengthen Families, Communities and the Economy

- Adopt innovative policies and build infrastructure to address both current and projected future needs for services for people living with dementia.
- Identify opportunities to modernize Michigan's long term care system, including funding mechanisms, to ensure access to affordable, high-quality home and community-based services for people living with dementia.
- Secure sufficient, sustainable funding to ensure access to safe, affordable, reliable transportation services for people living with dementia.
- Identify policy or regulatory changes to help prevent abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of people living with dementia.
- Incentivize medical trainees and healthcare professionals in Michigan to specialize in geriatrics to address the needs of our state's growing number of older adults.
- Educate employers across Michigan's economy on the benefits of offering flexibility for employees who need to balance work and family caregiver responsibilities due to dementia, including flexible work arrangements and family leave.
- Engage and equip employers to prepare for a growing population of employees balancing work and family caregiver responsibilities due to dementia.

www.midementiacoalition.org

The Michigan Dementia Coalition consists of representatives from AARP Michigan, Alzheimer's Association Michigan, Michigan Alzheimer's Disease Center (researchers from University of Michigan, Michigan State University & Wayne State University), Michigan's Area Agencies on Aging, Michigan Assisted Living Association, Michigan Center for Contextual Factors in Alzheimer's Disease, Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, National Council of Dementia Minds, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services and many other partners.