

# Dementia-Friendly Library Opportunities

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# Presentation Overview

Attendees will learn about:

- State of Florida programs aimed at supporting older adults and family care partners.
- Dementia sensitivity training elements.
- Ideas and resources for dementia-friendly library initiatives.

# About FSU REACH

The Florida State University College of Medicine, Department of Geriatrics, has been federally funded since 2015 to work with a variety of local, state, and national partners to enhance Florida's workforce caring for older adults.

Awarded funding from HRSA for 2024-2029.  
Multiple project elements with:

- Healthcare systems
- Multidisciplinary healthcare workforce audiences (students and professionals)
- Dementia- and age-friendly community initiatives



# A Key Project Area

## Dementia Outreach Expansion and Supportive Care Worker Training Through Statewide Partnerships

- Develop strategies and implement localized activities for dementia-friendly community initiatives.
- Targeting rural communities.

# What is DOEA?



**Secretary Michelle Branham**  
*appointed December 2021*

- Florida's State Unit on Aging
- Responsible for overseeing the human services and long-term care programs.
- Develops policy and budget recommendations to support the well-being of seniors.

# Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and Memory Disorder Clinics

- Area Agencies on Aging administer programs and services for Florida's older adults and their care partners.
- Elder Helpline is the starting point for persons to gain access to home and community-based services, including home delivered meal programs, in-home help, and Medicaid Long Term Care.

**1-800-96-ELDER (1-800-963-5337)**

- There are 17 state-funded Memory Disorder Clinics throughout Florida (see handout for your region) that provide referral services for persons with ADRD. The clinics also conduct service-related research and provide caregiver training and educational opportunities.

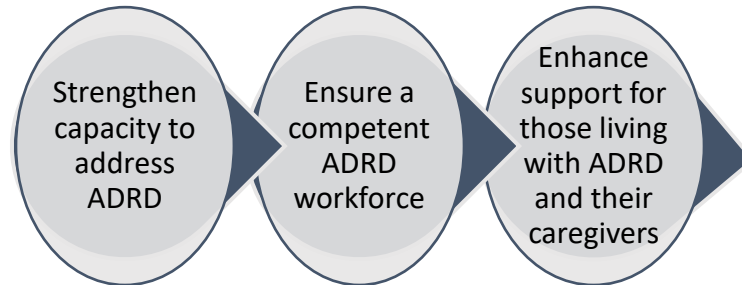


# Programs and Services: Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD)

## State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)

- Five-year plan to develop an action roadmap to enhance public health.
- ADRD is Priority Area 1 of 7.

## GOALS



# Programs and Services: ADRD

## Dementia Care and Cure Initiative (DCCI)

- Creation of dementia-friendly communities across the state.
- Task forces provide education, awareness, and sensitivity regarding ADRD.
- Each task force has different dementia-friendly initiatives.





# Dementia-Friendly America

- DFA is a national network of communities, organizations and individuals seeking to ensure that communities across the U.S. are equipped to support people living with dementia and their care partners.
- DFA's mission is to increase dementia awareness, reduce stigma, and provide quality dementia-friendly resources, education and support that fosters the creation of communities where people living with dementia and their care partners can live, engage and thrive in community with others.
  - Available guides to make different types of sectors more dementia-friendly .



# Florida Alzheimer's Statistics



**FLORIDA** has the  
**SECOND HIGHEST  
NUMBER OF SENIORS**

living with Alzheimer's  
in the nation

Number of People Aged 65 and  
older with Alzheimer's

NEARLY

**7 Million Americans**  
**580,000 Floridians**

More than  
**840,000 FLORIDIANS**  
provide  
**1.3 BILLION**  
hours unpaid care  
for persons living with  
dementia.

**66%** of dementia caregivers report  
a chronic health condition

**29%** of dementia caregivers report  
depression

**14%** of dementia caregivers report  
poor physical health

**1** in **3**

seniors dies with  
Alzheimer's or  
another dementia

Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures, an annual report released by the Alzheimer's Association, reveals the burden of Alzheimer's and dementia on individuals, caregivers, government and the nation's health care system. Learn the facts at [alz.org/facts](http://alz.org/facts).

# Understanding ADRD

**Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD):** neurological disorders that impair one's memory, thought processes, and ability to complete activities of daily life.

## QUICK FACTS

- NOT a normal part of aging.
- Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia.

Signs of Alzheimer's and Dementia	Typical Age-Related Changes
Poor judgment and decision-making	Making a bad decision once in a while
Inability to manage a budget	Missing a monthly payment
Losing track of the date or the season	Forgetting which day it is and remembering it later
Difficulty having a conversation	Sometimes forgetting which word to use
Misplacing things and being unable to retrace steps to find them	Losing things from time to time

# Symptoms Affect Interaction With Others and the Environment

- Dementia impacts:
  - Memory, communication, social interactions, and thinking.
- Older adults can have changes in vision and hearing and with symptoms of dementia:
  - Sound can be perceived as too amplified and distorted.
  - Vision can be diminished and may be misinterpreted.



# Common Library Scenarios



An older patron is struggling to work the checkout kiosk and getting upset.

A husband needs to accompany his wife with dementia into the restroom.

A patron has several overdue books and is trying to check out many more.

What have you all seen?

Join at [menti.com](https://menti.com) | use code **6412 7981**

 Mentimeter

What kind of situations has your library encountered concerning persons with memory challenges?

All responses to your question will be shown here

Each response can be up to 200 characters long

Turn on voting to let participants vote for their favorites



# Dementia-Friendly Library Initiatives



Training



Environment

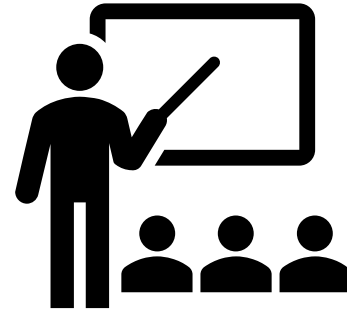


Resources and Community  
Programming

# Dementia Sensitivity Training

Train library staff and volunteers how to recognize a person living with dementia, communication strategies, and environmental adjustments that can support accessibility.

- Inservice.
- Encourage participation in virtual trainings.
- Include content in onboarding for new hires.
- Post materials in common areas.

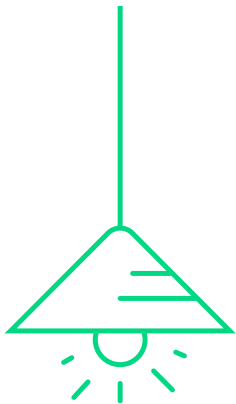




# Communication Skills

- Identify yourself and explain you are there to help.
- Call the person by their preferred name.
- Make eye contact at their level.
- Use short, simple words and sentences.
- Empathize, don't argue with the person.
- Patiently wait for a response.
  - It can take someone up to a minute to process what is being said.
- Give visual clues.
- Write things down.
- Convey an easygoing manner- our emotions are contagious.

# Environment as a Support Strategy



- Entrances should be clearly visible and understood as an entrance.
- Use clearly-marked signage at eye level.
- Lighting.
- Flooring should be plain, not shiny, and not slippery.
- Provide a family/gender-neutral restroom option.
- Use easy-to-read clocks that state the day, time, and year.

# Dementia-Friendly America Resources

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Difficulty navigating, getting lost

Trouble completing familiar tasks

Misplacing items and losing ability to retrace steps



- Short informational video (1:12)
- Freely accessible *Library Sector Guide* with ideas for making the library more dementia-friendly



# Resources to Provide

- Display Alzheimer's-disease-related books for people living with dementia and family caregivers.
  - June Brain Health month, November Family Caregiver Awareness month
- Recommended Books for Family Caregivers
  - Family Caregiver Helpbook: Powerful Tools for Caregivers
  - Your Dementia Toolbelt, by Stacy Gad and Jennifer Costello
  - The Selfish Pig's Guide to Caring, by Hugh Marriott
  - The 36 Hour Day, by Nancy Mace and Dr. Peter Rabins
- Books and activities for engaging persons with dementia
  - Montessori-based reading roundtable books and word games
  - Memory boxes



# Host Community Programming

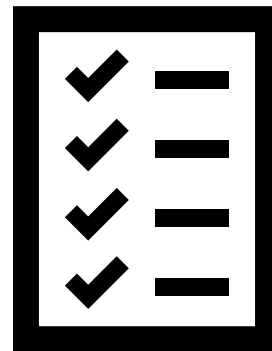
- Partner with dementia support organizations to offer educational presentations or classes on dementia, brain health, and/or caregiver self-care education.
- Host caregiver or early-stage support groups.
- Host a Memory Café event.



# Next Steps

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- Be on the lookout for virtual dementia-friendly training for your library staff through the Division of Libraries.
- Contact your local DCCI or Memory Disorder Clinic Representative to partner on local opportunities.
- Implement ideas from the DFA Library Sector Guide.



# Thank You!

## Any questions?

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