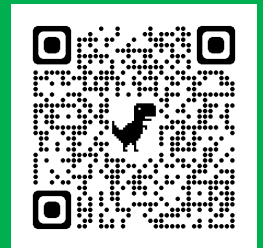


# TEAM KENTUCKY<sup>®</sup>

CABINET FOR HEALTH  
AND FAMILY SERVICES

2023 ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

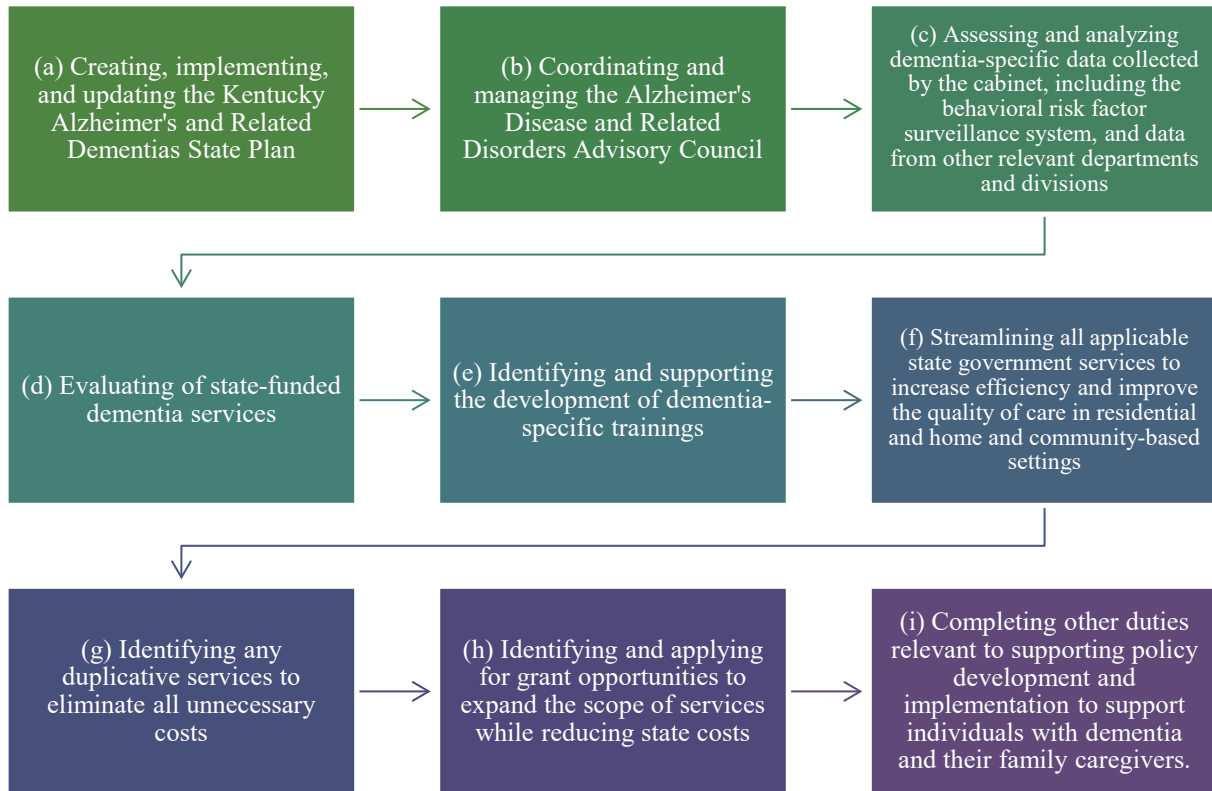
## OFFICE OF DEMENTIA SERVICES



DEPARTMENT FOR AGING AND INDEPENDENT LIVING

The Department for Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) established the Office of Dementia Services (ODS) following Governor Beshear's signing of SB 74 during the 2021 regular legislative session. KRS 194A.601 delineates the purpose, duties, and the coordinator's responsibilities for the ODS. These updates also entailed amendments to KRS 194A.600-603 related to the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) Advisory Council, leading to changes in the council's membership and duties. The ODS Coordinator, Jennifer Craig, assumed her role on October 1, 2021. DAIL identified and secured funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to support the office's administrative functions.

**Office of Dementia Services duties as outlined in KRS 194A.601**



**(a) Creating, Implementing, And Updating the Kentucky Alzheimer's and Related Dementia State Plan**

In 2008, Senate Joint Resolution 6 (SJR 6 Appendix B) mandated the then Office on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders, along with the ADRD Advisory Council, to assess the present and future impact of Alzheimer's disease on Kentuckians, as well as the state's systems, programs, and services. This initiative led to the creation of the report titled *"Setting a Roadmap to Address Alzheimer's in the Commonwealth: A Report on the Assessment of the Current and Anticipated Future Impact of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias on Kentuckians with Recommendations for Actions."* This report comprehensively outlined the assessment's findings, highlighted issues and challenges, presented corresponding recommendations, and proposed strategies for implementing change. Over the years, factors such as shifting demographics, healthcare reforms, and evolving services have transformed the landscape of Alzheimer's disease and its associated challenges in Kentucky.

In the year 2023, the ODS, in collaboration with the ADRD Advisory Council and the Kentucky Alzheimer's and Related Dementia (KARD) workgroups, have diligently worked to assess the status, urgency, and the ongoing necessity of dementia policies and programs that were identified in the 2017 state plan update.

2017 State Plan	2023 Update
<p>Revise KRS 194A.601 to make the office a viable, fully funded, and staffed entity within the Department for Aging and Independent Living, working with the council.</p>	<p><b>Assigned to the KARD Policy workgroup</b> - In 2021, the ODS was established under SB 74 (KRS 194A.601), creating the ODS Coordinator position. The inaugural coordinator assumed their responsibilities on October 1, 2021. Despite the absence of dedicated funding, this position has been temporarily sustained through the American Rescue Plan Act and an Alzheimer's Disease Programs Initiative (ADPI) grant from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) until 2024. The office remains committed to actively seeking and applying for additional grant funding opportunities to support its ongoing operations.</p>
<p>Increase and improve support for family caregivers.</p>	<p><b>Assigned to KARD Policy and Service Delivery workgroups</b> - The ODS is dedicated to maintaining and expanding its range of training sessions and workshops tailored for paid and unpaid caregivers responsible for individuals with dementia. These educational programs enrich caregivers' understanding of the disease, provide practical strategies for managing behavioral issues and daily activities, and offer valuable guidance. The ODS maintains its pivotal role as a bridge between statewide programs, services, and individuals in need. It remains committed to providing valuable information and assistance to caregivers and individuals living with dementia. The office collaborates closely with each of the state's ADRCs and other community resource groups to ensure that timely and accessible assistance is provided to those who require it. Additionally, the office is nearing completion in its efforts to create a comprehensive statewide dementia resource guide. This guide is poised to become an indispensable tool for caregivers, individuals seeking assistance, and community providers, simplifying locating available programs and services across the commonwealth.</p>
<p>Monitor a statewide data collection system.</p>	<p><b>Assigned to KARD Data and Research workgroups</b> - The ODS collaborates closely with the Department of Medicaid Services, the Department for Public Health, the Office of Health Data and Analytics, and researchers statewide to gather and analyze valuable dementia-related data. In September 2022, the release of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) report, based on 2021 caregiver data, marked a significant milestone. The insights from Kentucky caregivers' experiences will play a pivotal role in identifying current and future needs, ultimately informing the development of adequate support services. The ODS has allocated grant funds to include caregiver and cognitive modules in BRFSS in the coming years. Furthermore, dementia data has been integrated into the Department for Public Health's 2023 State Health Assessment, which provides a comprehensive overview of the state's overall health landscape. This inclusion underscores the significance of addressing dementia within the broader context of public health. Additionally, the office is poised to receive a quarterly Schedule E report from the Office of Data Analytics. This report will furnish county-level data on Kentuckians impacted by dementia and insights into various comorbidities. This data will be invaluable in enhancing our understanding of the local-level impact of dementia.</p>
<p>Promote policies and procedures that effectively incorporate proven practices related to dementia-specific training,</p>	<p><b>Assigned to KARD Health &amp; Insurance, Workforce Development, and Service Delivery workgroups</b> - In 2021, Senate Bill 61 introduced training requirements for direct care staff in Home Health Agencies and Personal Service Agencies. Regulation 910 KAR 4:010 assigned the ODS to review and approve dementia training curricula for provider agencies, as outlined in 906 KAR 1:108 and 902 KAR 20:081. These regulations now mandate that facilities and programs ensure that all direct care staff complete at least six hours of cabinet-approved training within their first sixty days of employment, with an additional three hours of training required.</p>

<p>service, and program activities for service providers and stakeholders.</p>	<p>Starting in the fiscal year 2023-24, the ODS has incorporated a dementia training requirement into the service contracts for all fifteen of Kentucky's Area Agencies on Aging and Independent Living (AAAIL) providers. This requirement necessitates that all agency personnel who interact with citizens undergo training provided by the ODS and maintain proper compliance documentation. Furthermore, in 2023, the passage of HB125 established statute 211.188, facilitating collaboration between DAIL, DPH, and the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Kentucky and Southern Indiana. The primary objective of this collaboration is to update and integrate Alzheimer's disease awareness materials into content accessible on the ODS website and to distribute these materials to all sixty-one health departments across the Commonwealth.</p>
<p>Establish state protocol on appropriate interfaces and choices for Individuals with Alzheimer's, related dementias and their families.</p>	<p><b>Assigned to KARD Healthcare &amp; Insurance and Service Delivery workgroups</b> - Kentucky presently employs its fifteen local Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) within the AAAIL to furnish information and assistance, and resources at a community level. These resource centers serve as impartial and dependable sources of information and counseling for people living with dementia and their caregivers, regardless of their income levels. A persistent emphasis on enhancing dementia education and streamlining the coordination of existing resources, involving statewide ADRCs and community advocates, will alleviate confusion and expedite access to services.</p>
<p>Explore options to increase insurance coverage for individuals with Alzheimer's and related dementias.</p>	<p><b>Assigned to KARD Healthcare &amp; Insurance workgroups</b> - There are several insurance opportunities for people with dementia in the state. In 2021, kynect, the state-based healthcare exchange, was reopened to provide easier access to health coverage and other benefits. The Home and Community Based (HCB) waiver is also available to assist older adults to help them live in the community as independently as possible. The workgroups are exploring additional avenues to expand insurance coverage for individuals affected by Alzheimer's and related dementias. Their focus extends to streamlining the process of accessing and comprehending presently underutilized services.</p>
<p>Enhance state policies and procedures to provide additional support to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of individuals with Alzheimer's and related dementia.</p>	<p><b>Assigned to KARD Public Safety, Healthcare &amp; Insurance, and Service Delivery workgroups</b> - Presently, multiple options are in place to prioritize the well-being and safety of individuals with dementia. One such initiative is the Golden Alert program, overseen by the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management (KYEM). This program operates as a communication network, promptly notifying the community when individuals with dementia are reported missing. Additionally, the Alzheimer's Association offers a 24/7 nationwide emergency response system designed to provide immediate assistance to those with dementia. To further enhance efforts at a state policy level, dedicated workgroups are actively working on expanding advocacy for the health, safety, and welfare of individuals living with dementia and their caregivers. These efforts may include introducing dementia training to critical workforces and ensuring comprehensive support and protection for this vulnerable population.</p>

## (b) Coordinating and Managing the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Council

### David Lovely

- The Secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services or his or her designee

### Commissioner Victoria Elridge

- The Commissioner of the Department for Aging and Independent Living or his or her designee

### Elizabeth Anderson-Hoagland

- The Commissioner of the Department for Public Health or his or her designee

### Commissioner Lisa Lee

- The Commissioner of the Department for Medicaid Services or his or her designee

### Sherry Culp

- The state long-term care ombudsman or his or her designee

### Alecia Johnson

- The Executive Director of the Area Agencies on Aging or his or her designee

### Sophia Sawaya

- family caregiver of an individual living with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia

### Timothy Veno

- representative for the long-term care industry

### Kelly Upchurch

- representative for providers of adult day care services

### Monalisa Tailor

- representative for an organization that advocates solely on behalf of physicians

### Myra Wiley

- representative for an organization that advocates solely on behalf of nurses

### Elizabeth Rhodus

- representative for individuals who conduct research regarding Alzheimer's disease and other dementias

### Shannon White

- representative for an organization that advocates solely on behalf of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias

### Pending

- represents a statewide organization that advocates on behalf of Kentuckians aged fifty or older

### Pending

- representative for home care providers

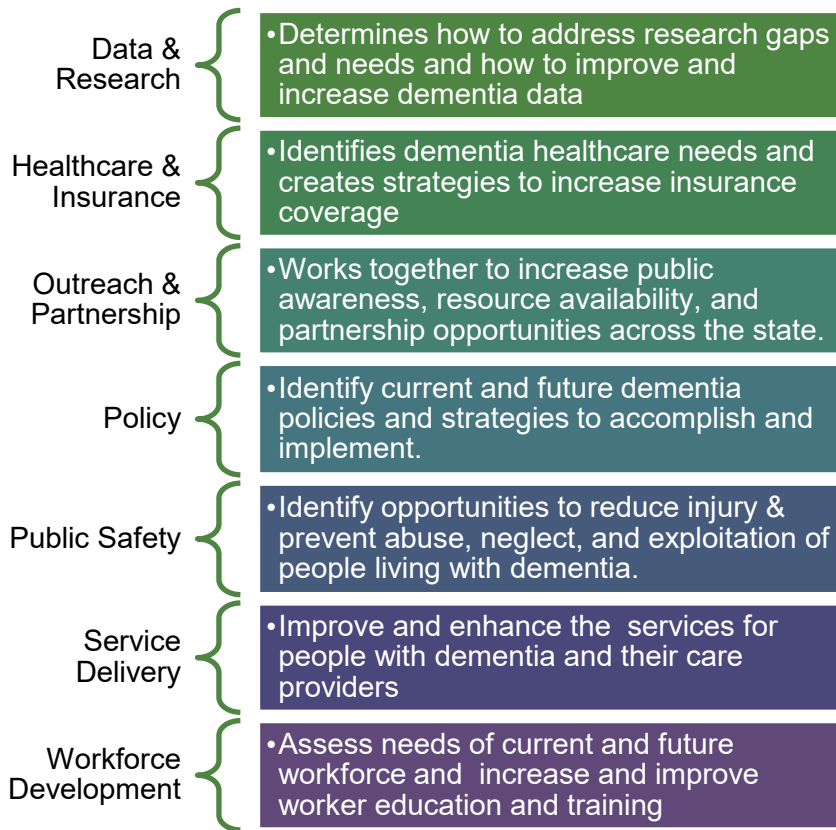
The Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) Advisory Council, established in 2000, was updated in 2021 under KRS 194A.603. The council reviews and provides recommendations regarding progress toward the goals of the state plan and on progress with implementing resources and services to serve people living with dementia and related diseases across Kentucky in the future.

### 2023 Alzheimer's and Other Related Disorders Advisory Council Update

Throughout 2023, the ODS has been actively advancing the promotion of the advisory council and nominating council members to positions established by the revised KRS 194A.603. The advisory council has consistently convened quarterly, facilitating four productive and enlightening council meetings during the year.

Advisory council meetings have been pivotal in promoting community engagement and outreach. They serve as a vital platform for stakeholders in the field of dementia from across the state to come together and share invaluable, dementia-specific information, programs, and resources. Throughout the year, these meetings have featured distinguished presenters, including the UK Cultural Competence in Healthcare students, creators of Dementia Care Everywhere, and experts in the CDC BOLD initiative. These presenters have enriched the discussions and the extent of knowledge shared during these essential gatherings.

## Kentucky Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Collaborative (KARD)



The ODS established the KARD to collaborate with members of the ADRD Advisory Council. The KARD collaborative workgroups serve as a statewide network encompassing professionals, agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses, people living with dementia, their caregivers, advocates, and participants from the ADRD Advisory Council. These diverse groups are firmly committed to effecting positive change in Kentucky's approach to Alzheimer's and dementia. Comprised of seven distinct workgroups, the KARD Collaborative convenes bi-monthly to advance the objectives and goals outlined in the Kentucky Dementia State Plan. These workgroups and the advisory council continually assess the status, urgency, and ongoing necessity of dementia policies, programs, and support initiatives as delineated in the 2017 state plan.

### (c) Assessing And Analyzing Dementia-Specific Data Collected

The ODS engages in the thorough analysis and assessment of data from various sources, including national providers, the Department for Medicaid Services, and the Department for Public Health. Specifically, the ODS relies on data analyzed by the Kentucky Department for Public Health's Division of Prevention and Quality Improvement. Notably, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), a telephone health survey jointly sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Kentucky Department for Public Health, plays a crucial role in this data collection. In 2020, the BRFSS included the cognitive module, followed by a caregiver module in 2021. These modules are designed to yield insights into the cognitive impairment experienced by residents of Kentucky, providing invaluable information for developing targeted strategies and policies to ensure the health and well-being of caregivers.

The ODS has allocated funding from the BOLD grant to include the caregiver and cognitive impairment modules in BRFSS surveys from 2025 through 2028. This strategic approach will enable researchers and the ODS to analyze recurring trends related to caregivers and individuals with cognitive impairment, facilitating more informed decision-making and policy development. The ODS has established a Schedule E: MOA Supplemental Data Sharing Agreement with the Office of Data Analytics. This agreement enables the ODS to receive quarterly dementia-specific reports containing dementia-specific data at the zip code level. The reports include variables such as primary and secondary diagnosis codes, ethnicity, race, DNR status, gender, hospital length of stay, discharge status, insurance status, and cost of stay. The initial data report covers ten years, providing historical data for analysis and the identification of similarities and at-risk populations.



## (d) Evaluating Of State-Funded Dementia Services

The Office of Dementia Services did not receive an allocation of state general funds in the fiscal year 2022 biennial budget.

## (e) Identifying And Supporting the Development Of Dementia-Specific Trainings

	•ODS Supported Dementia Training Opportunities
Dementia Education Webinars	•6 Webinars •609 Attendees
Dealng with Dementia Workshops	•4 Workshops •23 Participants
Dementia Virtual Reality Experience	•70 Participants
REACH Community	•9 Certified REACH coaches

The ODS recognizes the critical significance of ensuring that paid and unpaid caregivers receive the necessary training and education to provide specialized care for people living with dementia. Caregivers frequently express the need for emotional and social support, effective coping strategies, comprehensive information about dementia, and increased awareness of available community support services. Enhancing accessibility and knowledge of dementia-specific caregiver training is instrumental in sustaining the success of caregivers and people living with dementia, promoting choice and enabling individuals to age safely in the place of their choice. To facilitate greater accessibility and support for individuals and caregivers embarking on or continuing their caregiving journey, the ODS has identified several avenues for improving training opportunities.

### Dementia Education Webinars

The ODS and the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Kentuckiana have collaborated to co-host an extensive five-part Dementia Education Series delivered through webinars. These webinars have been meticulously tailored to address the needs of professionals, caregivers, and people living with dementia. The selection of training topics was guided by valuable input from dementia caregivers and encompasses a range of critical issues, such as dementia conversations, strategies for understanding and responding to dementia-related behaviors, and effective money management. The program's resounding success in 2023 has spurred the development of a more intensive approach for 2024. This upcoming series of webinars will feature experts, including legal representatives, certified counselors, and occupational therapists, who will be available to address dementia-specific inquiries on-demand, providing a more comprehensive and immediate response to caregiver questions.

### Dealing with Dementia Caregiver Workshop

The ODS currently offers the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI) Dealing with Dementia workshop, an evidence-based caregiver training program facilitated by certified experts. This workshop acknowledges caregivers' vital role in delivering community-based services, providing invaluable unpaid care that collectively amounts to millions across Kentucky. Many of these caregivers, however, lack specific training and education on dementia and its challenges. The central objective of the Dealing with Dementia workshop is to empower caregivers who support individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia. Its key goals include enhancing caregivers understanding of dementia, equipping them with practical strategies to manage challenging behaviors effectively, and fostering stress management and self-care habits. The success of these workshops and the positive feedback have prompted the ODS to expand the number of certified facilitators for the Dealing with Dementia program to five. This expansion aims to improve accessibility and availability to caregivers throughout the commonwealth, particularly in reaching African American, Latino and rural populations at the highest risk for developing dementia.

## Dementia Virtual Reality Experience

The ODS embraces virtual reality through a virtual dementia experience. This innovative outreach and training device offers a cutting-edge learning opportunity utilizing the latest technology. In a brief three-minute encounter, participants are transported into a distinctive simulation of life with Alzheimer's, gaining firsthand insight into the symptoms of this devastating disease. By using virtual reality technology, the participants are immersed in a three-dimensional, 360-degree environment complete with sound, allowing them to enter the world of person living with dementia. This unique experience enables them to witness how someone lives with various common symptoms associated with the disease. This experience is an educational outreach tool distinct from other training programs or dementia simulations. It is available upon request and can be conducted in one-on-one sessions or small group settings, followed by facilitated discussions led by an instructor.



**Amanda Davis** -  
Family Caregiver Coordinator at  
KIPDA Area Agency on Aging  
and Independent Living

## Resources For Enhancing Alzheimer's' Caregivers Health (REACH) Community

The ODS has collaborated with the University of Tennessee Health Science Center's Caregiver Center to certify nine REACH Community coaches. These coaches are equipped to train and support caregivers throughout the state through a nationwide program to assist caregivers in their current caregiving roles in ways that bring positive improvements for themselves and those they care for. REACH Community is accessible to all dementia caregivers across Kentucky and is a mandatory component for caregivers enrolled in the BTG program. REACH Community coaches possess the qualifications to assess, identify, and collaborate with caregivers, enabling them to develop interventions and acquire skills to reduce depression, anxiety, and caregiver challenges. The goal is to enhance social support within the family and effectively manage care recipient behaviors.

Training Topics Include:	Assisting with Activities of Daily Living	What is Alzheimer's & Dementia
Communicating and Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors	Providing People-Centered Care	Planning for Dementia care

## Dementia Training Resources List

The ODS has compiled an extensive resource list encompassing dementia-specific training programs. These topics have been identified as crucial by professional and family caregivers for effectively providing care to individuals in the various stages of dementia. The list is readily accessible upon request or on the ODS website.

## (f) Streamlining All Applicable State Government Services To Increase Efficiency And Improve The Quality Of Care In Residential And Home And Community-Based Settings

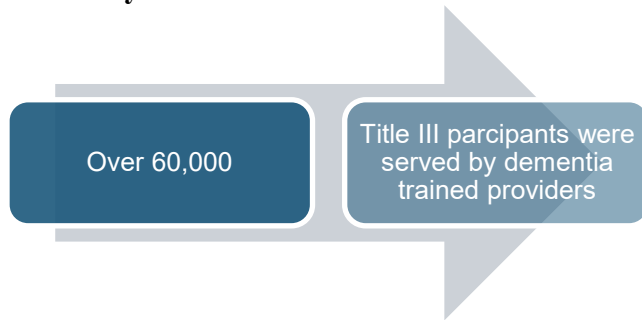
### Dementia-Specific Curriculum Approval For Home Health & Personal Service Providers

The ODS within the DAIL has been entrusted with the responsibility of reviewing and approving dementia training curricula for provider agencies in accordance with 910 KAR 4:010. In March of 2021, Governor Beshear enacted Senate Bill 61, establishing the minimum training prerequisites for direct care staff employed by facilities or programs regulated by the cabinet, which offer services to individuals displaying symptoms of Alzheimer's disease or other dementias within the populations they serve. Pursuant to 906 KAR 1:180 and 902 KAR 20:081, Home Health and Personal Service agencies are required to ensure that all direct care staff complete a minimum of six hours of cabinet-approved training within their initial sixty days of employment, followed by a mandatory additional three hours of training. This training is compulsory for all direct care staff whose responsibilities involve substantial interaction with individuals exhibiting symptoms of Alzheimer's disease or other dementias.





## Kentucky's Older Americans Act Providers



Title III of the Older Americans Act offers various essential services, including supportive services, legal assistance, congregate and home-delivered meals, health promotion, and caregiving support, specifically aimed at aiding individuals aged 60 or older. These program providers frequently engage with individuals affected by dementia or those displaying early signs of Alzheimer's or related dementias. Beginning in the fiscal year 2023-24, the ODS has introduced a dementia training requirement within the

service contracts for all fifteen (15) of Kentucky's AAAIL. All Title III providers must ensure that all agency personnel interacting with citizens have undergone training provided by the ODS and appropriately document their compliance with this requirement.

### Dementia Corner

The statewide nutritional education newsletter is distributed to all Kentuckians receiving a Title III meal, including congregate and home-delivered meals. Within this newsletter, a dedicated section called "Dementia Corner" provides information and educational content related to dementia awareness. This valuable resource reaches over 20,000 individuals across the state, contributing to increased dementia awareness and understanding.

## (g) Identifying Any Duplicative Services To Eliminate All Unnecessary Costs

ODS has consistently reviewed and searched for duplicative services but has not discovered such services.

## (h) Identifying And Applying For Grant Opportunities To Expand The Scope Of Services While Reducing State Costs

### Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure Grant



The ODS has recently secured a five-year substantial grant totaling two million dollars from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This grant is designated to establish a robust infrastructure with a dementia-focused approach, aiming to promote the adoption of a public health perspective on dementia within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The primary focus of this initiative lies in early detection, risk reduction, and chronic disease prevention, with a particular emphasis on priority populations. To achieve these objectives, the project entails a collaborative effort between Kentucky's Department of Public Health and the ODS within the DAIL. This collaboration will facilitate establishing a joint approach that bridges dementia advocacy efforts across public health and aging. By fostering cooperation among diverse communities, advocacy groups, and professional sectors across Kentucky's varied regions, this grant-backed project represents a significant opportunity to enhance collaboration and merge community connections. The ultimate goal is to develop effective programs, supports, services, and actions that raise awareness of dementia and promote risk reduction strategies among the state's large and vulnerable populations at risk of dementia-related challenges.

### Alzheimer's Disease Programs Initiative (ADPI) Grant- Bridging the Gap Program



In July 2021, the ODS secured a three-year, one-million-dollar grant from the Alzheimer's Disease Programs Initiative (ADPI) through the Administration for Community Living (ACL). This substantial funding is dedicated to enhancing the development and expansion of Kentucky's dementia-capable home and community-

based service (HCBS) systems. The ADPI grant funding has presented a unique opportunity to bridge the gap between an individual's application for a Medicaid Waiver and the time it takes for the application to be processed and services to be initiated. The Bridging the Gap program operates within four of Kentucky's fifteen AAAIL regions, providing financial and respite services while the Medicaid application is under review. During the processing of their Medicaid application, participants can receive temporary financial assistance for community services, including adult day care, attendant care, and caregiver respite. Additionally, the program offers dementia-specific training and education for caregivers.

Since its inception in 2021, the BTG program has faced challenges in garnering interest and participation from caregivers responsible for people living with dementia. This hesitancy has arisen primarily due to concerns about the financial prerequisites associated with Medicaid waivers and the potential implications of estate recovery. Recognizing the need for a more inclusive approach, the program is significantly revising its financial eligibility criteria. As a result of these revisions, the BTG program is expanding its accessibility to encompass all caregivers and people living with dementia in the active regions. This strategic adjustment effectively eliminates the previous financial barriers that have hindered participation, ensuring that a broader range of caregivers can benefit from the program's support and services.



11 BTG participants

**(i) Completing Other Duties Relevant To Supporting Policy Development And Implementation To Support Individuals With Dementia And Their Family Caregivers**

Office of Dementia Services Collaborations and Partnerships

The ODS has dedicated substantial effort throughout the year to educate and advocate for the newly established office, tasked explicitly with addressing Kentucky's seventh leading cause of death; this year marked a series of meetings and collaborations with community initiatives, national and regional organizations, and universities throughout Kentucky. Embracing collaboration and forging strategic partnerships has enabled these organizations to pool their strengths, resources, perspectives, and expertise. Together, they are laying the groundwork for a foundational infrastructure to enhance the quality of life for people living with dementia and their caregivers.

**Events and Outreach**

The ODS has been actively engaged as a guest speaker at conferences, events, and training sessions on both a national and statewide level. These presentations aim to educate the audience about the office's historical significance and its crucial role in advancing the goals and objectives laid out in the Kentucky Dementia State Plan. Additionally, the office participates in numerous outreach events, catering to professionals working with people living with dementia and community gatherings where valuable information and resources are shared with caregivers and those in need. These outreach events include the provision of dementia education and resource materials.

ODS Speaking Engagements	ODS Outreach Events
KIPDA Aging & Disability Advisory Council	Franklin County Unity in the Community
Bluegrass Aging & Disability Advisory Council	Kentucky State Fair
2023 Norton Neuroscience Expo	Aging in Nelson County Resource Fair
2023 Alzheimer's Association Dementia Coordinator Summit	Northern Kentucky University Caregiver Recognition Day
2023 Department for Aging and Independent Living Aging and SHIP Conference	Kentucky Primary Care Association Conference
2023 Optimal Aging Conference	Community Action Agency Conference
2023 Kentucky Association of Adult Day Centers Conference	Shelby County Senior Health Fair