



Legislative Report

Dementia Grants Annual Progress Report

January 2021

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I. Executive Summary

In 2015, the Minnesota Legislature amended Minnesota Statutes 256.975 creating a competitive grant program administered by the Minnesota Board on Aging (MBA) that focuses on dementia and its impacts on persons with dementia, family and friends caregiving for persons with dementia and communities. The Legislature has appropriated \$1.5 million in each biennium since the 2016/2017 biennium for this program.

The MBA awarded \$750,000 through a fourth competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) to eleven applicants for state fiscal year (SFY) 2020 and awarded an additional \$750,000 through a fifth competitive RFP to twelve applicants for SFY 2021 at its June 2020 meeting. In each case, the grants support regional and local projects that increase awareness of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD), increase the rate of cognitive testing, promote the benefits of early diagnosis and connect family, friends and neighbors caregiving for persons with ADRD to education and resources.

Since the inception of the MBA Dementia grants, 53,313 persons were provided general awareness education and training including community members, healthcare professionals, emergency personnel and business owners and their employees; 4,842 family, friends, and neighbors caregiving were supported; and 5,140 persons suspected or diagnosed with Alzheimer's or other dementias were provided services, supports, and resources.

A. SFY 2020 Grantees

The SFY 2020 grantees represent four out of seven of the state's planning and service areas and received grants ranging from \$25,594 to \$151,100. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic grantees were provided contract extensions through March 31, 2021, for this reason the following service numbers may not be current. As of October 15, 2020 the SFY 2020 grantees have successfully administered general awareness education and training to 8,618 persons, arranged services and resources for 1,044 family, friends and neighbors caregiving and 1,179 persons suspected or diagnosed with ADRD and administered 512 memory screenings.

B. SFY 2021 Grantees

The SFY 2021 grantees are located in four out of the seven state planning and service areas with grants ranging from \$19,635 to \$114,348. The grant period is from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021.

As of September 30, 2020, grantees have provided general awareness education and training to 1,023 persons including community members, healthcare professionals, emergency personnel and business owners and their employees, and provided services and resources to 215 family, friends, and neighbors who are caregiving, as well as 285 persons suspected or diagnosed with ADRD

II. Legislation

Minnesota Statutes section 256.975 MINNESOTA BOARD ON AGING.

Subd. 11. Regional and local dementia grants.

(a) The Minnesota Board on Aging shall award competitive grants to eligible applicants for regional and local projects and initiatives targeted to a designated community, which may consist of a specific geographic area or population, to increase awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, increase the rate of cognitive testing in the population at risk for dementias, promote the benefits of early diagnosis of dementias, or connect individuals caregiving for persons with dementia to education and resources.

(b) The project areas for grants include:

(1) local or community-based initiatives to promote the benefits of physician consultations for all individuals who suspect a memory or cognitive problem;

(2) local or community-based initiatives to promote the benefits of early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias; and

(3) local or community-based initiatives to provide informational materials and other resources to individuals caregiving for persons with dementia.

(c) Eligible applicants for local and regional grants may include, but are not limited to, community health boards, school districts, colleges and universities, community clinics, tribal communities, nonprofit organizations, and other health care organizations.

(d) Applicants must:

(1) describe the proposed initiative, including the targeted community and how the initiative meets the requirements of this subdivision; and

(2) identify the proposed outcomes of the initiative and the evaluation process to be used to measure these outcomes.

(e) In awarding the regional and local dementia grants, the Minnesota Board on Aging must give priority to applicants who demonstrate that the proposed project:

(1) is supported by and appropriately targeted to the community the applicant serves;

(2) is designed to coordinate with other community activities related to other health initiatives, particularly those initiatives targeted at the elderly;

(3) is conducted by an applicant able to demonstrate expertise in the project areas;

(4) utilizes and enhances existing activities and resources or involves innovative approaches to achieve success in the project areas; and

(5) strengthens community relationships and partnerships to achieve the project areas.

(f) The board shall divide the state into specific geographic regions and allocate a percentage of the money available for the local and regional dementia grants to projects or initiatives aimed at each geographic region.

(g) The board shall award any available grants by January 1, 2016, and each July 1 thereafter.

(h) Each grant recipient shall report to the board on the progress of the initiative at least once during the grant period, and within two months of the end of the grant period shall submit a final report to the board that includes the outcome results.

(i) The Minnesota Board on Aging shall:

(1) develop the criteria and procedures to allocate the grants under this subdivision, evaluate all applicants on a competitive basis and award the grants, and select qualified providers to offer technical assistance to grant applicants and grantees. The selected provider shall provide applicants and grantees assistance with project design, evaluation methods, materials, and training; and

(2) submit by January 15, 2017, and on each January 15 thereafter, a progress report on the dementia grants programs under this subdivision to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and house of representatives committees and divisions with jurisdiction over health finance and policy. The report shall include:

(i) information on each grant recipient;

(ii) a summary of all projects or initiatives undertaken with each grant;

(iii) the measurable outcomes established by each grantee, an explanation of the evaluation process used to determine whether the outcomes were met, and the results of the evaluation; and

(iv) an accounting of how the grant funds were spent.

III. Introduction

In 2015 the Minnesota Legislature amended Minnesota Statutes section 256.975 to create a competitive grants program administered by the Minnesota Board on Aging (MBA) that focuses on Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD) and its impacts on persons with dementia, family, friends and neighbors caregiving for persons with dementia, and communities. The Legislature has appropriated \$1.5 million in each biennium for this grant program.

The MBA sought proposals from qualified responders for regional and local projects to increase awareness of Alzheimer’s disease, increase the rate of cognitive testing, promote the benefits of early diagnosis, or connect family and friends caregiving for persons with dementia to education and resources. During SFY 2020 and SFY 2021 the MBA awarded \$750,000 each year in grants.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has created many obstacles for the SFY 2020 and SFY 2021 grantees, as well as the people they serve. In order to counteract some of these obstacles, the Minnesota Board on Aging has allowed for great flexibility during this time. Each grantee has pivoted and responded accordingly to their community needs.

A. SFY 2020 Grantees

The RFP was open from August 5, 2019 to August 30, 2019. Eleven successful applications were approved by the Minnesota Board on Aging at its October meeting. Applicants for amounts in excess of \$50,000 were required to furnish 50% match of grant funds requested. Applicants for less than \$50,000 did not need to provide a match.

The projects began November 16, 2019 and are extended through March 31, 2021. This is a review of the progress of the SFY 2020 grantees. Section IV. Description of Grantees includes key evaluation outcomes of the grantees providing ADRD services.

B. SFY 2021 Grantees

The RFP was open from February 3, 2020 to April 17, 2020. Twelve successful applications were approved by the MBA at its June meeting. Applicants for amounts in excess of \$50,000 were required to furnish 50% match of grant funds requested. Applicants for less than \$50,000 did not need to provide a match.

The grant period began on July 1, 2020, with an end date of June 30, 2021. Initial progress of the SFY2021 grantees providing ADRD services is included below in Section IV. Description of Grantees from their first quarter narrative reports.

IV. Description of Grantees

A. SFY 2020 Grantees

The 2020 grantees include nine community organizations, one community health board, and one regional planning agency.

All eleven grantees are focused on raising awareness of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia in their communities, as well as connecting family, friends and neighbors caregiving. Six grantees included promotion of early identification, and three are working to increase cognitive testing of individuals.

Three 2019 grantees were selected again through the 2020 RFP. Granite Falls Living at Home Block Nurse Program, Northwoods Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Program dba Northwoods Caregivers, and Volunteers of America Minnesota all submitted new proposals expanding on work they had begun earlier. Their applications were evaluated and scored in competition with all the other 2020 RFP applications.

All eleven grantees offered services to family, friends and neighbors caregiving for persons with ADRD in order to connect them with services, education and resources.

Six grantees promoted the benefits of education and early diagnosis of dementia to specific cultural, ethnic, and minority populations, including African-American, American Indian, Korean, Lao, Hmong, and/or LGBT populations.

Two organizations focused efforts on providing arts activities, including a chorus that integrates both the person with dementia and their caregiver; the "Remember Project," a series of Alzheimer's/dementia-specific educational plays; and a screening of "His Neighbor Phil" with a community discussion.

Awards were distributed to rural and urban locations. Grant awards ranged from \$25,594 - \$151,100. Grantees are listed below by their state planning and service area with a brief description that includes the award amount and project goals.

Central Planning and Service Area

Central includes Benton, Cass, Chisago, Crow Wing, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd, Wadena and Wright counties.

Isanti County Community Health Board, Isanti County, \$50,098.

- Project Goal: to expand upon prior success in serving those at risk for and those living with ADRD, their caregivers, and their medical providers with a special focus on rural areas of Isanti County.
 - Increase awareness of ADRD

- 17 community members
 - Connect family, friends and neighbors who are caregiving, and
 - 20 caregivers and 5 persons with dementia
- COVID-19 Highlight: Isanti County Community Health Board has created and provided “Blessing Baskets” to families that were attending Memory Cafés, there are plans to create a “take me out to the ball game” Blessing Basket.

Northwest Planning and Service Area

Northwest includes Becker, Beltrami, Clay, Clearwater, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Marshall, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Roseau, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin counties.

Barnesville Area HELPERS, Barnesville, \$26,504

- Project Goal: to increase awareness of dementia by providing dementia friendly information sessions to business employees, students, clergy, and first responders; and achieve the “Dementia Friendly” designation.
 - Increase awareness of ADRD
 - 473 community members, including 353 healthcare professionals
 - Connect family, friends and neighbors who are caregiving
 - 124 caregivers
- COVID-19 Highlight: Barnesville Area HELPERS has obtained a small technology grant to purchase technology for outreach use and has consulted with Cyber Seniors for Dementia Friendly Virtual presentations

Greater Northwest EMS, Bemidji, \$32,161

- Project Goal: in collaboration with West Central EMS, provide ADRD awareness training to Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers across a 21-county area through use of the virtual dementia tour.
 - Increase awareness of ADRD
 - 37 emergency personnel

Northwoods Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Program (dba, Northwoods Caregivers) Bemidji, \$114,562

- Project Goal: to increase awareness of ADRD and promote early identification through educational workshops, including the virtual dementia tour, and connect caregivers through dementia caregiver coaching and support.
 - Increase awareness of ADRD
 - 3,012 community members, including 1,205 Native Americans from three tribal nations.
 - Promote early identification
 - 10 screenings
 - Connect family, friends and neighbors who are caregiving

- 196 caregivers and 194 persons with dementia
- COVID-19 Highlight: Northwoods Caregivers, through an additional grant, has purchased tablets to lend to caregivers and are helping many older adults and caregivers navigate technology. Currently, Northwoods Caregivers is conducting a virtual Powerful Tools for Caregivers series.

Metropolitan Planning and Service Area

Includes Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington counties.

FamilyMeans, Stillwater, \$84,206

- Project Goal: to offer community-based support and service options from the earliest stages of cognitive decline and throughout the disease process, with focuses on families experiencing dementia and fostering a dementia-friendly community.
 - Increase awareness of ADRD
 - 683 community members, including 238 health care providers
 - Promote early identification
 - 10 screenings
 - Connect family, friends and neighbors who are caregiving
 - 41 caregivers and 22 persons with dementia
- COVID-19 Highlight: FamilyMeans has delivered Memory Minder kits, doorstep respite baskets and electronic cats to individuals with dementia and their caregivers. This strategy has given program participants and staff the face-to-face connection they need, while adhering to public health guidelines.

Korean Service Center, Lauderdale, \$50,755

- Project Goal: to provide education to Home Health Aides on how to recognize dementia in clients and effectively care for patients with mild cognitive impairment or ADRD and connect Korean caregivers through the Korean language-based smartphone application "KakaoTalk."
 - Increase awareness of ADRD
 - 108 community members
 - Promote early identification
 - 4 screenings
 - Connect family, friends and neighbors who are caregiving
 - 87 caregivers and 3 persons with dementia

Lao Advancement Organization of America, Minneapolis, \$47,437

- Project Goal: to increase the knowledge and ability of Lao community members to recognize dementia and access resources; and, for caregivers to maintain their own health and wellbeing while caring for a person living with dementia.
 - Increase awareness of ADRD
 - 157 community members
 - Connect family, friends and neighbors who are caregiving

- 78 caregivers and 5 persons with dementia

Volunteers of America Minnesota, Minneapolis, \$151,100

- Project Goal: to enhance and expand services that identify, educate, support, and coordinate services for diverse populations facing the challenges of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD) and for those that care for them, with a focus on African-American, East African and Hmong immigrants and refugees.
 - Increase awareness of ADRD
 - 1414 community members
 - Promote early identification
 - 439 screenings
 - Connect family, friends and neighbors who are caregiving
 - 254 caregivers and 709 persons with dementia
- COVID-19 Highlight: Volunteers of America Minnesota began to assist and train participants to access the internet, create emails, and provide affordable Wi-Fi services and how to access video chat platforms. Currently, all memory screens, support groups and dementia education are provided virtually.

Southwest Planning and Service Area

Includes Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Faribault, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Sibley, Swift, Waseca, Watonwan and Yellow Medicine counties.

A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota, Slayton, \$72,900

- Project Goal: to enable care partners and their care receivers to plan for all stages for ADRD by increasing the public’s awareness of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementia’s, promoting the benefits of early identification, and connecting family, friends and neighbors who are caregiving to services, education, and resources.
 - Increase awareness of ADRD
 - 2,249 community members, including 2,130 general community members who participated in a Virtual Walk for Memories
 - Promote early identification
 - 6 screenings
 - Connect family, friends and neighbors who are caregiving
 - 53 caregivers and 49 persons with dementia
- COVID-19 Highlight: One Dementia Awareness Network created 20 themed Reminiscence/Memory kits that are available for checkout at the local library. Reminiscence/Memory kits include 3-4 books, tactile items and an activity sheet.

Granite Falls Living At Home Block Nurse, Granite Falls, \$25,594

- Project Goal: to reduce stigma associated with ADRD by informing family, friends and neighbors caregiving of available resources, providing direct caregiver support and group support sessions, and promoting of early memory testing for Alzheimer's disease.
 - Increase awareness of ADRD
 - 203 community members
 - Promote early identification
 - 43 screenings
 - Connect family, friends and neighbors who are caregiving
 - 89 caregivers and 116 persons with dementia

VINE Faith in Action, Mankato, \$76,270

- Project Goal: to implement The Mind Aerobics suite of cognitive training programs for persons with memory concerns and provide an educational support component for family, friends and neighbors caregiving.
 - Increase awareness of ADRD
 - 265 community members
 - Connect family, friends and neighbors who are caregiving
 - 102 caregivers and 76 persons with dementia

B. SFY 2021 Grantees

The SFY 2021 grantees include ten community organizations, one county public health organization, and one city.

All twelve grantees are focused on increasing awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in their communities. Nine grantees are connecting family, friends and neighbors caregiving, five of these are including promotion of early identification and one is working to increase cognitive testing of individuals.

Three SFY 2020 grantees were selected again through the SFY 2021 RFP. FamilyMeans, Northwoods Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Program dba Northwoods Caregivers, and Volunteers of America Minnesota all submitted new proposals expanding on previous work. Their applications were evaluated and scored in competition with all other SFY 2021 applications.

Four grantees are promoting the benefits of education and early diagnosis of dementia to specific cultural, ethnic, and minority populations, including African-American, East African, Native American, Hmong, Karen and/or LGBTQ+ populations.

Two organizations focused efforts on providing arts activities, including a chorus that integrates both the person with dementia and their caregiver and the "Remember Project," a series of Alzheimer's/dementia-specific educational plays.

Awards were distributed to rural and urban locations. Grant awards ranged from \$19,635 - \$114,348. Grantees are listed below by their state planning and service area with a brief description that includes the award amount and project goals.

Northeast Planning and Service Area

Northeast includes Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis counties.

First Community Health Organization/The Victory Fund, Duluth, \$75,000

- Project Goal: to provide increased enrichment and social activities for people with ADRD and their care partners including extensive community education and awareness through Victory Chorus participation and recruitment.

Koochiching Aging Options, International Falls, \$33,837

- Project Goal: to increase participation in and promote the social and educational benefits of the Memory Café, expand one-on-one assistance of a dementia support specialist, assemble and distribute memory kits, educate business and schools about dementia through Dementia Friends learning sessions.

Central Planning and Service Area

Central includes Benton, Cass, Chisago, Crow Wing, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd, Wadena and Wright counties.

Wadena County Public Health, Wadena, \$49,257

- Project Goal: to increase awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and promote screening and early identification through the implementation of a community dementia awareness education plan with professionals and local community members.

Northwest Planning and Service Area

Northwest includes Becker, Beltrami, Clay, Clearwater, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomon, Marshall, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Roseau, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin counties.

Living at Home of the Park Rapids Area, Park Rapids, \$49,569

- Project Goal: to support and care for those who are struggling with memory loss and support caregivers through Dementia Friends Sessions, Virtual Dementia Tours, a three-day workshop with Teepa Snow's "Positive Approach to Care" program; and six performances of The Remember Project Dementia Awareness Tour.

Northwoods Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Program, dba, Northwoods Caregivers, Bemidji, \$114,348

- Project Goal: to offer dementia outreach, education and caregiver support to previously underserved and high risk communities and strengthen existing partnerships to expand to serve Clearwater and Lake of the Woods counties, with a focus on Native American and LGBTQ+ communities.

Metropolitan Planning and Service Area

Includes Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington counties.

City of Richfield, Richfield, \$91,740

- Project Goal: to increase awareness of Alzheimer's disease through information and education and training on Alzheimer's and dementia for care partners and, as a special focus, target the growing Latinx community to ensure culturally appropriate information and resources are available.

DARTS, West St. Paul, \$44,550

- Project Goal: to increase dementia awareness through community presentations and webinars, to promote early identification through memory screenings using video conferencing technology and to support caregivers and persons with dementia by increasing the availability of Memory Café meetings, Virtual Dementia Tours and educational webinars.

FamilyMeans, Stillwater, \$77,086

- Project Goal: to create a broad, integrated, accessible continuum of support for families experiencing dementia, enhance services to include web-based options, and prioritize awareness and early identification.

Giving Voice Initiative, Bloomington, \$49,864

- Project Goal: to increase Alzheimer's disease awareness through public concerts showcasing singers with ADRD and their caregivers and intentional engagement with community organizations representing racial/ethnic minorities, specifically the Latinx and African-American communities.

JustUs Health, St. Paul, \$47,320

- Project Goal: to promote dementia information and prevention, decrease fear and stigma around dementia and increase community efforts to respond to ADRD, in the LGBTQ+ and HIV-positive communities throughout the state of Minnesota.

Senior Community Services, Minnetonka, \$19,635

- Project Goal: to increase awareness of ADRD by offering Dementia Friends sessions to volunteers and other community members, connect family, friends and neighbors who are caregiving by offering Memory Cafés and accompanying caregiver support groups and provide education through individual caregiver consultation and group presentations.

Volunteers of America Minnesota, Minneapolis, \$89,575

- Project Goal: to enhance and expand services that identify, educate and support diverse populations facing the challenges of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia (ARD) and those that care for them and to advocate for low-wealth clients and communities of color, targeting African American, East African, Hmong and Karen community members.