

FACTSHEET

MARCH 2023

alzimpact.org

NAPA Reauthorization Act & Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act

What is the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease*?

- The National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) (P.L. 111-375), unanimously approved by Congress in 2010 and signed into law in 2011, required the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to create a national strategic plan to address the Alzheimer's crisis and to update it annually. The first *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease* was released in 2012.
- In 2021, a new national goal on dementia risk reduction was added to the National Plan, the first new goal since 2012. The National Plan now has six overarching goals:
 - Prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's disease by 2025
 - Enhance care quality and efficiency
 - Expand supports for people with Alzheimer's disease and their families
 - Enhance public awareness and engagement
 - Improve data to track progress
 - Accelerate action to promote healthy aging and reduce risk factors for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

Alzheimer's Research Milestones

To reach the treatment goal, the National Institutes of Health has established 171 research milestones, including on drug development, biomarkers, and clinical trial recruitment.

What does the Plan include to advance Alzheimer's research?

- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has held annual dementia research summits since 2012 to help identify research priorities. The most recent summit, which focused on care and support research, was held in March 2023.
- Between reprogramming of funds by the Administration and additional funds provided by Congress, NIH research funding for Alzheimer's disease has increased 650% in a decade.
- The Plan calls for coordinating research efforts with international public and private entities. The G8 nations held a dementia summit in 2013 and the World Health Organization approved a global action plan on dementia in 2017.

How does the Plan improve care and support for those living with the disease?

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services approved a billing code — CPT® code 99483 — to reimburse clinicians who provide comprehensive assessment and care planning to those with a cognitive impairment.
- The Health Resources and Services Administration developed a uniform curriculum on Alzheimer's to ensure the workforce has the necessary skills to provide high-quality dementia care.
- Recent updates to the Plan include action items on better understanding health disparities and expanding access to care planning tools.

What is the Alzheimer's Bypass Budget?

- The bipartisan Alzheimer's Accountability Act (P.L. 113-235) became law as part of the fiscal year 2015 omnibus appropriations bill.
- The law requires the scientists at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to submit an annual Alzheimer's research budget proposal directly to Congress, thus bypassing the usual bureaucratic budget procedures.
- This professional judgment budget — also known as the Alzheimer's Bypass Budget — specifies the resources that scientists need to reach the National Alzheimer's Plan goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer's disease by 2025.
- The NIH released the most recent Alzheimer's Bypass Budget in July 2022.

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

The National Alzheimer's Project Act (Public Law 111-375) created an *Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services* to assist in the development and evaluation of the National Plan. The Council is comprised of representatives of 11 federal agencies and 12 individuals from outside the federal government. The Council is currently chaired by Dr. Cynthia Carlsson of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine. The law requires the Advisory Council to make recommendations on clinical care, long term care and supports, research, and risk reduction annually to Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services. The most recent recommendations were unanimously adopted by the non-federal members of the Advisory Council in July 2022.

What is the NAPA Reauthorization Act (S. 133 / H.R. 619)?

- NAPA is set to expire in 2025. The NAPA Reauthorization Act will continue the work of the National Plan through 2035.
- In addition, the legislation:
 - Adds new federal representatives to the NAPA Advisory Council from the Department of Justice, the Social Security Administration, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
 - Requires that the National Plan include recommendations on reducing disparities among underrepresented populations;
 - Ensures that NAPA includes efforts to promote healthy aging and risk reduction, consistent with the new goal.

What is the Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act (S. 134 / H.R. 620)?

- In 2023, caring for people with Alzheimer's cost Medicare and Medicaid an estimated \$222 billion. This represents 1 in every 7 dollars Medicare spends. And these costs are only projected to increase — to \$644 billion in 2050, when nearly 1 in every 3 Medicare dollars will be spent on someone with Alzheimer's.
- Given this enormous financial burden on government budgets, a commitment to Alzheimer's research today will yield savings tomorrow.
- The Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act would maintain the Alzheimer's Bypass Budget process. This will ensure that Congress continues to hear how much funding is needed to fully pursue scientific opportunities to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's.