Minnesota Communities are  
ACTing on Alzheimer’s

ACT on Alzheimer’s is a statewide, multi-dimensional collaboration seeking large-scale social change and building community capacity to help drive Minnesota’s response to Alzheimer’s disease. Some 94,000 Minnesotans age 65 and older live with the disease; 70 percent live in the community (of these, 26 percent live alone) with the support of 254,000 family and friend caregivers. Without quality dementia care and services, community-wide support, and meaningful inclusion in community life, people living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers experience isolation, higher health care costs, and poorer quality of life.

Dementia Friendly Communities

ACT on Alzheimer’s promotes dementia friendly communities, which are informed, safe, inclusive and respectful of people living with dementia and their families, have supportive features across all community sectors, and foster quality of life for everyone.  Through a research-informed process, ACT on Alzheimer’s has developed substantive resources and a community engagement toolkit that guides communities in moving towards dementia readiness.

More than 40 communities are working in all regions of Minnesota to become dementia friendly, including geographic-based and faith communities and communities with shared ethnic and cultural interests. These communities are:

* Training businesses and faith communities on dementia-supportive practices
* Training law enforcement and first responders on understanding and recognizing dementia
* Providing ACT-developed dementia trainings to health care and community-based service providers
* Increasing dementia awareness through educational events for community members and offering Dementia Friends Information Sessions
* Offering dementia-supportive meaningful engagement activities
* Supporting family caregivers through education, support groups, and caregiver-related forums and activities
* Working with local schools to educate youth about Alzheimer’s disease

ACT on Alzheimer’s, in partnership with Minnesota’s Area Agencies on Aging and the Alzheimer’s Association Minnesota North Dakota, provides community engagement support, technical assistance, and shared learning opportunities for communities. Learn more at [www.ACTonALZ.org](http://www.ACTonALZ.org).

ACT on Alzheimer’s is part of the Dementia Friendly America initiative; visit [www.dfamerica.org](http://www.dfamerica.org).