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**ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION REPORT FINDS STATE MEDICAID COSTS FOR  
PEOPLE LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE WILL INCREASE  
SIGNIFICANTLY IN ALL STATES INCLUDING IN IOWA OVER THE NEXT 10  
YEARS**

***In Iowa, approximately 14% of all Medicaid spending is on people with Alzheimer's and other  
dementia***

**[IOWA] November 4, 2015** – The Alzheimer's Association's new report, *The Impact of Alzheimer's Disease on Medicaid Costs: A Growing Burden for States*, released today, found that between 2015 and 2025, Medicaid costs for people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias will increase in every state in the U.S. and the District of Columbia. In fact, by 2025, 35 states will see increases in Alzheimer's Medicaid costs of at least 40 percent from 2015, including 22 states that will see increases of at least 50 percent.

In Iowa, Medicaid spending on people with Alzheimer's and other dementias will increase 33.4% by 2025. This year, spending will total \$576 million, increasing to \$768 million in 2025. Approximately 14% of the 2015 Medicaid budget in Iowa is spent on people with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

Seniors with Alzheimer's and other dementias rely on Medicaid, which is funded by state and federal governments, at a rate nearly three times greater than other seniors due to the long duration of the disease, the intense personal care needs and the high cost of long-term care services. According to the Alzheimer's Association's *Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* report, by the age of 80, 75 percent of people with Alzheimer's and other dementias will be admitted to a nursing home, compared with just four percent of the general population.

With the quickly rising Medicaid costs for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias, Iowa needs a comprehensive review of state preparedness to meet the immediate and future care needs of people affected by this devastating disease. With the quickly rising Medicaid costs for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias, Iowa needs to implement the state Alzheimer's disease plan recommendation to ensure that training in dementia care is provided to all individuals employed in the delivery of care from home and community based services and in residential care settings.

Alzheimer's is a triple threat, with soaring prevalence, lack of treatment and enormous costs that no one can afford. Barring the development of medical breakthroughs to prevent, stop or slow Alzheimer's disease, state governments must anticipate the demands of long-term care on their Medicaid budgets.

“Alzheimer’s is not a disease that the states can afford to ignore. Nor can the federal government,” says Carol Sipfle, executive director for the Alzheimer’s Association Greater Iowa Chapter. “Under the Alzheimer’s Accountability Act passed in December 2014, Congress has required the NIH to submit a professional judgment budget to Congress every fiscal year until 2025 to help guide them in allocating funding for Alzheimer’s research. With the goal to prevent or slow the progression of Alzheimer’s by 2025, it’s imperative that the federal government fund it.”

Noah Jensen Tabor, public policy director for the Alzheimer’s Association adds, “With these new Medicaid numbers being released we can see the affects Alzheimer’s and other dementia is having and will continue to have here in Iowa. The Alzheimer's Association urges Iowa policymakers to ensure that training in dementia care is provided to all individuals employed in the delivery of care from home and community based services and in residential care settings. The Association also stresses the need to raise public awareness of the warning signs of Alzheimer’s disease and encourage early diagnosis.”

To read the full report findings, visit [alz.org/trajectory](http://alz.org/trajectory).

### **Alzheimer’s Association**

The Alzheimer’s Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer’s disease through the advancement of research, to provide and enhance care and support for all affected, and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer’s. Visit [alz.org/greateriowa](http://alz.org/greateriowa) or call 800.272.3900.

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