



Governor Baker Signs Law Strengthening Alzheimer's and Dementia Treatment in Massachusetts

Source: [Governor Baker Signs Law Strengthening Alzheimer's and Dementia Treatment in Massachusetts, Press Release August 15, 2018.](#)

In January 2018, Massachusetts became the second state in the nation to join AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities representing a major milestone in Massachusetts' goal to become the most age-friendly state in the nation. In August 2018, Governor Baker signs a new law that strengthens the Commonwealth's age and dementia friendly initiatives by:

- Creating an advisory council and an integrated state plan to effectively address Alzheimer's disease
- Requiring content about Alzheimer's and related dementias be incorporated into physicians, physician's assistants, registered nurses and practical nurses continuing medical education programs that are required for the granting or renewal of licensure.

- Allowing doctors to share an Alzheimer's diagnosis and treatment plan to a family member or legal personal representative within the existing framework of federal and state privacy laws.
- Requiring hospitals that serve an adult population to have an operational plan in place for recognizing and managing individuals with dementia within three years of the laws' enactment
- Requiring elder protective services caseworkers to be trained on Alzheimer's disease.

BU CADER's Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias of Aging Online Course

This commitment to training the workforce who work with older adults who are experiencing symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias has been at the forefront of Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) and led to funding from the Administration for Community Living to build dementia capable communities across Massachusetts. Through this grant, EOEA worked closely with BU CADER to create an online course in Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and trained almost 200 workers across the Commonwealth. Results from this project show significant gains in competencies related to diagnosing, assessing, and working in person-centered ways to provide the best care possible to both patients and their caregivers. Please review the following presentation to learn about the findings from this program: **Findings from a grant funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs.** [Click here to read the full report.](#)

Click here to learn more about this course. [Learn more.](#)

Now with this new law in place, it is more important than ever to train your staff in this area. BU CADER's course has proven outcomes with high participant satisfaction in learning related to this important content area. As you look ahead to train your staff, please reach out to BU CADER to see if our course would help you meet the standards set forth in this new law.