

## **Overview of National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease**

**June 2012**

### **National Alzheimer's Project Act**

The National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) was passed in December 2010 and signed by President Obama in January 2011. It calls for the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to create a national strategic plan to address Alzheimer's disease, which is updated annually, and to establish an Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services to advise the Secretary.

### **Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services**

The Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services was chartered on May 23, 2011. The Council is a 27-member public-private body made up of federal and state officials, along with representatives from private sector organizations involved in Alzheimer's, including those representing research, care, advocacy, and caregivers. The Advisory Council meets quarterly in Washington, D.C. All meetings are webcast and open to the public with an opportunity for public input at the end of each meeting.

### **Federal Interagency Group**

In April 2011, HHS established an Interagency Group on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias to begin carrying out the National Alzheimer's Project Act.

This Interagency Group includes the Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Defense, as well as HHS representatives from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, National Institute on Aging, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Centers for Disease Control, Administration on Aging, Health Resources and Services Administration, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Food and Drug Administration, Indian Health Service, and Administration for Children and Families.

The Interagency Group is divided into three subcommittees that inventoried federal programs that are involved in Alzheimer's and related dementias in each category of research, clinical care, and services. These inventories were then used to identify opportunities for collaboration. The inventory and analysis of opportunities were presented at the first meeting Advisory Council meeting in September 2011.

### **Announcement of the President's "We Can't Wait" Alzheimer's Initiative**

On February 7, 2012 the Administration announced an additional \$156 million investment over two years for Alzheimer's research, education and awareness, healthcare provider education and outreach, and data collection. NIH dedicated an immediate investment of \$50 million from its fiscal year 2012 funding for Alzheimer's research, adding to the estimated \$450 million budget

for Alzheimer's this year. The President's fiscal year 2013 budget proposes \$80 million in new Alzheimer's research funding.

The President's We Can't Wait Alzheimer's initiative also includes \$26 million to support additional goals in the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease, including:

- Education and outreach to improve the public's understanding of Alzheimer's disease starting this year;
- Outreach to enhance health care providers' knowledge of the disease;
- Expanded support for persons with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers in the community;
- Improved data collection and analysis to better understand the impact of Alzheimer's disease's on people with the disease, families and the health care system.

\$4 million in FY2012 and an additional proposed \$4 million in 2013 funding is going to a public awareness campaign that drives caregivers and people with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease to information that they need.

\$2 million in FY2012 and an additional proposed \$4.2 million in 2013 funding is going to enhance healthcare provider education through Geriatric Education Centers, which are supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration. This funding will support the use of evidence-based practice curricula on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias to provide continuing education to inter-professional teams of health care practitioners.

\$10.5 million is proposed for FY2013 for the Administration on Aging to expand efforts to develop more Alzheimer's-capable long-term services and supports systems that are designed to meet the needs of AD caregivers. The Administration on Aging will work with lead state agencies across state government and with the Aging Network to identify and address caregivers' needs when they seek assistance from state or local home and community-based services systems for themselves or for the person with AD. Caregivers will be connected to supportive services such as respite care. Caregivers will be linked to interventions shown to decrease burden and depression among caregivers and enhance the care received by people with Alzheimer's disease.

\$1.3 million is proposed for FY2013 to improve data collection.

### **Development of National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease**

Concurrently with the announcement of the President's We Can't Wait Alzheimer's initiative, HHS staff wrote the first draft of the National Plan, which was released in mid-February of 2012. We received input from the Advisory Council through a March 14 teleconference and took public comments on it through our [napa@hhs.gov](mailto:napa@hhs.gov) email address. Over 3800 people submitted comments on the first draft National Plan.

We used the input we received to revise the first draft, and released a second draft of the National Plan on April 13, 2012. We got input from the Advisory Council through an April 17,

2012 in-person meeting and over 10,000 people submitted comments on the second draft of the National Plan through our [napa@hhs.gov](mailto:napa@hhs.gov) email address.

The finalized National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease was released on May 15, 2012. This plan will be updated annually.

### **National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Its Implementation**

The final plan addresses five ambitious goals:

- Prevent and Effectively Treat Alzheimer's Disease by 2025.
- Optimize Care Quality and Efficiency.
- Expand Supports for People with Alzheimer's Disease and Their Families.
- Enhance Public Awareness and Engagement.
- Track Progress and Drive Improvement.

The plan details strategies to achieve each goal. Under each of these strategies, it identifies specific actions that HHS or its federal partners will take. Some of these steps are expansions or enhancements of ongoing efforts. Many are new activities that HHS and its partners are committing to undertake in the upcoming months and several of them are supported by the historic budget investment the President made as part of his We Can't Wait Alzheimer's Initiative.

Among the activities underway are:

- May 14-15, the National Institutes of Health held its International Alzheimer's Disease Research Summit that will help set priorities for achieving the goal of preventing or effectively treating Alzheimer's disease by 2025.
- Funding of new research projects by the NIH, which focus on key areas in which emerging technologies and new approaches in clinical testing now allow for a more comprehensive assessment of the disease. Two major clinical trials are being funded. One is a \$7.9 million effort to test an insulin nasal spray for treating Alzheimer's disease. A second study, toward which NIH is contributing \$16 million, is the first prevention trial in people at the highest risk for the disease.
- Tools for Clinicians – The Health Resources and Services Administration has awarded \$2 million in FY 2012 funding through its geriatric education centers to provide high-quality training for doctors, nurses, and other health care providers on recognizing the signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and how to manage the disease.
- Easier access to information to support caregivers—HHS' new website, [www.alzheimers.gov](http://www.alzheimers.gov), offers resources and support to those facing Alzheimer's disease and their friends and family.
- Awareness campaign – The first new television advertisement encouraging caregivers to seek information at the new website was debuted. This media campaign will begin this summer, reaching family members and patients in need of information on Alzheimer's disease.