

A Lawyer?
**How adding a novel partner to your team
can improve outcomes for caregivers.**



ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION[®]

Objectives

1. Understand the comprehensive service model developed under New York State Department of Health's Alzheimer's Disease Caregiver Support Initiative in the Western New York region
1. Gain insights into effective strategies for identifying and establishing novel partnerships that address service gaps, increase agency reach and positively impact constituent outcome
1. Explore methods to generalize and adapt this collaborative model for application across various populations and agencies



An umbrella term for loss of memory and other thinking abilities severe enough to interfere with daily life

Types of Dementia

- Alzheimer's
- Vascular
- Lewy body
- Frontotemporal
- Other, including Huntington's
- Mixed dementia:
dementia from more than one cause

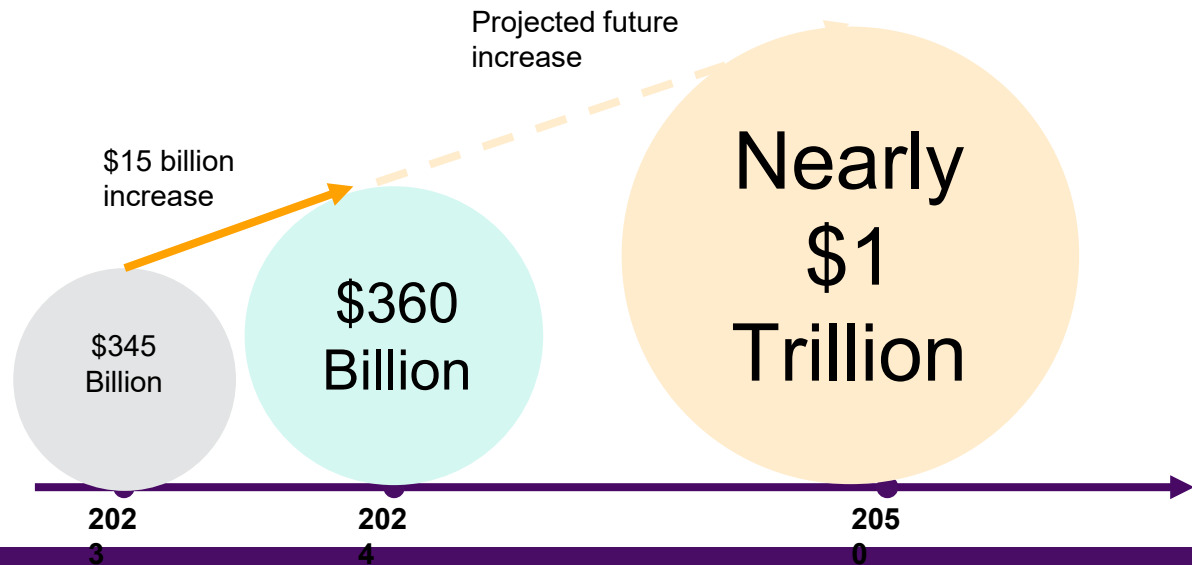
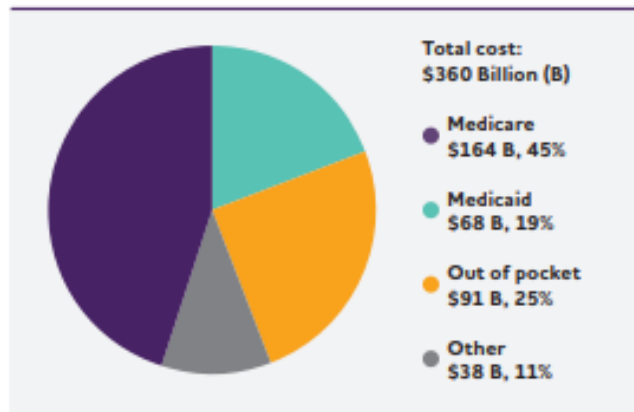
These are the **facts** about the **Alzheimer's** crisis

MORE VIDEOS



Dementia is One of the Costliest Conditions to Society and the U.S. Economy

Distribution of Aggregate Costs of Care by Payment
Source for Americans Age 65 and Older with Alzheimer's or Other Dementias, 2024*





Populations at Higher Risk

Black Americans are about twice as likely as White Americans to have Alzheimer's or another dementia.

Hispanic Americans are one and a half times as likely to have the disease as White Americans.

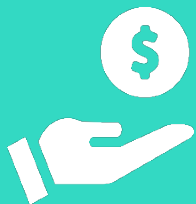
Almost two-thirds of Americans living with Alzheimer's are women.

Caregiving

More than 11 million Americans provide unpaid care for a family member or friend with dementia, a contribution to the nation valued at nearly \$350 billion.



Unique Challenges for Dementia Caregivers



Dementia caregivers have twice the average out-of-pocket caregiving costs



30-40% of dementia caregivers experience depression



44% of caregivers have anxiety



Women are more likely to experience the stress of caregiving

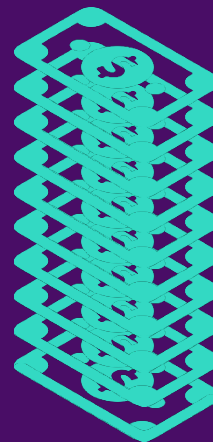
Impact of Alzheimer's on Finances

Caregivers will need to pay for services and support. As care needs increase, so does the cost of care.

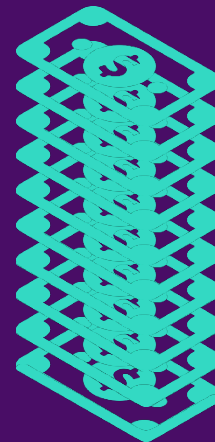
This can increase debt, make it hard to save for retirement, or mean cutting back on other costs.

On average, a person with Alzheimer's lives four to eight years after diagnosis.

Many caregivers end up reducing hours, taking time off, retiring early or quitting their jobs.



income



expenses

Mission:

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.

Western New York Alzheimer's Disease Caregiver Support Initiative



Western New York Chapter



Department of Health

Aging



CENTER FOR
ELDER
LAW &
JUSTICE



WNYADCSI Services

- Community Outreach & Assessment
- Caregiver Assessments
- Support Groups
- Education
- Respite
- Safety Services
- Civil Legal Services



Cross Referrals

Alzheimer's Disease Caregiver Support Initiative COUNTY OFFICES FOR THE AGING • ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION, WNY • CENTER FOR ELDER LAW AND JUSTICE

alzheimer's
association
(800)272-3900

Referral
CENTER FOR
ELDER
LAW &
JUSTICE
(716) 853-3087

NEW
YORK
STATE
NY Connects
Your Link to Long Term
Services and Supports
(800)342-9871

Name of Referring Provider		Phone	Date
Provider Organization			
Name of care partner being referred			
Relationship to person with dementia	Spouse	Child	Sibling Other:
Address	City	Zip	
County			
Phone: Home	Work	Cell	
Email	Can we leave a message and identify ourselves? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

Programs- please select as many as applicable:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Care Consultation & Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Care Options |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Stage Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Trials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Consultation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Respite | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide Services as needed |

I grant my permission for the referring provider to give my name, address, and telephone number to the Alzheimer's Association, Center for Elder Law and Justice and/or Office for the Aging so that a care consultant/ case manager may contact me about information and support services available to me and my care network. I understand that services discussed may be shared back with the referral source.

Signature of care partner: _____

Check if verbal permission was given in lieu of signature:

Allegany County Office for the Aging fax: (585)268-9657 --- Cattaraugus County Office for the Aging fax: (716)701-3730
Chautauqua County Office for the Aging fax: (716)753-4844 --- Erie County Office for the Aging, please use the
Alzheimer's Association fax: (716)626-2255 --- Genesee County Office for the Aging fax: (585)345-3086
Niagara County Office for the Aging fax: (716)438-4029 --- Orleans County Office for the Aging fax: (585) 589-3193
Wyoming County Office for the Aging fax: (585)786-8832 --- Center for Elder Law and Justice fax: (716) 856-5317
Alzheimer's Association email: program.wny@alz.org / fax: (716)626-2255

Center for Elder Law & Justice

- CELJ (originally known as Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled, and Disadvantaged) was incorporated in 1978 in Buffalo, New York. The mission is to use the legal system and the provision of free civil legal services to help our clients live independently and with dignity.

- We help to protect the essentials of life for our clients - access to housing, health care, protection from abuse and many other matters.

In 2024, CELJ:

- Employs over 75 staff members
- Has three offices situated throughout Western New York
- Has three satellite offices located inside area hospitals



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CELJ Services

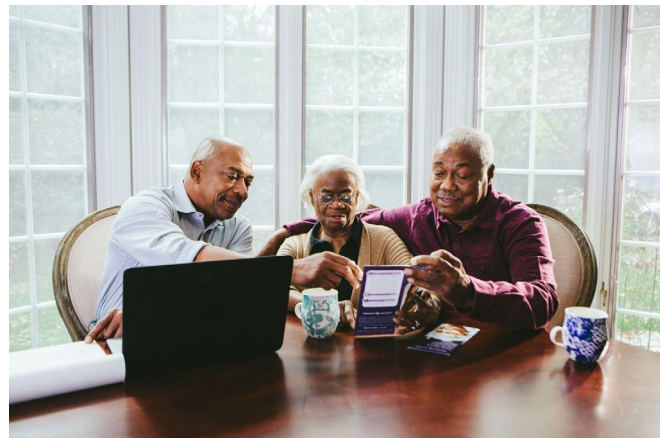
- Consumer Protection
- Elder Abuse Prevention
- Enhanced Multidisciplinary Team (E-MDT)
- Foreclosure Prevention
- Guardianship Services
- Health Care Advocacy
- Help Center at Erie County Surrogate's Court
- Housing & Financial Security
- Kinship Care
- Income Maintenance
- Legal Risk Detector App
- Long Term Care Resident Advocacy
- MedLaw Partnership of WNY
- Older New Americans & Refugees
- Senior Financial Safety Tool
- Senior Legal Advice Helpline
- Silver Pride Partnership
- Substituted Decision Making
- Western New York Coalition Pooled Trust

Most Common Legal Issues Referred

- ✓ Review of current advance planning documents
- ✓ Power of Attorney/Health Care Proxy
- ✓ Simple Wills
- ✓ Long-term planning and Medicaid Eligibility
- ✓ Health Insurance
- ✓ Elder Abuse and Exploitation
- ✓ Income Maintenance
- ✓ Housing and Utility Matters
- ✓ Employment Issues
- ✓ Consumer Issues

Importance of Early Intervention

- Enables the person with dementia to be involved and express his or her wishes for future care and decisions
- Eliminates guesswork for families
- Helps direct finances such as ability to pay bills
- Facilitates housing stability
- Allows for time to:
 - Plan for long-term care
 - Apply to benefit programs
- Helps avoid complications/crisis planning



Medical-Legal Partnership Benefits



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People with chronic illnesses are healthier and admitted to the hospital less frequently



People more commonly take their medications as prescribed



People report less stress and experience improvements in mental health



People are more stably housed and their utilities are less likely to be shut off



People have access to greater financial resources



Clinical services are more frequently reimbursed by public and private payers.

Tips for Creating High-Impact Partnerships

- Conduct internal assessment of service utilization data to identify trends and gaps in service
- Identify & meet with new and/or existing partners to identify potential solutions
- Collaboratively host focus groups/community forums to ensure constituent feedback is incorporated
- Analyze findings and solidify an action plan
- Pilot the program/service
- Evaluate & celebrate!

Questions?



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