



## Dementia Friendly Community Readiness and Recognition Criteria

Dementia Friendly America (DFA) Communities are influencers and catalysts for change that foster capability to support people with dementia and their care partners in local communities across the nation. The following factors indicate that your community is ready for and committed to this undertaking. Joining the DFA network means you are engaged in a process to become more dementia-friendly. DFA does not certify communities as dementia-friendly. Communities interested in being a member of the Dementia Friendly America network pledge that their efforts will include the following factors.

### Readiness and Recognition Criteria

- **Connecting Across Sectors.** DFA communities convene a cross-sector team across three or more community sectors to advance dementia friendliness. A cross-sector team includes at a minimum, government, clinical, community-based organizations and people living in community with dementia and their care partners. Ideally, all community sectors are represented on the cross-sector team.
- **Inclusion and Leadership of People Living with Dementia.** People living with dementia and their caregivers are key to leading and shaping dementia friendly communities. It is imperative that people living with dementia shape a dementia friendly community effort.
- **Champion Organization and Coordination Capacity.** Many DFA communities benefit from having an organization that is willing to champion, coordinate and, if needed, serve as a fiscal sponsor. The champion organization may help recruit and partner with a senior leader of local government in the effort (e.g. mayor; city council; other elected officials).
- **Adoption and Communication of Dementia Friendly Practices and Change Goals.** DFA communities foster sector-specific dementia friendly practices across their communities. The Dementia Friendly America toolkit guides communities through a step-by-step process that fosters adoption of dementia friendly practices in all parts of community. Communities may follow the step by step process or do sector-based outreach and training. Please indicate how your community plans to engage in dementia friendly work.
- **Progress Tracking and Sharing.** Communities will report progress by providing a current program description, upon request, and by completing periodic surveys.

### To Join the Dementia Friendly America Network of Communities:

- Provide a memo summarizing how your community meets the readiness and recognition criteria
- Provide three or more letters of support representing different community sectors
- If your DFA community is in a state with a DFA state lead, please include an additional letter of support.
- Provide one-paragraph project description to be used for public dissemination.

Once DFA has reviewed a community's materials and communicated approval, a community may identify themselves with the Dementia Friendly America logo.

### Benefits of Joining the DFA Network of Communities:

- Access to webinars for DFA communities
- Access to DFA communities listserv
- 1:1 technical assistance with DFA staff team
- Ability to connect with other DFA communities
- Monthly newsletter
- Opportunities to have your work highlighted

<sup>1</sup> Sectors of community include are listed on the DFA website and include banks/financial services, community members, legal and advanced planning, local government (including transportation, housing, first response, public spaces), health care, hospitals, libraries, faith communities, businesses, community-based services, and residential and specialty care.



## Dementia Friendly Community Metrics

### **Increased awareness of signs and how to effectively interact**

- Training/understanding on signs of dementia
- Training on how to respond effectively based on different professional lenses

### **Adoption of DF environmental changes (indoor/outdoor)**

- Clear signage
- Easy to access and navigate, e.g. wide aisles/clear way finders
- Places to sit and rest
- High contrast in surfaces with good lighting
- Matte finish floors/solid crosswalk lines and even pavement
- Designated quiet spaces and enclosed areas
- Weather protective shelters and seats for waiting
- Easily read maps/guides and appropriate voice prompts/announcements

### **Adoption of staff and workforce training**

- Dementia specific training on disease
- Training on difficult situations and how to prompt
- Training on when/how to seek help

### **Adoption of DF responsive systems and processes**

- Sector specialized processes for cognitive impairment
- In-person call routing options
- Assistive technologies if appropriate
- Special times and adapted programs for people with dementia

### **Increase in caregiver supports/ respite**

- New or adaptation of existing programs to include dementia caregivers

### **Training and adoption of Sector-Specific DF practices and programming, e.g. legal, financial, clinical, faith, emergency response**

#### **Cognitive screening and support**

- Cognitive screen
- Medical records that identify diagnosis and caregiver
- Responsive plan of care
- Community referral
- Reduced crisis care/ utilization

#### **Increased participation in clinical trials**

#### **Adoption of employee caregiver supports and leave policies**

#### **Specific safety and response training and processes for emergencies/lost persons**