



## ALLIANCE TO IMPROVE DEMENTIA CARE

Convened by the Milken Institute

Dementia care is complex and costly. [Research by the Milken Institute](#) finds that the direct costs of treating dementia will exceed \$1 trillion within the next 30 years unless we find new treatments and change the way dementia care is delivered. Too often, people living with dementia and their caregivers must navigate complicated health and long-term care services and support systems alone. We seek to build a dementia-capable workforce and system to effectively identify people living with dementia, tailor services to meet their needs and those of their caregivers, and ensure they get the right care at the right time.

Our current system does not provide optimal care to older adults with dementia or enough support to caregivers. Even though the number of people living with dementia is projected to double by 2040, there is a growing shortage of health and long-term care providers with specialized training in geriatrics and dementia care. To build capacity, we must expand the pool of qualified health professionals engaged in detecting, diagnosing, treating, and managing the disease. Once disease-modifying therapies become available, we want to ensure that people at risk for or living with dementia can access the most effective and personalized treatments and care.

### Improving Dementia Care

#### Improve Outcomes

**Fewer than half of Medicare beneficiaries who have a diagnosis of Alzheimer's or another dementia in their Medicare billing records report being told of the diagnosis.**

A dementia-capable workforce can improve outcomes by identifying high-risk individuals, facilitating early diagnosis, and supporting personalized treatments and supports.

Source: Alzheimer's Association (2020)

#### Reduce Costs

**The costs of dementia will reach nearly \$380 billion within the next 20 years** unless there are new treatments and changes to the way dementia care is delivered.

Innovative payment and delivery models can lead to high-quality services in less costly settings of care.

Source: Milken Institute (2019)

#### Support Caregivers

Family caregivers provide roughly **18 billion hours of care annually, valued at \$244 billion.** They provide care often at the expense of their own health and financial security.

New policies can provide caregivers with resources, training, and support to care for people living with dementia.

Source: Alzheimer's Association (2020)

#### Narrow Disparities

**African Americans are two times more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease than non-Hispanic whites,** while Latinos are 1.5 times more likely.

Promoting brain health and raising awareness of risk factors across diverse populations and improving the cultural competency of the dementia workforce can help achieve better health equity.

Source: Alzheimer's Association (2020)

## Alliance Overview

The Milken Institute Center for the Future of Aging has launched the Alliance to Improve Dementia Care in July 2020 to engage public, private, and nonprofit sector decision makers, advance dementia-care and payment models, and build a dementia-capable system and workforce. To accomplish these goals, we:

### Convene diverse organizations

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Partner with leaders from health systems, industry, research, advocacy, community-based organizations, philanthropy, and government.

Engage policymakers and connect with leading stakeholders to advance recommendations to improve brain health and dementia care.

### Collaborate with federal agencies

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Integrate public-, nonprofit, and private-sector efforts to advance scalable solutions.

Work with federal advisory boards, government leaders, and decision makers to overcome long-standing care and financing barriers.

### Identify gaps in care

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Spotlight gaps in information resources, care delivery, and support services.

Mobilize industry leaders to create solutions to optimize the workforce, build system capacity, and integrate services and support.

### Propose policy and systems solutions

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Advance payment and care delivery models to align care preferences and incentives.

Develop and promote policies that build a dementia-capable workforce and system across the care continuum.