

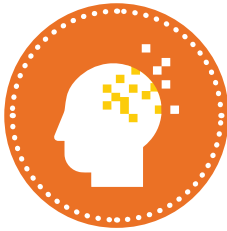
Improving support for older adults with I/DD who have dementia and their families



Adults with I/DD may develop dementia at an earlier age and have early signs that are more difficult to identify than in other adults. As the population of older adults in the United States continues to rapidly increase, this group will likely need additional services and supports.



An estimated 71% of all individuals with I/DD live with their family caregiver; of these 24%, reside with caregivers ages 60 years and older. Even though most caregivers provide life-long care and may have expertise in accessing services and supports, earlier onset and compounding challenges of their own aging-related needs can compromise living arrangements and caregiving situations.



Ensure that older adults with I/DD are included in dementia research and studies on dementia care



Improve the integration of community education outreach research and supports for caregivers of older adults and caregivers of adults with I/DD and dementia to capitalize on the strengths of both aging and disability programs and promote inclusive practice



Increase research and community programming to support people with I/DD and dementia living in group settings



Acknowledge and respect diversity of family values and caregiving practices



Increase public awareness of dementia and other aging-related issues for people with I/DD and their caregivers and encourage the use of early screening instruments



Focus on integration of the aging and developmental disability networks to provide quality continuous care