



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 19, 2020

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**California Governor's First-Ever Alzheimer's Task Force Delivers
Recommendations**

Chair Maria Shriver and Task Force members present bold and innovative recommendations on Alzheimer's Disease, Prevention and the Path Forward

Sacramento— The Governor's Task Force on Alzheimer's Prevention, Preparedness and the Path Forward, chaired by former California First Lady Maria Shriver, presented its [set of ten recommendations](#) to Gov. Gavin Newsom today addressing ways California can prevent and prepare for the rise in the number of cases of Alzheimer's Disease and forge a bold path forward for an aging state and its families.

With a national cost of more than \$305 billion annually, Alzheimer's is the most expensive disease in America. [Every 65 seconds](#), a person in America develops Alzheimer's.

The Task Force has focused on how Alzheimer's Disease disproportionately impacts women and people of color, and examined the unique opportunities that California brings through its diverse populations and world class universities to research and develop solutions to address those underrepresented communities.

The Task Force presented its recommendations during a digital convening with the governor. Its members include a diverse set of experts and advocates from across the state, including California Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Burke Harris and former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. A full list of Task Force members [can be found here](#).

The Task Force's recommendations are to:

1. **Appoint a senior advisor on Alzheimer's** to coordinate the dozens of agencies and departments with jurisdiction over aging, Alzheimer's and caregiving.
2. **Keep California at the forefront of cutting-edge research** by leveraging its world-renowned research institutions and diverse investigators.
3. **Create an Alzheimer's Disease public awareness campaign** that educates the public about different neurodegenerative diseases, their prevention, symptoms, diagnosis and how treatments are essential.
4. **Build a California Cares (digital portal)** to function as a one-stop-shop for all information and services related to screening and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease as well as the planning and coordination of care.
5. **Establish a California voluntary savings accounts for long-term care** to make non-clinical costs incurred by individuals living with Alzheimer's more affordable.
6. **Invest in career incentives for the Alzheimer's healthcare workforce** to encourage workers to pursue careers in health fields to meet the increasing demands of an aging California.
7. **Introduce a new caregiver training and certification program** to elevate the level of care in all communities and all levels (informal, formal and IHSS) by expanding access to evidence-based education and training.

8. **Launch a California Blue Zone City challenge** to encourage local and regional collaboration and innovation in designing build urban environments.
9. **Launch a Californians for All Care Corp program** to address the challenges of social isolation among an aging population and many young people's desire to serve their community.
10. **Model a statewide standard of care to the nation** that standardizes how healthcare practitioners identify, screen or diagnose for dementia.

“So much of Alzheimer’s Disease is defined by what we cannot do – the memories and cognitive ability that are taken away from us and our loved ones,” said Task Force Chair Maria Shriver. “The work of this Task Force was to listen, to investigate and to recommend groundbreaking solutions that prove there is much we can do now to take on Alzheimer’s Disease.”

The Task Force’s work has been shaped by the unprecedented, complicated and still unfolding times of the day: a pandemic, a climate crisis, historic economic calamity and the need to address racial injustice.

“The Governor’s Alzheimer’s Task Force and the Master Plan for Aging have worked diligently and collaboratively for over a year to deliver clear policy proposals to the Governor for consideration in order to improve the lives of the state’s aging population and their caregivers,” said Department of Aging Director Kim McCoy Wade.

The recommendations will be reviewed for inclusion as part of the upcoming state’s Master Plan for Aging overall plan to tackle issues related to the state’s rapidly growing older population and are the result of a year’s worth of Task Force meetings with members, regional roundtables with diverse stakeholders and briefings with key state leaders.

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The Governor’s Task Force on Alzheimer’s Disease Prevention, Preparedness and the Path Forward was launched in August 2019 with the mission to develop big, bold and brave recommendations for Governor Newsom on how California can prevent and prepare for the rise in the number of cases of Alzheimer’s Disease and forge a bold path forward for an aging state and its families. More information can be found at CAAIZTaskForce.org.