

Dementia Friendly Communities

Dementia is a community issue that must be addressed at a community level. A dementia friendly community is informed, safe and respectful of individuals with dementia and their families, provides supportive options cross community sectors and fosters quality of life. Every part of the community has a unique role in fostering meaningful access to and engagement in community life for people living with dementia and their family and friend care partners.

Dementia Friendly America

Dementia Friendly America (DFA) is a multi-sector, national, regional, state and local collaboration seeking to advance dementia friendly communities across the United States.

DFA fosters local community transformation using tools, resources and technical assistance designed to equip communities to better support people living with dementia and their care partners. The Dementia Friendly America movement began in September 2015 following the White House Conference on Aging and is based upon Minnesota's statewide successful initiative, ACT on Alzheimer's.

Led by DFA, communities across the nation are taking action and becoming dementia friendly by leveraging tailored resources and tools for community sectors. There are more than 200 communities across 40 states in the process of becoming dementia friendly.

Who is Involved?

Every part of the community plays a role works together to take steps to create a dementia friendly culture.

Businesses and Banking support customers with dementia by accommodating cognitive impairment.

Law enforcement and first responders recognize signs of dementia respond accordingly

Health care systems promote early diagnosis and connect individuals with community services.

Faith communities welcome people living with dementia and their care partners through specialized programs, services, and accommodations.

Local governments plan and implement housing, transportation, public spaces, and emergency response systems that enable people with dementia and care partners to thrive.



Community members learn how to interact sensitively with people living with dementia and create networks of support.

Restaurants, grocery stores, and libraries offer services and supports that foster access and independence

Employers support employees who are caregivers through proactive personnel policies.

Residential care and community services offer a range of services to maximize independence and support ongoing community engagement.

DFA Supports Community Efforts

Communities working to become dementia friendly under DFA all have cross-sector engagement and use a variety of DFA standardized tools and resources to support their efforts. These include:

Dementia Friendly Community Toolkit

The toolkit guides communities through a process that fosters adoption of dementia friendly practices in all parts of the community. It provides tools and processes that assist with convening and engaging communities, analyzing data, and developing and moving forward with a plan of action.

Dementia Friendly Sector Guides and Video Vignettes

These include profession-specific dementia friendly action steps and resources drawn from national and international best practices.

Technical Assistance

DFA communities have access to technical assistance resources from the DFA staff team.



Get Involved

Dementia Friendly America
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