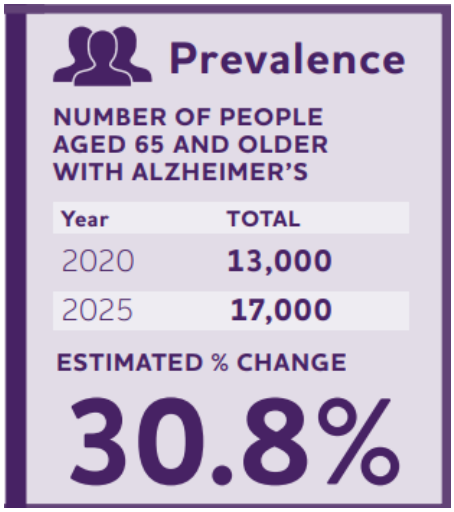
H.198: An act relating to establishing a Dementia Coordinator $150,000 Annual Appropriation

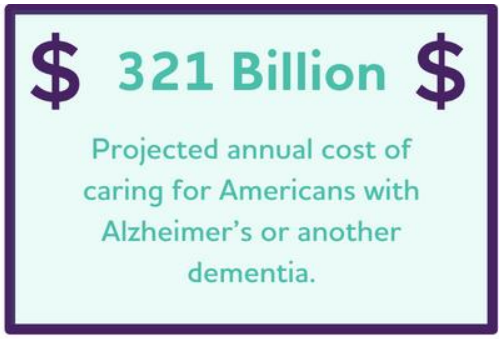
DEMENTIA SUPPORT TO DATE

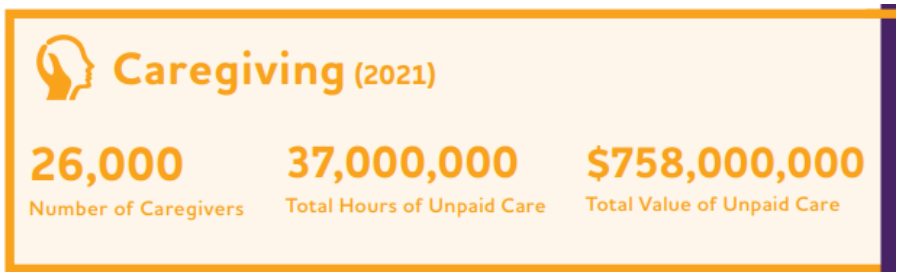
In 2020, Vermont received our first Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure grant from the CDC. This grant was for three years, $249,000/year. With this grant we have:

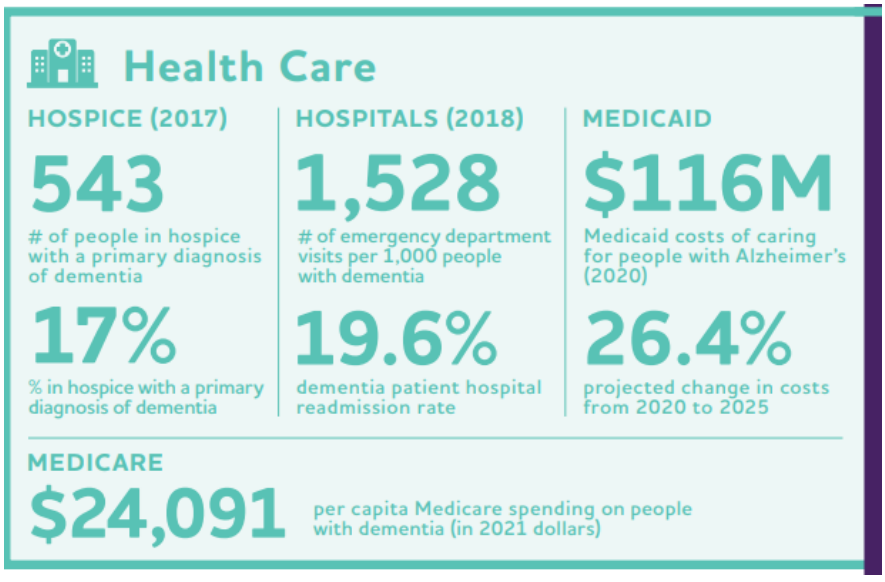
- Created the Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program in the Department of Health.
- Completed the *2022-2025 Vermont Action Plan for Alzheimer's Disease, Related Dementias & Healthy Aging*. This is the first dementia plan since 2008! More than 25 partner organizations helped identify 5 overarching goals and over 150 specific strategies.
- Expanded diagnosis capacity through training and support for Physicians, primarily done through our dementia focused hub-and-spoke work.
- Gathered data on the burden facing unpaid family caregivers.

In 2022, we passed Act 113 focused on planning for the care and treatment of Vermonters with dementia. During testimony to the Senate Health and Welfare and House Human Services committees it became clear this work requires coordination between the Dept. of Health (DOH) and the Dept. of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL.) Act 113 proposed a shared position in the Agency of Human Services.









Why we need a Dementia Coordinator

- A Dementia Coordinator will connect the work being done by DOH, DAIL, the Governor's Commission on ADRD, Chronic Disease Prevention, Dementia Hub and Spoke, and the Alzheimer's and Healthy Aging Work Group, creating an efficient and more sustainable system.
- A Dementia Coordinator ensures that the gains achieved with our CDC infrastructure building grants will continue into the future. The coordinator position could be used for the required match for Round 2 of the BOLD grant, a five-year award with significantly larger funding opportunities than our current 3-year grant.
- A Dementia Coordinator will save the state money by allowing individual organizations and non-profits to thrive and support aging members in their community in a coordinated, evidence-based way. Keeping Vermonters safely in their homes is cost effective.
- A Dementia Coordinator will follow the latest training, treatments, research, state and federal program requirements, and funding opportunities to help us close gaps in all sectors.
    - Primary Care physicians are reluctant to diagnose without a clear path of next steps to provide their patients.
    - Vermonters with dementia struggle to find sufficient support to remain in their homes or communities.
    - Unpaid family caregivers face a huge burden when caring for someone with dementia. Supporting them will reduce the negative impacts of caregiving, can help them remain in the workforce, and prevent significant stress that can lead to their own illnesses.

Aging Vermonters with dementia require significant support. A State Dementia Coordinator will help identify Vermont appropriate, cost effective solutions to this challenge.

If you have questions or would like more information on H.198 please contact:

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A State Dementia Coordinator is supported by:

Alzheimer's Association, Vermont Chapter

Center on Aging at the Larner College of Medicine

Community of Vermont Elders (COVE)

Dementia Family Caregiver Center at UVMMC

Governor's Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD)

Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid

Green Mountain Support Services

National Association of Social Workers, Vermont Chapter

Vermont Association of Adult Day Services (VAADS)

Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Vermont Ombudsman Project