

COMMUNITY PLANNING & LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Dementia Friendly Communities—ACT on Alzheimer's

Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging

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ACT on Alzheimer's is a statewide, transformative initiative preparing Minnesota for the personal, social and budgetary impacts of Alzheimer's disease. Minnesota's Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association of Minnesota/North Dakota, provide technical assistance to communities in their regions, helping form local action teams and assisting in the use of the ACT Dementia Capable Communities Toolkit to identify and address priority community goals.

The toolkit, which was developed through a contract with Stratis Health, gives communities a process and the tools needed to become dementia-capable by: (1) convening key community leaders and members to form Action Teams, (2) assessing current strengths and gaps within the community, (3) analyzing community needs and developing an action plan, and (4) ACTing together to pursue priority goals that foster community readiness for dementia.

Budget:

The ACT Dementia Capable Communities Toolkit, related website portal and community grant program, including administration expenses and resources for partner organizations, cost \$1,075,500 over a four-year period.

Accomplishments:

Currently 34 communities are engaged in ACT on Alzheimer's. Most receive technical assistance from their respective AAA and the Alzheimer's Association. Examples of community-specific accomplishments include St. Paul Neighborhoods' training of 87 dementia champions to lead Dementia Friends sessions attended by more than 650 people, and Rural Cambridge's efforts to offer dementia education for physicians and care coordinators at the local medical center and through guest editorials in the local paper.

Replicability:

Minnesota's AAAs are poised to assist other AAAs using the ACT on Alzheimer's Community Toolkit (www.actonalz.org/toolkit) to help communities create a supportive environment for people with dementia.

