



# RHODE ISLAND LEADS THE WAY IN AGE-FRIENDLY DEMENTIA CARE: A NATIONAL MODEL THROUGH BOLD

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- **ECHO® Learning Series:** A six-session virtual program trained interdisciplinary teams on dementia care and caregiver support, fostering an “all-teach, all-learn” culture.
- **Quality Improvement Initiative:** Five primary care sites implemented workflows to identify dementia caregivers, integrate education and referrals, and strengthen clinical-community linkages.
- **Measurable Outcomes:**
  - 170 dementia caregivers identified and documented in EMRs.
  - 12 direct referrals to Alzheimer's Association programs.
  - All participating sites achieved Level One Age-Friendly Health System recognition.
- **Sustainability & Expansion:** Building on success, Rhode Island launched new ECHO® series and expanded quality improvement cycles to additional sites in 2024.

The Gerontologist recently highlighted Rhode Island's innovative approach to dementia care under the Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure (BOLD) Program, positioning the state as a national exemplar in public health strategies for Alzheimer's and related disorders. Through a strategic partnership between the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), the Care Transformation Collaborative of Rhode Island (CTC-RI), and the Rhode Island Geriatric Education Center (RIGEC), the state launched a groundbreaking initiative to transform primary care into Age-Friendly Health Systems using the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's 4Ms framework: What Matters, Mentation, Medication, and Mobility.

### Why This Matters Nationally

Rhode Island's model demonstrates how public health, primary care, and community organizations can collaborate to deliver dementia-friendly, age-friendly care at scale. Through the national, HRSA-funded Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP), the state is leveraging federal resources to strengthen geriatric care and support for older adults and their families—particularly those affected by dementia.

By aligning with the BOLD Program and the Healthy Brain Initiative Road Map, and with additional support from UnitedHealthcare (UHC), this initiative exemplifies how Rhode Island is aligning and leveraging multiple funding streams and partnerships to achieve a shared goal: advancing age-friendly, person-centered care and positioning the state as a blueprint for others nationwide.

*Learn more about how Rhode Island is shaping the future of dementia care and inspiring national transformation.*

<https://academic.oup.com/gerontologist/advance-article/doi/10.1093/geront/gnaf226/8270656>