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Dementia Friendly America Initiative Looks to Leverage Community Resources

Individuals, families and communities across the U.S. are feeling the impact of dementia.

According to [Dementia Friendly America](#), more than five million Americans – one in eight people age 65 and older and one in three age 85 and older – is living with dementia and they are supported by 15.5 million family members and friends.

This holiday season the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) is focusing on dementia and the local resources available in communities around the country to assist individuals with dementia and their caregivers.

Dementia Friendly America supports the development of dementia-friendly communities through increased community and system capacity and enhanced quality of life for people with dementia and their care partners. In Illinois, Dementia Friendly America Illinois and the [Illinois Cognitive Resource Network](#) want to make the state a leader in the development and implementation of effective community-based models providing access to research, education, training and support services to promote cognitive health and quality of life, according to Raj C. Shah, MD, of Rush University Medical Center's Alzheimer's Disease Center.

AgeOptions and our partner agencies provide resources, programs and services for people with dementia and their caregivers and help connect them with the resources they need. Our [Caregiver Support](#) programs offer a variety of resources to assist caregivers in caring for both their loved one and themselves. These include in-home and outside respite care, support groups, counseling, education and more. Caregivers of people under age 60 with dementia or related disorders are also eligible for caregiver services.

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Caring Together, Living Better is a partnership of faith-based and community organizations dedicated to supporting the approximately one in four west suburban families that are caring for an older adult.

AgeOptions Information and Assistance specialists provide information about resources and help connect individuals and caregivers with services and benefits. Please call (708)383-0258.