



# DEMENTIA

## CARE & CURE INITIATIVE

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ELDER AFFAIRS

*MISSION: To engage communities across the state to be more dementia friendly, promote better care for Floridians affected by dementia, and support research efforts to find a cure.*

*VISION: To see all Florida communities engaged in providing better care for those affected by dementia while we work towards a cure.*

### ***Background:***

Dementia is a comprehensive term for a decline in mental ability that is severe enough to interfere with daily life. The most common and well-known type of dementia is Alzheimer's disease. Other forms of dementia include, but are not limited to Lewy Body dementia and vascular dementia. Currently, Alzheimer's disease is the 5<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Americans age 65 or older.

With approximately 510,000 individuals currently living with Alzheimer's disease, Florida has the second highest incidence of Alzheimer's in the nation – only behind California. Florida is projected to have more than 720,000 individuals with Alzheimer's in the next 10 years. These figures do not include other forms of dementia or the hundreds of thousands who serve as caregivers.

Florida seeks to lead the nation in response to the increasing incidence of dementia by implementing a statewide effort to become more dementia friendly – taking action to support those diagnosed with dementia and their caregivers – bettering communities and the state overall.

### ***Goals:***

- 1) **Increase awareness of dementia, services, and supports**  
Accomplished through education events, the media, and joint efforts with community leadership and stakeholders, including partnering state agencies.
- 2) **Develop community work plans**  
Action-oriented plans will be individualized for Caring Communities. Toolkits will assist communities to assess their individual needs and execute specific actions to improve their region.
- 3) **Promote care and cure programs**  
Advocating for the funding of programs that care for both those diagnosed with dementia and their caregivers, as well as research efforts that work toward a cure.