



South Carolina  
**DEPARTMENT  
ON AGING**

# ANNUAL REPORT

ALZHEIMER'S RESOURCE  
COORDINATION CENTER

YEAR OF REPORT 2025

## Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center Annual Report 2024-2025

**Prepared By:**

Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center  
SC Department on Aging

**Prepared For:**

The Honorable Daniel B. "Danny" Verdin, III, Chairman  
Senate Medical Affairs Committee

The Honorable Sylleste H. Davis, Chairperson  
House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee



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# Introduction

**Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia (ADRD) remain one of the most significant and growing public health concerns affecting individuals, families, and communities across the nation - and in South Carolina.**

Nationally, over 7 million Americans aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer’s disease, a figure expected to nearly double by 2060. ADRD is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, with associated healthcare costs and caregiving demands rising at an unsustainable pace<sup>1</sup>.



In South Carolina, the burden of ADRD is deeply felt. As of 2022, 125,538 South Carolinians are living with a diagnosis of ADRD<sup>2</sup>. More than 224,000 family caregivers across South Carolina provide an estimated 369 million hours of unpaid care each year — support that is critical but often unrecognized, unsupported, and unsustainable without additional resources.<sup>1</sup>

A significant barrier to proper care and services for individuals in South Carolina has been the lack of resources to fund the continuum of services needed by families through the course of the progressive disease.

Beginning in 1995, the Legislature has addressed this need by allocating \$150,000 in state funds to the Alzheimer’s Resource Coordination Center (ARCC) each year to develop community-based respite programs, caregiver education and training, and other supportive services to caregivers of persons with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. Grants have been awarded to communities for dementia-specific respite, adult day programs, education programs, and innovative programs that support family caregivers and those living with ADRD. Grant recipients have included medical communities, colleges and universities, first responders, community organizations, and faith-based groups.

# ARCC Grants Program

Since 1995, the South Carolina state legislature has allocated \$150,000 each year to the ARCC to provide grants to community organizations that support those living with ADRD, their families, caregivers, and communities. These grants are awarded on a two-year basis and are used to help with the development or expansion of respite care, education, or innovative programming relating to those living with ADRD and their families. The ARCC Advisory Council provides recommendations on priority needs and criteria for selecting grant recipients. Grant recipients must provide matching funds or an in-kind contribution equal to the amount of funds awarded in the grant.



## Education Programs

134 education grants have provided education about Alzheimer's and related dementia to over 78,117 participants.



## Respite Care Programs

240 respite grants have allowed more than 7,717 individuals living with ADRD to access respite care services



## Innovative Programs

Since 2021, 17 innovative program grants has allowed more than 7,467 participants to receive services that promote independence, safety, and healthy lifestyles.

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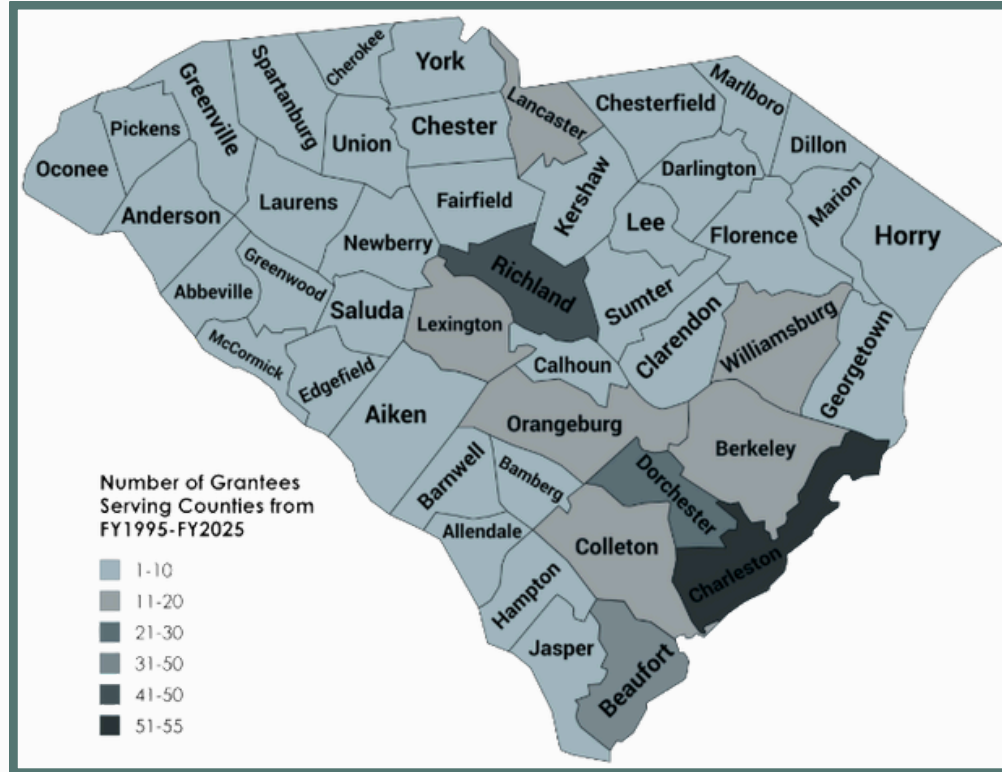
# 388 Grants

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Since its establishment, the ARCC Grants Program has awarded over 388 grants to community organizations that provide services to individuals, families, and communities affected by dementia. These services include dementia-specific respite, adult day programs, and educational programs that support the medical community, colleges and universities, first responders, and the general public.

## Counties Served by ARCC Grantees

FY1995-FY2025



## Number of Grants to Provide Services to Counties

FY1995-FY2025

County	Number of Grants Awarded	County	Number of Grants Awarded
Abbeville County	3	Greenwood County	4
Aiken County	8	Hampton County	2
Allendale County	3	Horry County	5
Anderson County	7	Jasper County	7
Bamberg County	3	Kershaw County	2
Barnwell County	3	Lancaster County	13
Beaufort County	35	Laurens County	2
Berkeley County	20	Lee County	2
Calhoun County	3	Lexington County	17
Charleston County	55	Marion County	4
Cherokee County	1	Marlboro County	4
Chester County	6	McCormick County	4
Chesterfield County	3	Newberry County	4
Clarendon County	7	Oconee County	10
Colleton County	12	Orangeburg County	12
Darlington County	4	Pickens County	5
Dillon County	5	Richland County	44
Dorchester County	26	Saluda County	3
Edgefield County	2	Spartanburg County	4
Fairfield County	1	Sumter County	5
Florence County	6	Union County	4
Georgetown County	7	Williamsburg County	13
Greenville County	5	York County	10

Ten grants were awarded in the 2024-2025 fiscal year, providing services in 14 counties. Grantees were comprised of one respite program, four education programs, three innovative programs, one respite, education, and innovative program, and one education and innovative program. All ARCC grant awards are equally matched with community funding and resources. A plan is required for the continuation of the program after grant funding is discontinued. Standardized reporting for all grant programs is required to ensure fidelity to the objectives outlined in the grant application.

As part of the grant process, the ARCC sponsored a pre-proposal workshop for prospective grantees in February 2025. Additionally, ARCC grant information was made available at [www.aging.sc.gov](http://www.aging.sc.gov).

Alzheimer's disease is one of the costliest and most uninsured health risks South Carolina families are likely to face. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that in 2030, South Carolina will be home to 1.1 million people over the age of 65, potentially propelling South Carolina to a ranking of 15th in the nation for the highest percentage of residents who are 65+.

Increasing age is a leading risk factor for Alzheimer's disease, and South Carolina's rapidly growing older population presents a challenge to families, communities, and those who plan and deliver services for the state. By preparing for the future now and providing the much-needed supportive services for families caring for loved ones at home, South Carolina will be ready to meet the challenges of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia with programs and services in place rather than trying to handle the epidemic after it has started.



# Activities of ARCC Grantees 2024-2025

## **Antioch Caregiver Support Group Ministry**

The Antioch AME Church received \$10,000 in second-year funds for its Caregiver Support Group Ministry. The ministry focuses on education, training, awareness, and self-care for caregivers as well as care recipients living with Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia. This program supported 35 caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia in the Lower Richland community through 12 support groups and 25 hours of education. Support groups were held monthly.

## **The ARK of South Carolina**

The ARK of South Carolina received \$50,000 in first-year funds for the expansion of their education program. The Neighborhood Outreach Alzheimer's Help (NOAH) Project is a mentoring program that assists small towns and rural and underserved communities in developing their own sustainable programs and ongoing services to assist families impacted by dementia. The grantee utilized ARCC funds to provide 51 support groups and 1,772 hours of education to 1,744

## **Feonix Mobility Rising**

Feonix Mobility Rising received \$10,000 in second-year funds to expand their Access to Care program in Richland and Lexington counties. This program allowed the organization to provide no-cost, door-to-door transportation to nonemergency medical appointments for persons living with dementia. These services allowed participants to keep up with necessary doctor's appointments, avoiding costly ER visits and allowing individuals to remain in their homes for longer. With ARCC funds, they were able to provide services to 129 participants.

## **Leeza's Care Connection**

Leeza's Care Connection (LCC) received \$50,000 in first-year funds to expand its respite, education, and innovative programs. LCC provides resources and programming that include family and caregiver consultations, support groups, energy activities, educational seminars, respite care, and peer mentorship programs. Funds were utilized to provide 3,888 hours of respite to 26 families, 1000 hours of education to 1,800 participants, and 180 support groups to 176 care partners.

## **Let's Walk**

Let's Walk received \$10,000 in second-year funds for the expansion of its walking program for persons living with dementia. Let's Walk is a free walking companion service that assists those with early to middle-stage ADRD living in the community. Walks provide physical activity, promoting vascular health while also providing a modicum of respite to family caregivers while the person with dementia is out walking with a volunteer. During the grant period, Let's Walk was able to provide services to 56 persons living with dementia.

## **Lexington County Sheriff's Department**

The Lexington County Sheriff's Department was awarded \$20,000 for the expansion of their Project Lifesaver Program. Project Lifesaver allows individuals with cognitive impairment who wander from home to be quickly and safely located and returned to their caregivers through the use of radio transmitter tracking technology. Lexington County Sheriff's Department was able to enroll 25 individuals in Project Lifesaver and speak at 10 community outreach events about project lifesaver and the dangers of wandering, along with sharing brochures about the program with community partners. Funds were also utilized to purchase the tracking technology provided by Project Lifesaver International, allowing individuals to enroll in the program at no cost, as well as the purchase of a drone to assist in the quick recovery of individuals who have wandered from home.

## **Lifecare Memory Partners**

Lifecare Memory Partners received \$39,127 in first year-funds to expand its Caregiver Academy program in Horry County. Through Caregiver Academy, dementia education is provided in community spaces throughout Horry County to equip caregivers with the knowledge needed to care for their loved ones at home. Lifecare Memory Partners was initially placed on a waiting list and was awarded ARCC funds later than is typical, leading to a compressed timeline for program planning and delivery. ARCC funds were used to provide 16 hours of education to 195 participants.

## **Memory Matters**

Memory Matters received \$10,000 in second-year funds to expand their respite program. The Memory Care Adult Day Respite Program is a non-residential program serving those living with mild to moderate cognitive decline by providing a safe, stimulating environment outside their home. The program curriculum is designed to complement the body's daily circadian rhythms which is shown to minimize changes in mood and behaviors, especially in those with dementia. This is achieved by following a schedule of stimulating activities, including mild exercise, music, dancing, singing, brain games, therapeutic art, cultural programming, meditation and rest, and includes a nutritious lunch. The grantee was able to utilize ARCC funds to add a second day to the Memory Care Adult Day Respite Program in Bluffton, SC and an additional day to the Hilton Head Day Program. They provided 2,716 hours of respite for 81 families, 34 support group sessions for 78 individuals, 205 hours of education for 2,391 people.

## Respite Care Charleston

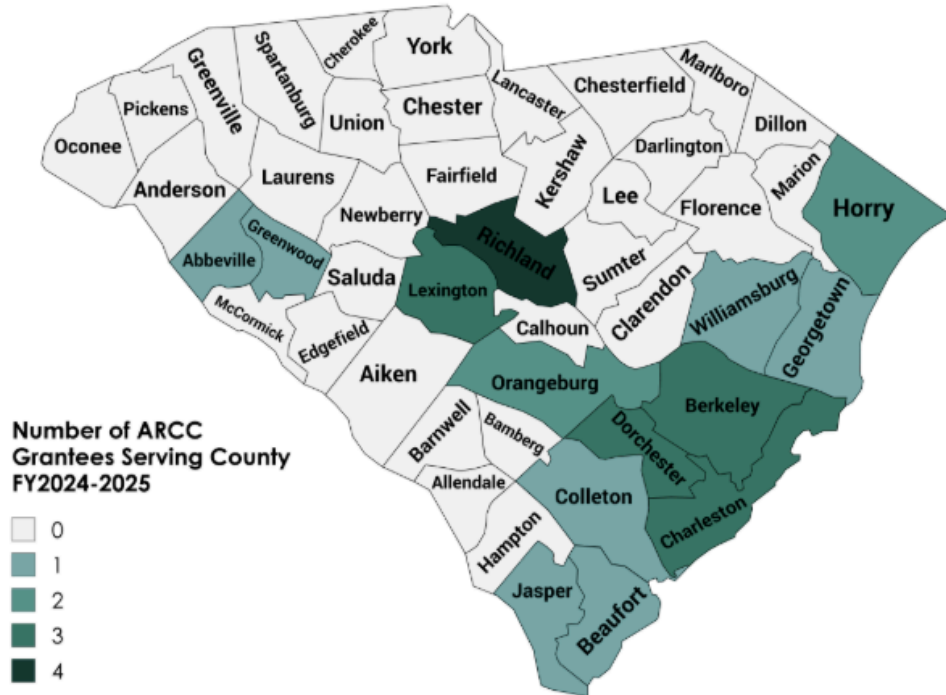
Respite Care Charleston (RCC) received \$32,500 in first-year funds for the expansion of their respite care and education programs. They have expanded support groups into areas that have been typically under-resourced, created a “living library” of educational courses and resources in both video and print, and have established a quarterly speaker series for caregivers that provides practical training for caregivers. ARCC funds were utilized to provide 13,988 hours of respite to 102 families, 20 hours of education to 175 participants, and 113 support groups for 200 individuals.

## Think Different Dementia, LLC

Think Different Dementia, LLC received \$10,000 in second-year funds for the expansion of its education and innovative program. The program is an online coaching and education platform designed to support family caregivers of those with Alzheimer’s disease or another form of dementia. The program delivers monthly online workshops and presentations to support groups and senior centers across South Carolina. ARCC funds were utilized to provide 100 hours of education to 1,133 participants and support 350 participants with innovative programming.



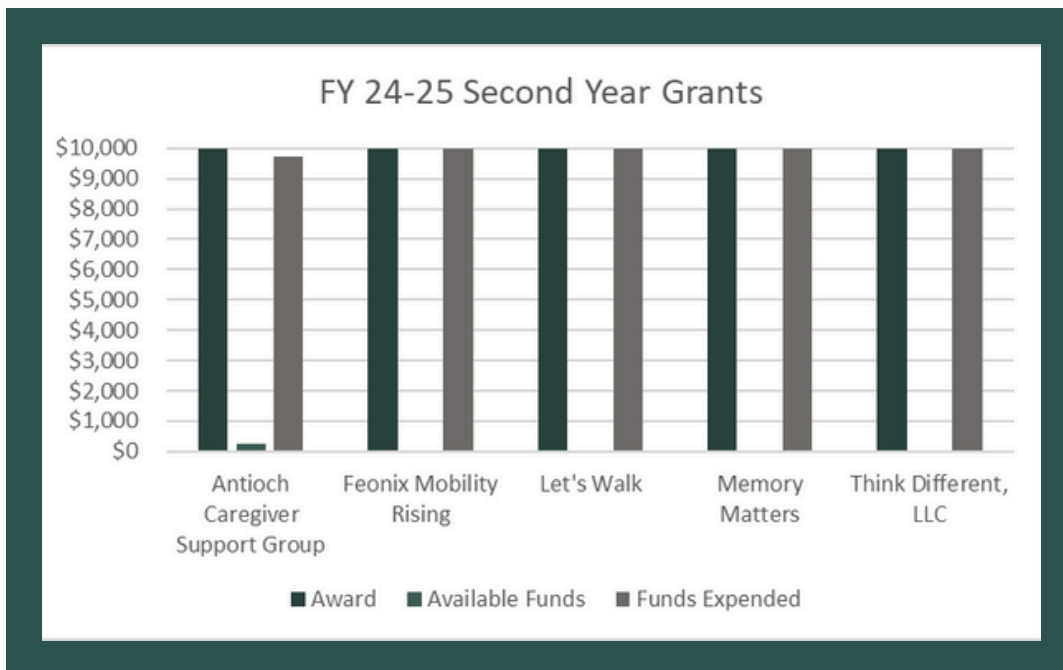
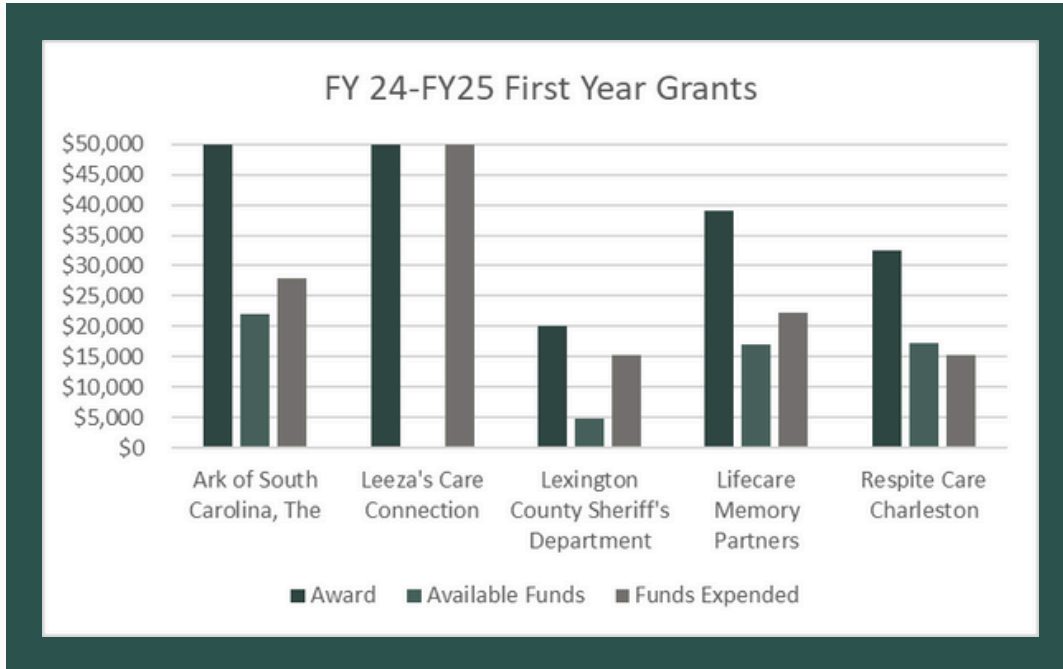
## Counties Served by First and Second Year ARCC Grantees in FY25



### Supportive Services Provided by ARCC Grantees in 2024- 2025:

<b>Number of Unduplicated Respite Participants</b>	209
<b>Hours of Respite Provided</b>	20,592
<b>Number of Support Group Meetings</b>	390
<b>Number of Educational Participants</b>	5,082
<b>Number of Hours of Education</b>	5,529
<b>Number of Innovative Programs</b>	4
<b>Clients served by innovative programming</b>	535

# ARCC Grantee Funds FY2024-2025



# Background

## A. Enabling Legislation

The Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center was created in the Division on Aging Act of the South Carolina Legislature effective April 20, 1994, and is now housed in the South Carolina Department on Aging. The purpose of the Center is to "provide statewide coordination, service system development, information and referral, and caregiver support services to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, their families, and caregivers."

## B. Responsibilities Assigned by Legislation

According to the SC Code of Laws Section 44-36-320, the center shall:

- (1) Initiate the development of systems, which coordinate the delivery of programs and services;
- (2) Facilitate the coordination and integration of research, program development, planning, and quality assurance;
- (3) Identify potential users of services and gaps in the service delivery system and expand methods and resources to enhance statewide services;
- (4) Serve as a resource for education, research, and training and provide information and referral services;
- (5) Provide technical assistance for the development of support groups and other local initiatives to serve individuals, families, and caregivers;
- (6) Recommend public policy concerning Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders to state policymakers;
- (7) Submit an annual report to the Chairman of the Medical Affairs Committee of the Senate and the Chairman of the Medical, Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives.
- (8) Facilitate coordination and integration of educational initiatives for healthcare providers on the importance and value of early detection and timely diagnosis of cognitive impairment, validated cognitive assessment tools, and increasing understanding and awareness of early warning signs of Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia and how to reduce the risk of cognitive decline.
- (9) Convene the advisory council to update the statewide plan to address Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.
- (10) When updating the statewide plan, the advisory council must solicit input from the Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Social Services to ensure the formulation of a comprehensive statewide plan that meets the needs of the State.
- (11) Submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly by September thirtieth concerning progress toward fulfilling the statewide plan.

# Advisory Council

According to the SC Code of Laws Section 44-36-330, the ARCC must be supported by an advisory council appointed by the Governor, including, but not limited to, representatives of:

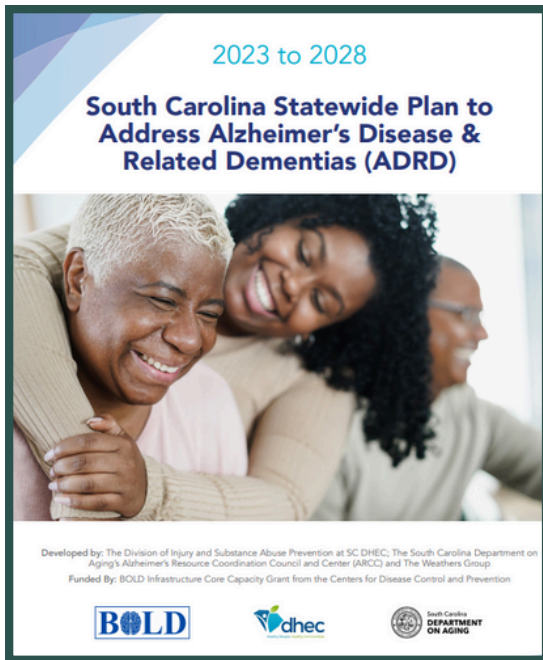
1. Alzheimer’s Association, South Carolina Chapter
2. American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) – South Carolina Chapter
3. Clemson University
4. Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
5. Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Office of Mental Health
6. Department of Health and Environmental Control (now known as the South Carolina Department of Public Health)
7. Department of Health and Human Services
8. Department of Social Services
9. Medical University of South Carolina
10. National Association of Social Workers, South Carolina Chapter
11. South Carolina Adult Day Care Association
12. South Carolina Association of Area Agencies on Aging
13. South Carolina Association of Council on Aging Directors
14. South Carolina Association of Nonprofit Homes for the Aging (now known as LeadingAge SC)
15. South Carolina Association of Residential Care Homes (now known as South Carolina Assisted Living Association)
16. South Carolina Health Care Association
17. South Carolina Home Care Association
18. South Carolina Hospital Association
19. South Carolina Medical Association
20. South Carolina Nurses Association
21. South Carolina Alzheimer’s Disease Registry
22. South Carolina State University
23. University of South Carolina

Represented Entities Not Listed in State Legislature:

24. Consumer/Family Caregiver
25. Consumer/Family Caregiver
26. Silver Haired Legislature
27. Veterans Health Administration

The Advisory Council meets quarterly, and subcommittees meet twice annually.

# SC Statewide Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementia



## MISSION

To catalyze statewide collaboration to promote a comprehensive approach to risk reduction, early detection, and diagnosis, high-quality dementia services, and a coordinated and equitable continuum of care across South Carolina for Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.

## VISION

All people in South Carolina have the opportunity to live the highest quality of life throughout their life course.

- In the fall of 2021, the SC Department of Public Health’s Department of Injury and Substance Use Prevention was one of 18 states awarded funding from the Center for Disease Control’s (CDC) Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure Act to convene a statewide dementia coalition to develop or update a strategic plan to address Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders.
- SC DPH partnered with the South Carolina Department on Aging to utilize the Alzheimer’s Resource Coordination Center Advisory Council to act as the statewide dementia stakeholder group for the development of the statewide strategic plan to address Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, which was released in March of 2023.
- SB0569 was passed by the South Carolina state legislature and signed into law by Governor Henry McMaster on May 19, 2024, requiring the ARCC Advisory Council to maintain and update the Statewide Plan every five years and submit an annual report to the governor and general assembly each September on the progress towards fulfilling the state plan.
- ARCC subcommittees, comprised of Advisory Council members and other stakeholder groups, met twice to develop and initiate the implementation plan that guides the activities outlined in the Statewide Plan.
- A separate report is submitted annually to the SC Legislature, detailing progress toward meeting the goals of the State Plan.

The statewide plan outlines five strategic priorities, each with its own corresponding goals and actionable tasks:

Education - Healthcare Providers and Community	Goal 1: Improve knowledge, understanding, and awareness of ADRD by educating and empowering all South Carolinians, including every person engaged in the continuum of care.
Advocacy & Policy Making	Goal 2: Support policy and advocacy efforts that improve the health and well-being of all people in South Carolina.
Access & Connection to Care	Goal 3: Improve the quality of ADRD care and ensure all people in South Carolina are able to access the resources, healthcare, and support they need for reducing the risk and all other issues related to ADRD.
Caregiver Support	Goal 4: Improve, expand, and develop multidimensional support and health promotion programs for professional and family caregivers and care partners.
Data & Resources	Goal 5: Improve access to, coordination, and use of ADRD data and resources statewide.

# Appendix A - ARCC Advisory Council Members FY 2024-2025

Alzheimer's Association-SC Chapter  
Ms. Taylor Wilson (Chair)

AARP  
Mr. Joseph Meyers

Clemson University  
Dr. Nicole Davis\*

Coastal Carolina University  
Dr. Cynthia Port

Consumer/Caregiver 1  
PENDING

Consumer/Caregiver 2  
Dr. Scott Habakus

Department of Public Health  
Ms. Emma Kennedy

Department of Health and Human Services  
Ms. Margaret Alewine

Department of Social Services  
Ms. Kelly Cordell

Medical University of South Carolina  
Dr. Steve Carroll

National Association of Social Workers  
Ms. Sara English

Office of Intellectual Developmental Disabilities  
Mr. Robert McBurney\*

Office of Mental Health  
Dr. Miroslav Cuturic

South Carolina Adult Day Association  
PENDING

SC Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
Ms. Janae Stowe (Vice-Chair)

South Carolina Council on Aging Directors  
Mr. Andrew Boozer

LeadingAge, SC  
Ms. Kassie South

SC Association of Residential Care Homes  
PENDING

South Carolina Health Care Association  
PENDING

South Carolina Home Care and Hospice Association  
PENDING

South Carolina Hospital Association  
PENDING

South Carolina Medical Association  
PENDING

South Carolina Nurses Association  
PENDING

South Carolina Silver-Haired Legislature  
Ms. Rebecca Smith\*

South Carolina State University  
Dr. Miriam Evans

SC Alzheimer's Disease Registry  
Dr. Maggi Miller

University of South Carolina  
Ms. Megan Byers (Secretary)

Veterans Health Administration  
Dr. Jessica Broadway

Staff: Ms. Jennifer Brewton, Ms. Dana Daniel

\*Denotes former representative/no longer active with the ARCC

# Appendix B - First Year Grants Awarded Fiscal Year 2024-2025

**The ARK of South Carolina** \$50,000  
Education, Other  
Berkley, Charleston, Colleton,  
Dorchester, & Orangeburg Counties

**Leeza's Care Connection** \$50,000  
Respite & Innovative  
Lexington, Orangeburg, & Richland Counties

**Lexington County Sheriff's Department** \$20,000  
Innovative  
Lexington & Richland Counties

**Lifecare Memory Partners** \$39,127  
Education  
Horry County

**Respite Care Charleston** \$32,500  
Education  
Berkley, Charleston, & Dorchester Counties

**TOTAL FIRST YEAR  
GRANT AWARDS** \$191,627

# Appendix C - Second Year Grants Awarded Fiscal Year 2024-2025

**Antioch Caregivers Support Group Ministry** \$10,000  
Respite  
Lower Richland County

**Feonix Mobility Rising** \$10,000  
Innovative  
Lexington & Richland Counties

**Let's Walk** \$10,000  
Innovative  
Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester,  
Horry, Georgetown, & Williamsburg Counties

**Memory Matters** \$10,000  
Respite  
Beaufort & Jasper Counties

**Think Different Dementia, LLC** \$10,000  
Education & Innovative  
Upstate, including Greenwood & Abbeville Counties

**TOTAL SECOND YEAR  
GRANT AWARDS \$50,000**

**South Carolina Department on Aging  
Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center**

**1301 Gervais Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 734-9900**



South Carolina  
**DEPARTMENT  
ON AGING**