

FACTSHEET

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BOLD Public Health Programs

What are the BOLD Public Health Programs?

- In 2018, the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act (P.L. 115-406) was unanimously approved by the Senate and passed the House of Representatives with overwhelming bipartisan support.
- Under the BOLD Act, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funds state, local, and tribal health departments to address the dementia crisis.
- Using the Healthy Brain Initiative's (HBI) *State and Local Public Health Partnerships to Address Dementia: The 2023-2027 Road Map* as a guide, BOLD program awardees develop and implement strategies to improve the dementia workforce, promote early detection, reduce risk of cognitive decline, and support caregivers.

What types of awards have been made?

- In 2023, the CDC funded two types of BOLD Program awards:
 - Component 1: Recipients are funded for two years to build capacity and three years to implement dementia activities.
 - Component 2: Recipients are funded for five years to implement dementia programs in the community.
- Capacity-building years are used by public health departments to create or update dementia action plans and to build coalitions and partnerships.

Who has received BOLD Program funds?

- From 2020-2023, 23 state, local, and tribal health departments received BOLD Program awards.
- In September 2023, 43 entities were given five-year awards.
 - Seven state agencies, five local agencies, and the Puerto Rico health department received Component 1 awards.
 - Component 2 awards were allocated to 26 state agencies, three local agencies, and one tribal health department.

The Healthy Brain Initiative Public Health Road Map

The HBI Road Map is the guiding document for activities undertaken by BOLD Program funding/award recipients. The Road Map — a joint project of the CDC and the Alzheimer's Association — is an overarching framework designed to help public health professionals act in their communities to improve brain health across the life course.

The current Road Map is the fourth in a series that began in 2007. It includes 25 suggested dementia-related actions across four domains of public health: building a diverse and skilled workforce, strengthening partnerships and policies, measuring and utilizing data, and establishing or expanding community-clinical connections.

For more information, visit: alz.org/HBIRoadMap

How have some public health departments used BOLD awards to improve the dementia workforce?

- In Wisconsin, the Department of Health Services partnered with the University of Wisconsin’s Center for Interprofessional Practice and Organization to create an education module for cross-professional students on the needs of dementia caregivers.
- The Vermont Department of Health launched a training series in conjunction with the University of Vermont to connect experts with health care teams in primary care to provide continuing education.
- In California, the Department of Public Health created the Assessment of Cognitive Complaints Toolkit for Alzheimer’s Disease (ACCT-AD). It equips primary care providers to recognize normal cognition, diagnose Alzheimer’s, and identify cognitive problems requiring specialty referral.

How else have some public health departments used BOLD funding?

- To promote early detection, the Tennessee Department of Health launched a public awareness campaign encouraging individuals experiencing memory problems to speak to their physicians and seek support.
- The Save Your Brain campaign undertaken by the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services focused on reducing risk of cognitive decline and improving overall brain health. The 10-week program included a lecture series, fitness classes, and access to dietitians and other experts.
- In Washington, the Department of Health released guidance to local health departments on effective ways to use the HBI Road Map. The Department also conducted an internal agency evaluation to assess its own ability and potential gaps in addressing Alzheimer’s and caregiving needs.

Current BOLD Program Award Recipients

