

Healthy Brain Grantees Working in Community Grant Report (Apr-Oct 2024)

APRIL 2025

Community-Facing Programs and Approaches

The **Healthy Brain Community Grant Program** funds organizations to educate communities about dementia risk reduction, understand the importance of early detection and diagnosis, and provide support for people living with dementia and their caregivers.

Screening and Early Detection Funding was awarded to the Volunteers of America (VOA) to conduct health and dementia screening using the Memory Mobile Clinic and in community settings. VOA engages communities through both in-person and virtual platforms and utilizes community health workers (CHWs) to support dementia caregivers in accessing resources. In addition, VOA is also partnering with clinics to develop systems to create formal linkages between community screening and clinical system early detection efforts.

Meet the grantees

Organization	Description
<p>Centro Nazareno de Compasion Agape</p>	<p>Centro Nazareno de Compasion Agape Inc., serves the Latino community through 26 churches in 14 counties across Minnesota. Through the Healthy Brain Community Grant, Centro Nazareno has supported pastors and staff from partner churches to receive dementia trainings, connect families and caregivers to dementia resources, and supported health fairs that address social determinants of health. Centro Nazareno has expended their reach through publishing and disseminating a monthly magazine in English and Spanish that focuses on brain health and dementia. This magazine is shared with over 200 Spanish-speaking churches and available at several local libraries in Greater Minnesota.</p>
<p>Northwoods Caregivers</p>	<p>Northwoods Caregivers provides caregiver consulting, caregiver support groups, community outreach, and evidence-based classes in northern Minnesota. Through partnerships with elders in the local American Indian and rural communities, Northwoods Caregivers adapted and expanded their Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementias (ADRD) risk reduction and caregiver wellbeing programs. In addition, Northwoods Caregivers partners with different Tribal Nations in northern Minnesota to offer culturally responsive evidenced-based classes and the Virtual Dementia Tour.</p>

Organization	Description
<p>Restoration for All</p>	<p>Restoration for All (REFA) Inc., works closely with African immigrant and refugee communities in the Twin Cities metro area. REFA collaborates with experts from academia, health care professionals, and the community to host health fairs and conversations that educate the community about dementia risk factors, importance of early detection, and connect caregivers to culturally appropriate resources. REFA utilizes culturally tailored interventions that are trauma-informed including traditional African storytelling as a starting point to talk about signs and symptoms of dementia, brain health, self-care, and mental well-being. These significantly improve trauma awareness, reduce stigma related to dementia among adult African immigrants and refugees.</p>
<p>The Remember Project</p>	<p>The Remember Project is a program of Trellis that produces and performs theatrical plays to encourage audience members to talk about memory loss and help people living with dementia understand their experiences. Through the Heathy Brain Community Grant, The Remember Project partnered with three community organizations in the Twin Cities to host a virtual tour of “Mango Songs”, a theatrical video of an autobiographical play written and performed by a BIPOC artist that explores the intersection of identity, migration, memory and belonging. The Remember Project continues to strengthen their partnerships with these community organizations and has since screened several of their other plays and has plans to adapt some of their plays to be more culturally specific for the communities.</p>
<p>Volunteers of America MN/WI</p>	<p>Volunteers of America Minnesota and Wisconsin’s Culturally Responsive Caregiver Support and Dementia Services educate communities, families, and caregivers about dementia risk factors, promote early detection and diagnosis, and provide support and resource navigation for caregivers. Through the Memory Mobile Clinic, VOA’s registered nurse also offers the following screenings for community members: blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol, memory, PHQ-9. After the screenings, VOA staff follow through with referrals to North Point Health and Wellness Center. One new area VOA initiated was to offer dementia resources and training to beauty and barbershop staff, as they are trusted messengers in the community. VOA is also working to integrate brain health in high school curriculum to encourage youth to learn and talk about dementia risk factors and early detection. Moreover, VOA’s partnerships and work in the Minneapolis Public Housing High Rises provides resources to residents where they are at.</p>

Impacting lives across Minnesota

Together, Healthy Brain Grantees Are Influencing Many National Dementia Goals

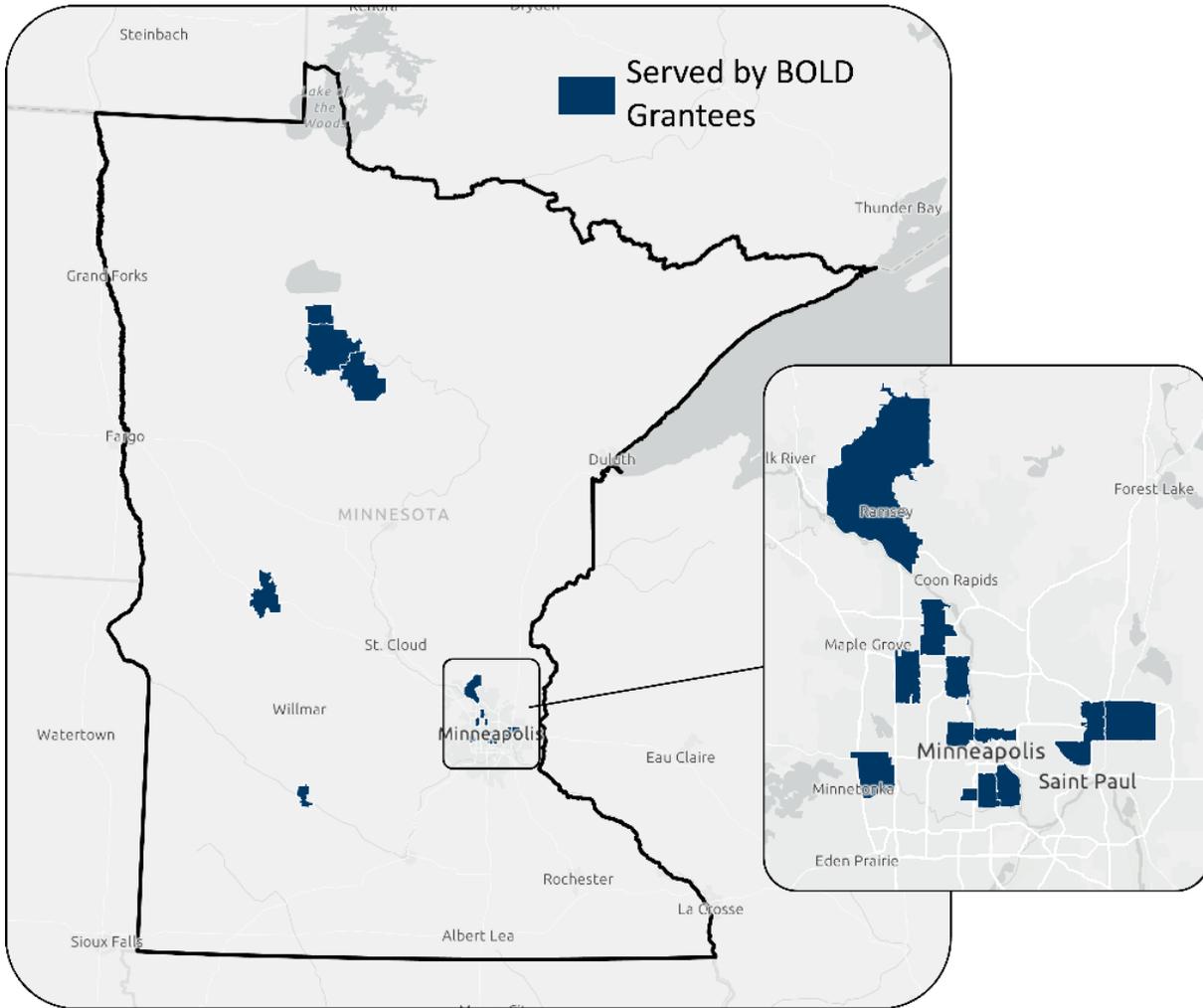
# Grantees Prioritizing Goal	Goal
5 	Educate the public about brain health, early detection, and diagnosis
5 	Messaging about the importance of dementia caregivers work and supporting caregiver health and well-being
5 	Provide information and tools to plan for and respond to challenges that typically arise during dementia
4 	Strengthen knowledge about, and greater use of, care planning and related tools for people in all stages of dementia
3 	Communicating about health and chronic condition management to reduce dementia
3 	Improve access to effective interventions, services, and supports for people with dementia and their caregivers
1 	Promote prevention of abuse neglect and exploitation of people with dementia

Healthy Brain Grantees have increased

-  Knowledge of brain health
-  Use of services for people living with dementia and caregivers
-  Knowledge and skills of future caregivers

for more than **2238** adults between April and October 2024.

Healthy Brain Grantees support people in many parts of Minnesota



Healthy Brain Grantees know their communities and how to support them

- All had **staff with deep cultural knowledge** or partnered with organizations with that knowledge for education and service delivery.
- All used **community listening sessions and/or message testing** to develop resources responsive to community needs.
- All utilized **in-person resource fairs or tailored programming** as an important strategy to reach community members where they are.
- All designed approaches that emphasized **dementia risk factors while accounting for the impact of community conditions** when providing dementia education and services. For example, grantees:

- Paired **high blood sugar** and **high blood pressure** checks with education on brain health and cognitive decline.
- Become certified as a MNSure Navigator to support community members in **accessing insurance and services** to support brain health.
- Addressed challenges related to **social and community context** as a part of their work.

Healthy Brain Grantees continue to learn and innovate their work to support community

- Two grantees decided that one-time resource fairs only built awareness, and they **developed new higher impact approaches**.
- Two Healthy Brain grantees paired up to develop a **new project to address stigma** related to dementia.
- One grantee decided to **reimagine their educational curriculum and delivery model with new community partners**.

Healthy Brain Grantee work has ripple effects

- Grantees have engaged with other organizations, in turn **shaping the perspectives, approaches, and resources within other organizations**.
 - 4 other community-based organizations
 - 2 clinical systems
- Grantees have partnered with the Alzheimer's Association of MN/ND and Trellis, two organizations that have led dementia-related work in the state, **sharing learnings and strengthening the system as a whole**.

Learn More

To gain a better understanding of this work's impact, please see the individual grantee success stories at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/alzheimers/healthybrain.html>

Minnesota Department of Health
Healthy Brain Initiative
health.healthybrain@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us

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