



## Alzheimer's Advocacy Day

FEBRUARY 5, 2018

*Utah's State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias* was unanimously adopted by the Utah State Legislature in 2012. In 2015, the Utah State Legislature passed a bill which assigned the *State Plan* to the Utah Department of Health and made the UDOH primarily responsible for implementing the plan by coordinating with other state agencies and community partners. This bill also appropriated funds to the UDOH to begin implementation.

In 2015, the UDOH hired Lynn Meinor as the **Alzheimer's State Plan Specialist** and she organized an **Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Coordinating Council**. The council is comprised of over 100 representatives from public and private entities with a vested interest in seeing the plan implemented. In 2017, the council identified specific priorities to submit to the state legislature for funding consideration.

The Alzheimer's Association is taking the lead in asking the Utah State Legislature for an appropriation of \$1,959,500 to be used by the Division of Aging and Adult Services and UDOH to fund these designated priorities within Utah's State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias.

This appropriation will be used to increase funding within the state for these existing programs, which help seniors both with and without Alzheimer's disease:

- In-home Services for Seniors & Medicare/Medicaid Individuals
- Caregiver Support & Trainings
- Expand Ombudsman Services
- Healthcare Provider Education
- Dementia Research

Funding these programs is essential to establish two foundations of support for our ever-increasing number of aging adults. Utah will see a 100% increase in the number of adults 65 and older over the next 20 years (2017: 335,812- 2018: 671,534)\*

\*Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute 2015-2065 State and County Projections

alzheimer's  association®

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