



Increase the Dementia Respite Grant

The Dementia Respite Grant provides flexible funds to help family care partners keep their loved ones with dementia at home.

March 28, 2024

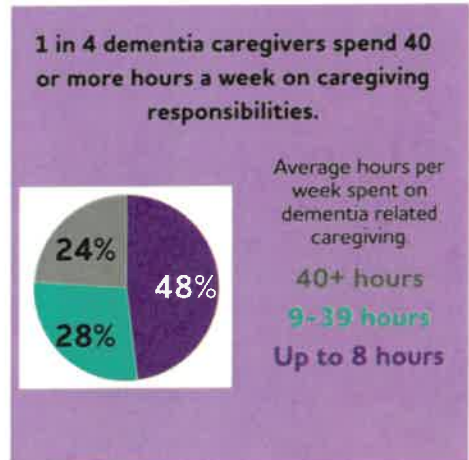
Dear Chair Kitchel and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee,

Alzheimer's disease is a brain disorder that slowly destroys memory, thinking skills and the ability to carry out the simplest tasks. In 2022, Vermonters spent more than 28 million hours caring for a loved one with dementia. The burden on dementia caregivers is significant:

- Almost 10% leave the workforce to provide care;
- 19% are forced to reduce their work hours; and
- The vast majority experience negative health outcomes .

In addition, the total lifetime cost of care for someone with dementia is estimated at almost \$400,000 with 70% of these costs borne by family caregivers in the forms of unpaid care and out-of-pocket expenses.

The Dementia Respite Grant has been level funded at \$250,000 since 2003. These small grants, allocated via the Area Agencies on Aging, are essential for family care partners and help ensure that they can remain in the workforce and manage their own health and family needs. By doubling the allocation, up to 100 additional caregivers could access much needed resources to care for their loved one at home. This reduces stress on our long-term systems of care and ensures those living with dementia remain in their community where they have the greatest familiarity, connections and support.





ALZHEIMER'S ADVOCACY DAY



This budget increase is supported by The Governor's Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders, The Health Care Advocate of Vermont Legal Aid, the UVMCC Dementia Family Caregiver Center, the Vermont Association of Adult Day Services, the Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging, the Vermont Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, and the Vermont Ombudsman Project.

We ask you to increase Dementia Respite Grant allocation to \$500,000 in the FY25 budget.

Respectfully,

Kirk Rankin
Kirk Rankin, Burlington, VT. My grandmother lived with dementia

Jazmin Averback, Essex Jct, VT Carepartners need respite to continue to be fully available to those with dementia.

Morra Edden SpFA VT Sister - early onset that thru Senior Solutions

Michael J. Brown II Springfield, VT

Pamela Smith & Paul Smith Middlebury VT I have younger-onset dementia and am the caregiver for my mother who has more progressed dementia. We need help to pay for direct care + support

Rachel Wiley - Rachel Wiley, S. Burlington, VT; my grandmother and great aunts passed away w/ dementia and now I work as a dementia occupational therapist to support this population.

ALZHEIMER'S ADVOCACY DAY

Jennie Craig &
Betsey Branchi

Killington

Jennie is living with Alzheimers and Betsey is her care partner (and daughter) who has used the respite grant for caregiver training. Training is SO important! Please increase the grant to help more unpaid caregivers receive the help they need!

Amy S. Joseph

Milton

My mother, Norma, passed from ALZ in 2019. Please increase the dementia respite grant to aid caregivers in getting the help they need!

Cherio Sorrell - see next folder!
So. Burlington
St. Johnsbury

Darryll Rudygo →
St. Johnsbury

Diagnosed with
Alzheimers & Cerebral
Ataxia

Darryll's care partner

 Barbara Edelman
St. Johnsbury

Madeline
Colton.

Burlington, VT

I am a UVM student who has had 2 grand parents pass from Alzheimers.

My mother was a caregiver. My family would have benefited from greater resources.

ALZHEIMER'S ADVOCACY DAY

~~Atara~~ Rebecca Harder

I am a UVM student and intern at the Alzheimer's Association who has lost two grandparents to dementia and I co-facilitate a Younger Onset support group and their voices need to be heard.

Joann Erenhouse Joann Erenhouse, Chester, VT 05143

Senior Solutions Volunteer Manager and facilitating 3 memory cafes for our organization and (will be) opening more. Mentoring local libraries who are interested in hosting memory cafes. The need is so great. We need these in all communities!

Joan Marsh-Beed Joan Marsh-Beed, Ferrisburgh, VT 05491
Hoping for a cure soon!

Lori P. McKenne Lori P. McKenne
Hinesburg VT.

I work on behalf of dementia family caregivers

Makin Lewis

Valerie Lewis
Montpelier VT.

I am a caregiver. We need help.

Yvonne Henry

Alicia E. Fleming

We have an overflowing population that needs increased support in the short & long term