

Welcome to the SMAC Quarterly Meeting

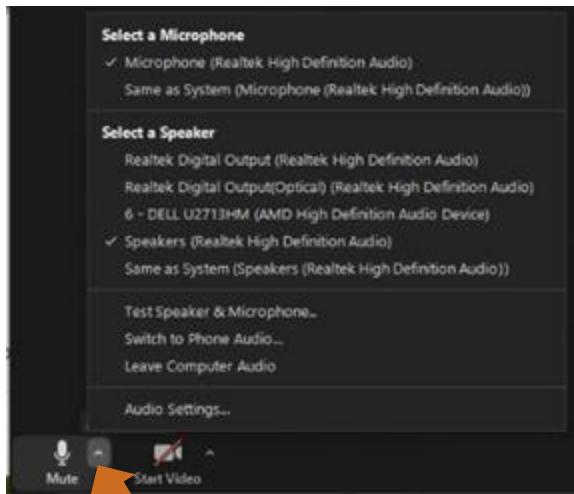
- While you are waiting test your audio.
- You were automatically muted upon entry.
- Please only join by phone or computer.
- Please use the chat feature for questions and/or comments or raise your hand.

Thank you!

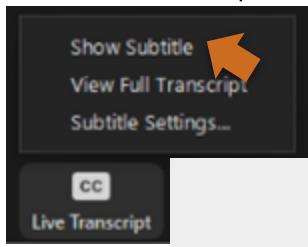
Zoom Webinar Controls

Navigating your bar on the bottom...

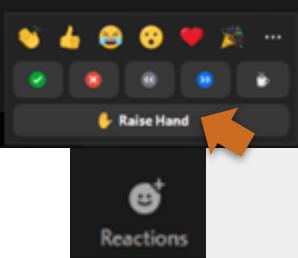
Audio Settings



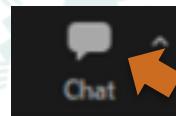
Turn on Closed Captioning



Raise Hand



Chat



KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS TO RAISE HAND

Windows: Alt+Y to raise or lower your hand

Mac: Option+Y to raise or lower your hand

Audio Settings

Settings

Speaker

Test Speaker

Built-in Output (Internal Speakers)

Output Level:

Output Volume:

Microphone

Test Mic

Built-in Microphone (Internal Micropho...)

Input Level:

Input Volume:

Automatically adjust microphone volume

Use separate audio device to play ringtone simultaneously

Join audio by computer when joining a meeting

Mute microphone when joining a meeting

Press and hold SPACE key to temporarily unmute yourself

Advanced

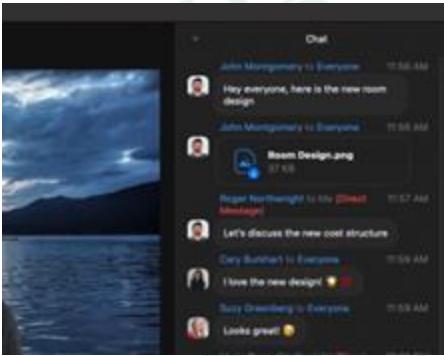
Webinar Tips



Mute your mic when you aren't speaking.



Limit background noise and distractions.



Use chat feature (or Q&A when available) to ask questions or share resources.

This Meeting Is Being Recorded

- The recording shall be the sole property of AHCCCS and participation in this meeting indicates your waiver of any and all rights of publicity and privacy.
- To respect the confidentiality of the participants and the content discussed, the recording will remain private.
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State Medicaid Advisory Committee (SMAC) Quarterly Meeting

Wed, January 7, 2026

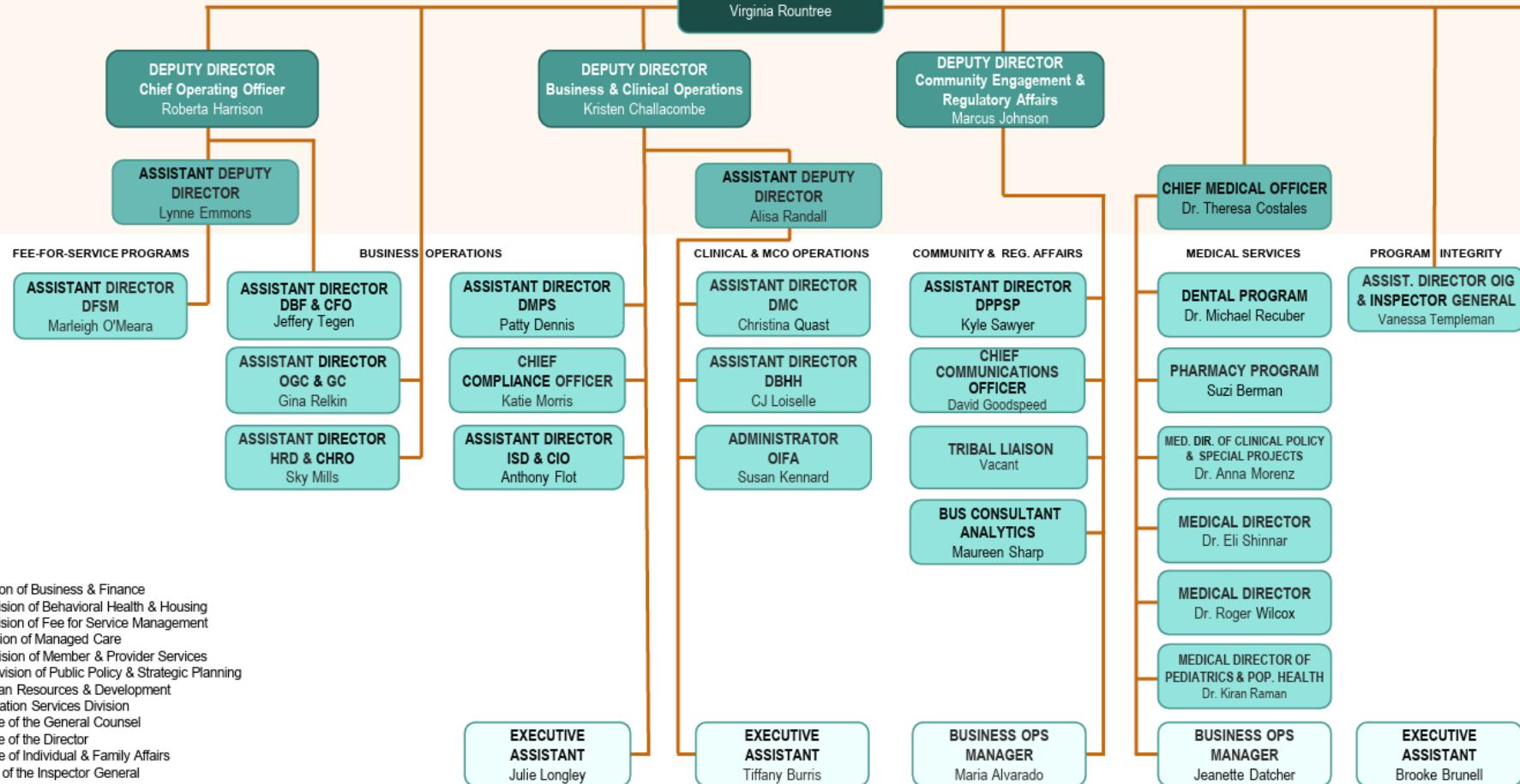
AHCCCS Updates



Marcus Johnson
Deputy Director,
Community Engagement
& Regulatory Affairs

Welcoming Ginny Rountree, AHCCCS' New Director!

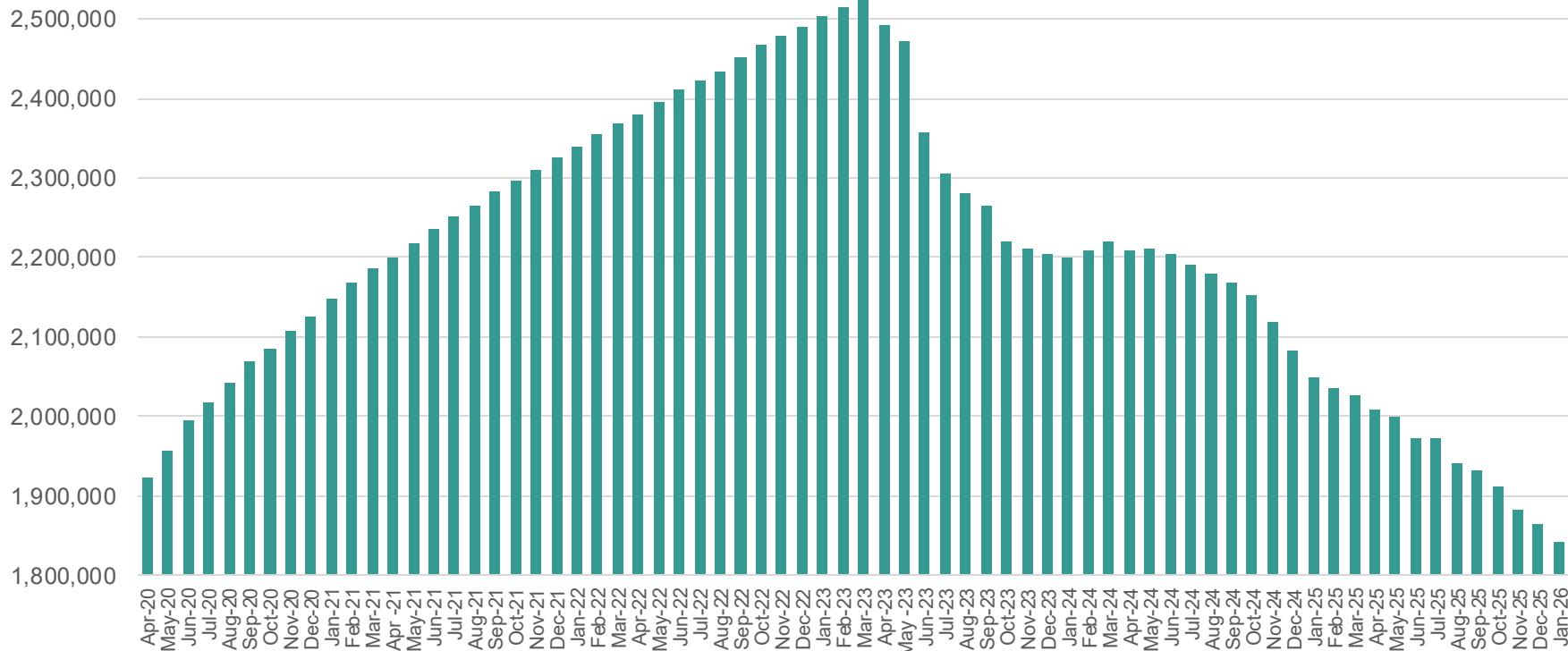


AHCCCS LEADERSHIP TEAM
 Senior Leadership Team


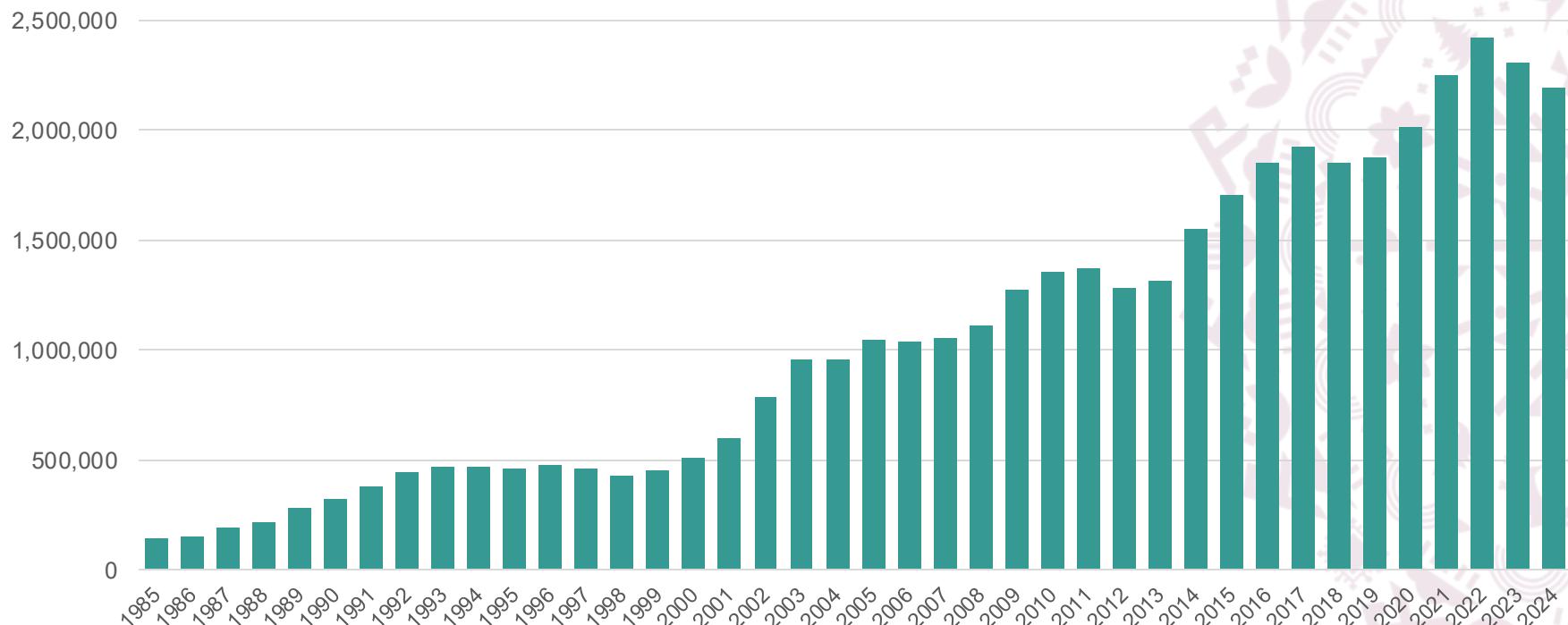
2025-2029 Strategic Plan



AHCCCS Population: Mar. 2020 - Jan. 2026



AHCCCS Population as of July 1, 1985 – 2024



Since We Last Met...

- Traditional Healing Go Live
- Cochlear Implants and Speech Therapy Coverage Expansion
- Continued system improvements to combat fraudulent billing and member exploitation
- Two Justice Initiatives
 - Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA): healthcare services for incarcerated youth (launched with ADJC)
 - Reentry Waiver: Reimbursement for services 90 days pre-release (In development)
- Fee-for-service provider engagement

H.R. 1 – Key Implementation Dates

- Rural Health Transformation Program – 12/31/25
- Community Engagement/Work Requirements – 12/31/26
- 6-month Eligibility Redeterminations – 12/31/26
- Hospital Assessment Implications – Phase down by 2032
- Cost Sharing Changes – 10/1/28
- Administrative Costs for Implementation and Operations – 2026 Legislative Session
- **IMPORTANT:** No immediate changes to AHCCCS member coverage

H.R. 1 – Implementation Costs

- AHCCCS Budget Proposal contains information on the first year implementation costs associated with H.R.1
 - \$71.4 million total fund increase, \$18.8 million general fund increase
 - 320 additional FTEs required
- The link to the budget proposal can be found here: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/Resources/GovernmentalOversight/proposals.html>

AHCCCS Moving Forward

- 1115 Waiver Renewal
- Medicaid Enterprise System (MES) Modernization continues
- Improvements in Tribal Engagement/DFSM Strategic Plan
- Reentry Waiver Implementation: 90 days Pre-Release Coverage
- 2026 Legislative Session
- Rural Health Transformation Program
- HR1 Community Engagement Outreach & Awareness



Open Discussion



SMAC Member Spotlight Updates



Tory Roberg
Director of Government
Affairs
Alzheimer's Association
Desert Southwest Chapter



Overview of the Alzheimer's Association

Tory Roberg
Arizona Director of Government Affairs

About the Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association leads the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support.

Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia®.





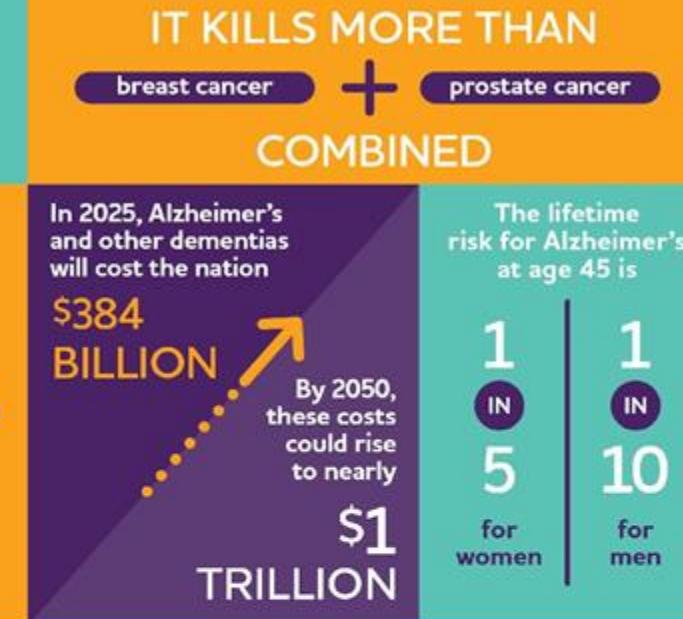
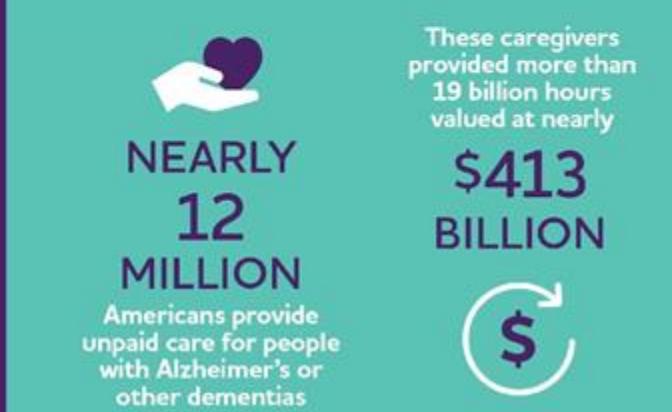
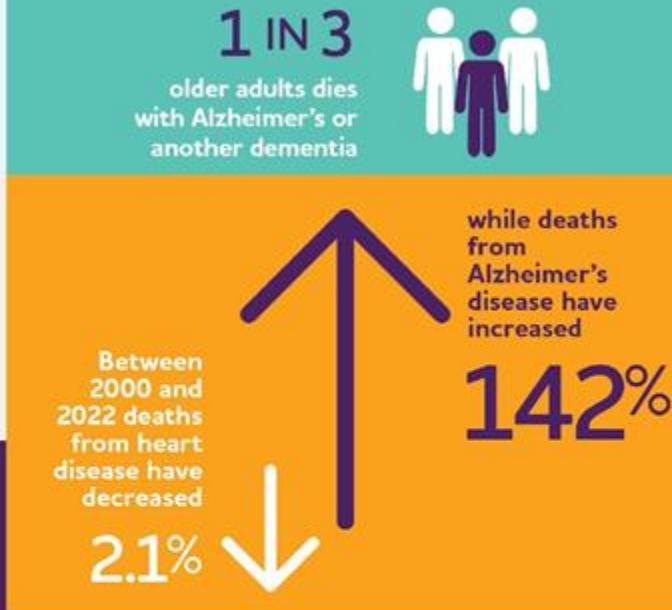
The Alzheimer's Association is the world's largest nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's disease research.

Currently, the Association has

\$430 million in over 1,150 active projects in 57 countries spanning six continents.

2025 ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE FACTS AND FIGURES

Over
7 MILLION
Americans are living with
Alzheimer's





Dementia

An umbrella term for loss of memory and other thinking abilities **severe enough to interfere with daily life.**



Treatments for Alzheimer's

While there's currently no cure for Alzheimer's, there are treatments that can change disease progression, and drug and non-drug options that may help treat symptoms. Talk to your doctor to learn more about treatment options. Learn more at alz.org/treatments.



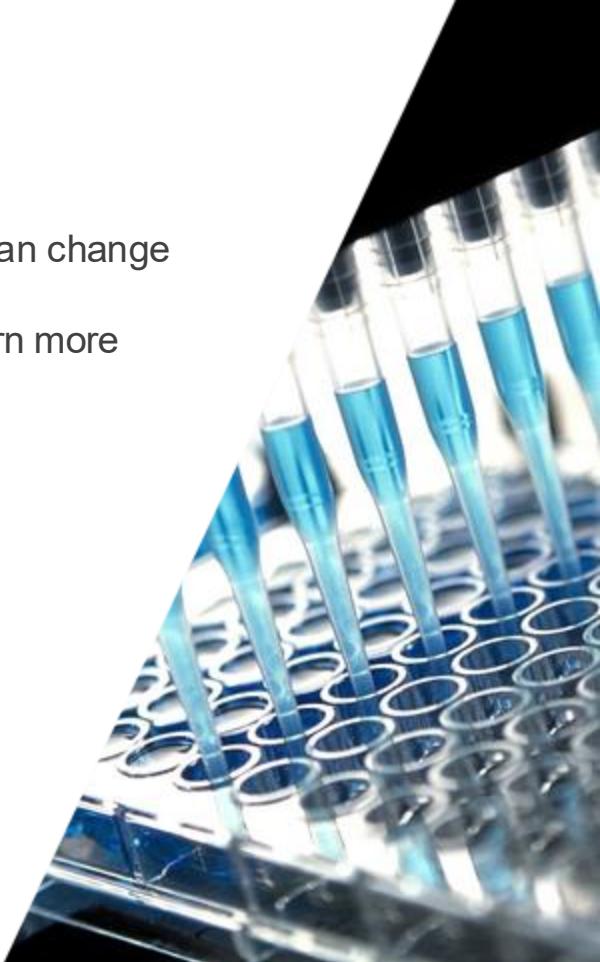
New treatments are available that slow disease progression for those in the earliest stages.

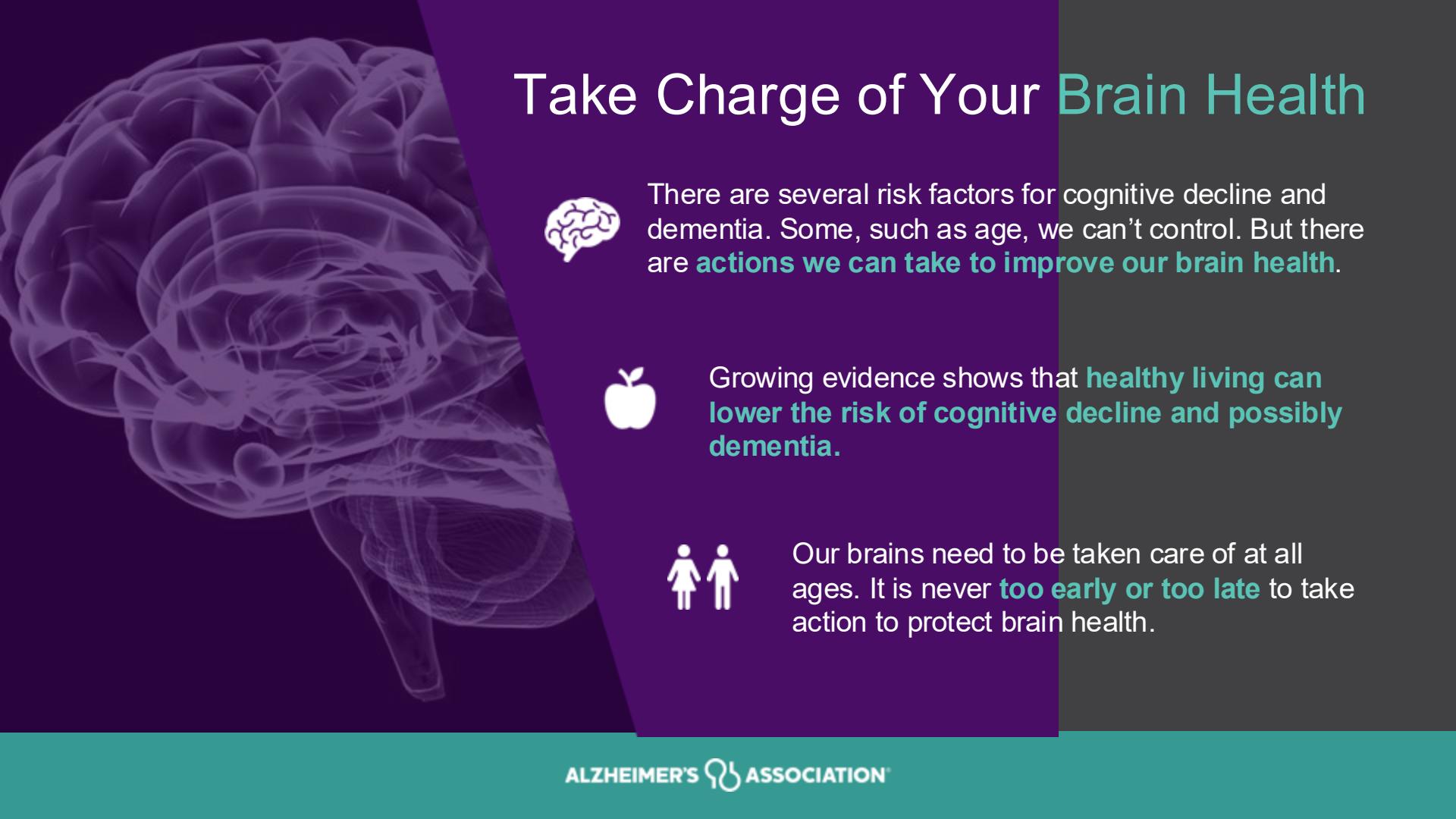


Drug and non-drug options are available that **may help treat symptoms**, such as memory loss and confusion.



Everyone experiences Alzheimer's differently, treatments **work in varying degrees and are not effective for everyone**.





Take Charge of Your Brain Health



There are several risk factors for cognitive decline and dementia. Some, such as age, we can't control. But there are **actions we can take to improve our brain health.**



Growing evidence shows that **healthy living can lower the risk of cognitive decline and possibly dementia.**



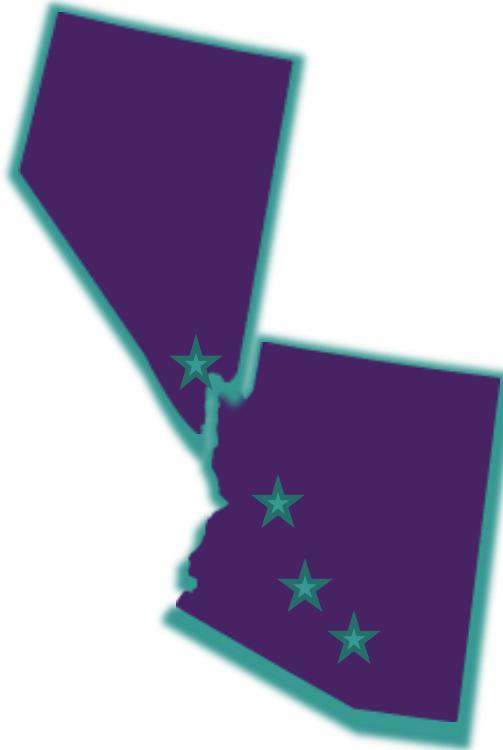
Our brains need to be taken care of at all ages. It is never **too early or too late** to take action to protect brain health.

THE U.S. POINTER BRAIN HEALTH RECIPE*



*Participants followed either a self-guided or structured lifestyle program. The two interventions both focused on the same lifestyle domains, but differed in structure, accountability and support provided.

Desert Southwest



Our Offices

- **Southern Nevada: Las Vegas**
 - Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Mineral, & Nye
- **Northern Arizona: Prescott**
 - Apache, Coconino, La Paz, Mohave, Navajo, & Yavapai
- **Central Arizona: Phoenix**
 - Gila, Maricopa, & Pinal
- **Southern Arizona: Tucson**
 - Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, Santa Cruz, & Yuma



24/7 Helpline

The Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline (800.272.3900) is a free service offering confidential information and support for people living with dementia, caregivers, families and the public.

Free Education and Support

The Association offers robust information, education and support both in person and online, and helps to connect individuals with resources in the community.

ALZNavigator

Just answer a few questions about your situation and ALZNavigator will guide you to the resources and tools you need today and throughout each step of the disease — all in one place. Whether you're a caregiver, a person living with dementia, or someone concerned about memory loss, find the support you need.

ALZNavigator
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION



*"I didn't know what I needed,
but together we figured it out."*

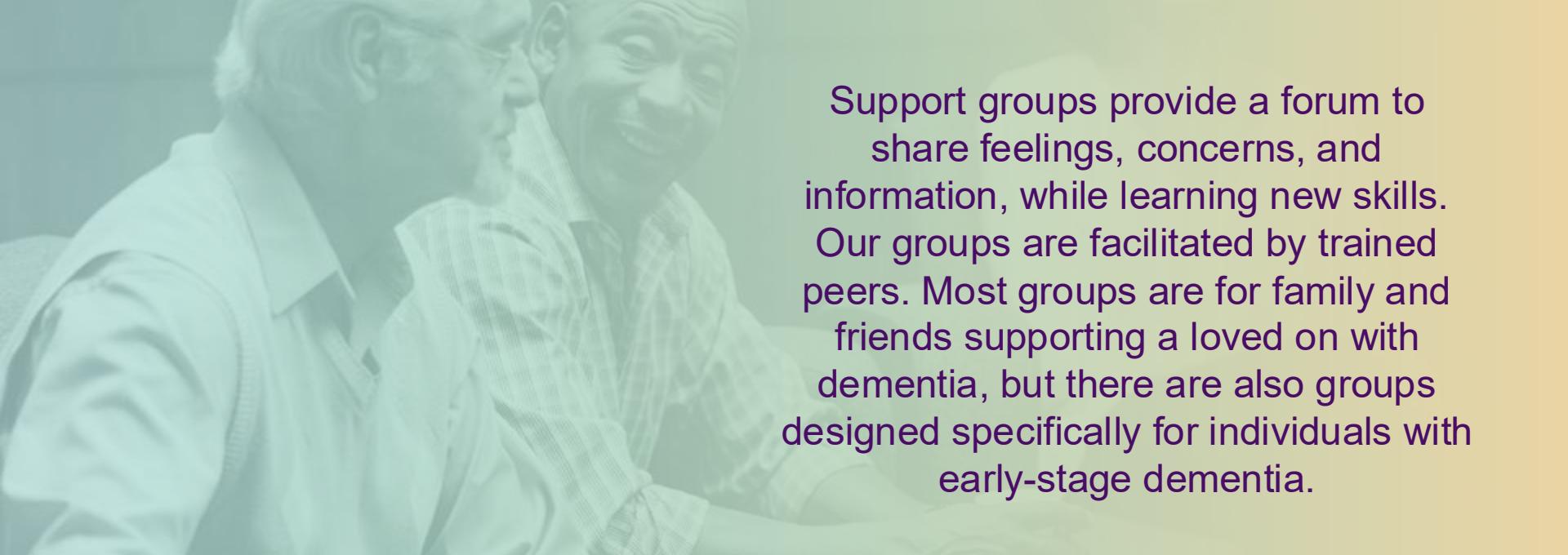
If you're living with Alzheimer's or dementia, or care about someone who has been diagnosed, the Alzheimer's Association® 24/7 Helpline is here when you want to talk.

One call can make a difference.
800.272.3900 | alz.org/helpline

ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®

Alzheimer's Association Support Groups

Find local support groups at
www.communityresourcefinder.org



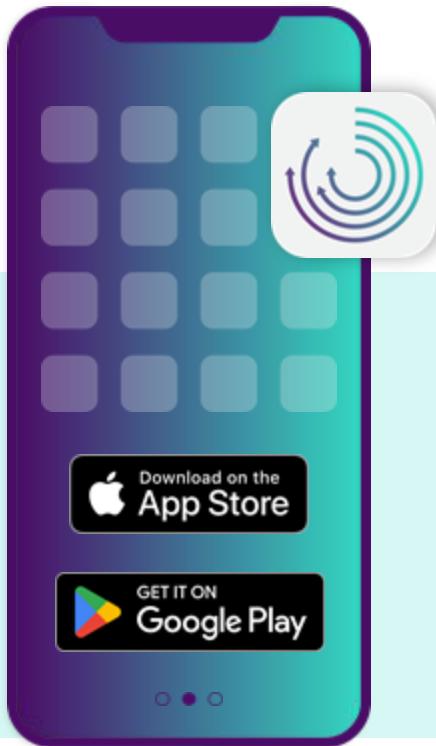
Support groups provide a forum to share feelings, concerns, and information, while learning new skills. Our groups are facilitated by trained peers. Most groups are for family and friends supporting a loved one with dementia, but there are also groups designed specifically for individuals with early-stage dementia.

Alzheimer's Association Education Programs

Find our education on demand at
alz.org/education

- 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's
- Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia
- Managing Money: A Caregiver's Guide to Finances
- Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body
- Dementia Conversations
- Empowered Caregiver Series
 - Building Foundations for Caregiving
 - Exploring Care and Support Services
 - Communicating Effectively
 - Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors
 - Supporting Independence





My ALZ Journey

ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®

**Support, guidance
and connection for
newly diagnosed
people and care
partners –
all in one app**



Free mobile app for newly diagnosed individuals and care partners



Provides personalized guidance, trusted resources and local connections



Helps users understand their diagnosis, stay independent and plan for the future



Connects users to their local Alzheimer's Association chapter for programs and support



Built with input from people living with dementia and care partners

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®

Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, the **Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's®** is the world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support and research.
alz.org/walk





Thank you!

Tory Roberg
Arizona Director of Government Affairs
Alzheimer's Association
Troberg@alz.org





Open Discussion

Federal Relations Updates



Max Seifer
Federal Relations Chief
Division of Public Policy and Strategic
Planning

H.R.1 - One Big Beautiful Bill Act

- On July 4th, 2025, President Trump signed *H.R.1 – One Big Beautiful Bill Act* (OBBA) in law.
 - The U.S. Senate approved the bill with a 51-50 vote on July 1, 2025, with Vice President JD Vance serving as the tie breaking vote.
 - The U.S. House of Representatives passed an identical version on July 3, 2025 with a final vote of 218-214.
- In addition to various tax policies, the legislation makes significant changes to the Medicaid program by imposing changes that impact eligibility standards, Medicaid financing, and impose additional administrative requirements.

H.R.1 - One Big Beautiful Bill Act

- **Community Engagement Requirements (Section 71119)**
 - Beginning January 1, 2027, states are required to establish work/community engagement requirements for certain individuals.
 - **Eligibility:** Work requirements apply to adults between the ages of 19-64. However, outlines a variety of exemptions.
 - **Exemptions:** Pregnant women and those entitled to postpartum medical assistance, foster and former foster youth, Native Americans/Urban Indians, Veterans with rated disabilities, medically frail, Active AUD/SUD Treatment, meet work requirements for TANF/SNAP, parents/caregivers of a dependent child 13 years of age and under or an individual with a disability, and individuals who are incarcerated or were released within the past 90 days.

H.R.1 - One Big Beautiful Bill Act

- **Community Engagement Requirements (Section 71119) Cont.**
 - **Compliance:** Individuals subject to the requirement must complete a qualifying activity for at least 80 hours per month. Activities include employment, community service, work program, > half-time enrollment in educational program, and seasonal workers above an income threshold.
 - **Verification:** States must verify at time of application for at least the preceding month (no more than three preceding months) and then ongoing at least once during ongoing eligibility window.
 - **Non-Compliance:** If an individual does not comply with these requirements, they will be found ineligible for Medicaid.

H.R.1 - One Big Beautiful Bill Act

- **Community Engagement Requirements (Section 71119) Cont.**
 - **Additional Requirements:** States are required to use an ex parte process where applicable and will be required to conduct various outreach and education to make members aware of the requirement.
 - "Ex Parte" in Medicaid refers to a process where eligibility is determined using reliable information already available to the agency.
 - **Prohibitions:** Prohibits any state from waiving this requirement through an 1115 and prohibits conflicts of interest when determining compliance.

H.R.1 - One Big Beautiful Bill Act

- **Eligibility Redeterminations (Section 71107)**
 - Beginning December 31, 2026, requires states to conduct eligibility redeterminations for expansion adults every six months (currently once every 12 months)

H.R.1 - One Big Beautiful Bill Act

- **Cost Sharing for Expansion Adults (Section 71120)**
 - Beginning October 1, 2028, requires states to impose cost-sharing for expansion adults with incomes over 100 percent of FPL.
 - Must be more than \$0 and cannot exceed \$35 per item or service
 - States can no longer impose premiums, enrollment fees, etc.
 - Certain services/settings are excluded (primary care, prenatal care, pediatric care, emergency care, FQHCs, rural health clinics)

H.R.1 - One Big Beautiful Bill Act

- **Provider Taxes (Section 71115)**
 - Provider taxes are state-imposed taxes that are utilized to help fund various Medicaid programs.
 - In Arizona, we use a fair portion of these funds to pay the state share of costs for the expansion populations and to increase payment rates to certain provider types.
 - The new law will reduce the maximum allowable tax from 6.0 percent to 3.5 percent of net patient revenue.
 - This decrease will be phased-down by 0.5% starting in FY 2028 and reaching 3.5% in FY 2032.
 - A more detailed analysis of this provision can be found on the AHCCCS Data Insights Webpage.

H.R.1 - One Big Beautiful Bill Act

- **State Directed Payment (Section 71116)**
 - State directed payments (SDPs) are supplemental payments that many states, including Arizona, utilize to augment low Medicaid reimbursement rates for certain providers.
 - Beginning January 1, 2028, this new legislation will phase down existing SDPs by 10 percentage points each year until the total rate reaches 100% of the Medicare Payment Rate.
 - Certain SDPs may be grandfathered (certain rural hospital payments and certain SDPs that were submitted to CMS prior to 7/4/2025).

H.R.1 - One Big Beautiful Bill Act

- **Federal Payments to Prohibited Entities (Section 71113)**
 - For one year following enactment of this legislation, this provision prohibits federal payments to entities that are: 501(c)(3) entities, essential community provider engaged in family planning services, provide abortions, and meet other financial and status criteria.
- **Expansion FMAP for Emergency Medicaid (Section 71110)**
 - Beginning October 1, 2026, sets the FMAP (or federal contribution) for emergency Medicaid to the base FMAP for the state shifting additional costs to the state.
 - "FMAP" stands for Federal Medical Assistance Percentage and represents the share of cost that is paid by the federal government.

What's Next?

- AHCCCS teams are currently in the implementation planning phase for all sections of HR1, with a particular focus on the eligibility changes.
- It's important to note the delayed effective dates of many of these provisions. There have been no immediate changes to Arizona Medicaid eligibility, services, or rates because of this legislation.
- As AHCCCS begins to develop various resources and materials, what information and resources would be most beneficial for you all?



Open Discussion

Medicaid Enterprise Systems (MES) Updates



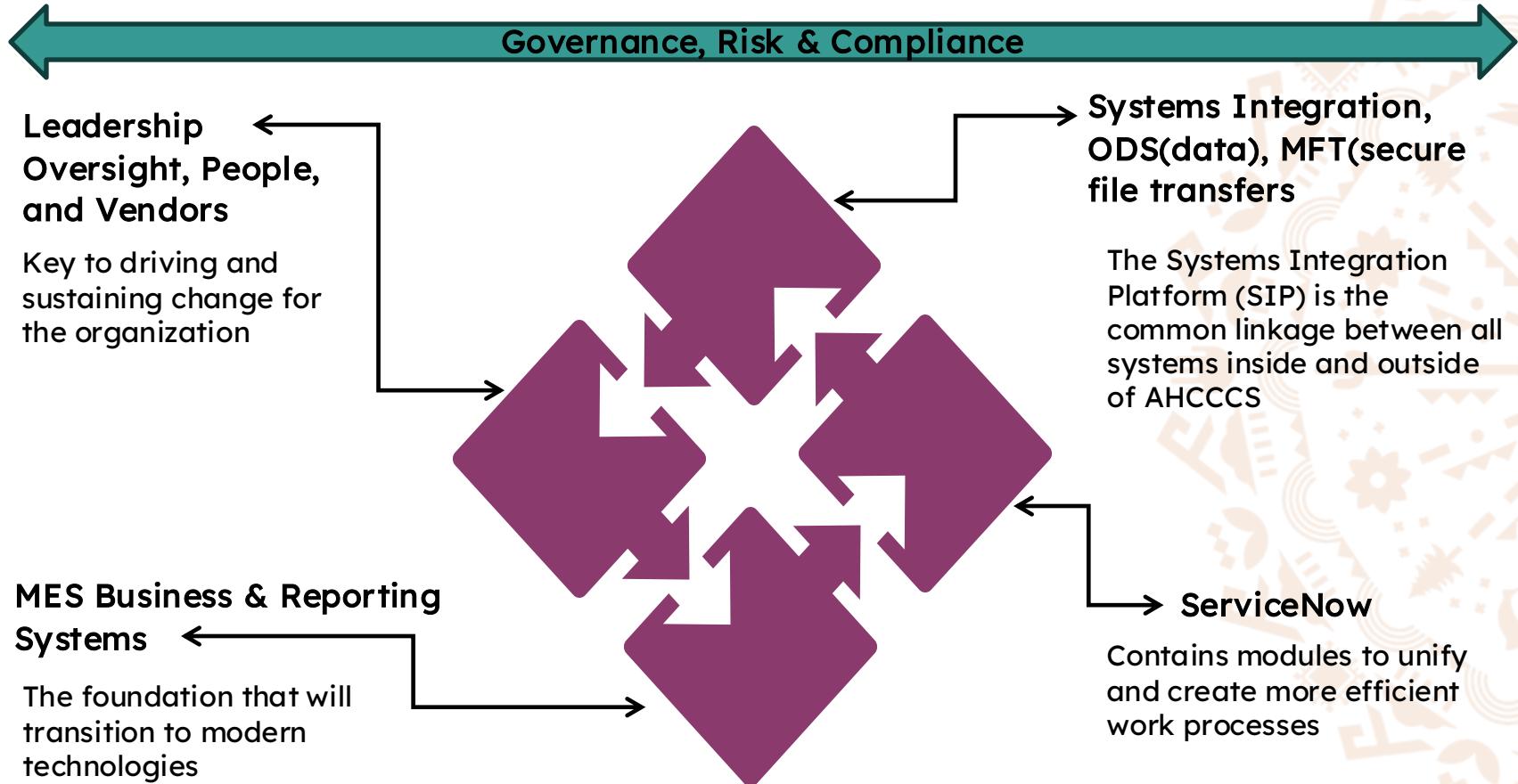
Marna Richmond
Deputy Chief Information Officer
Information Services Division

Why Modernize & Transform AHCCCS Technology?



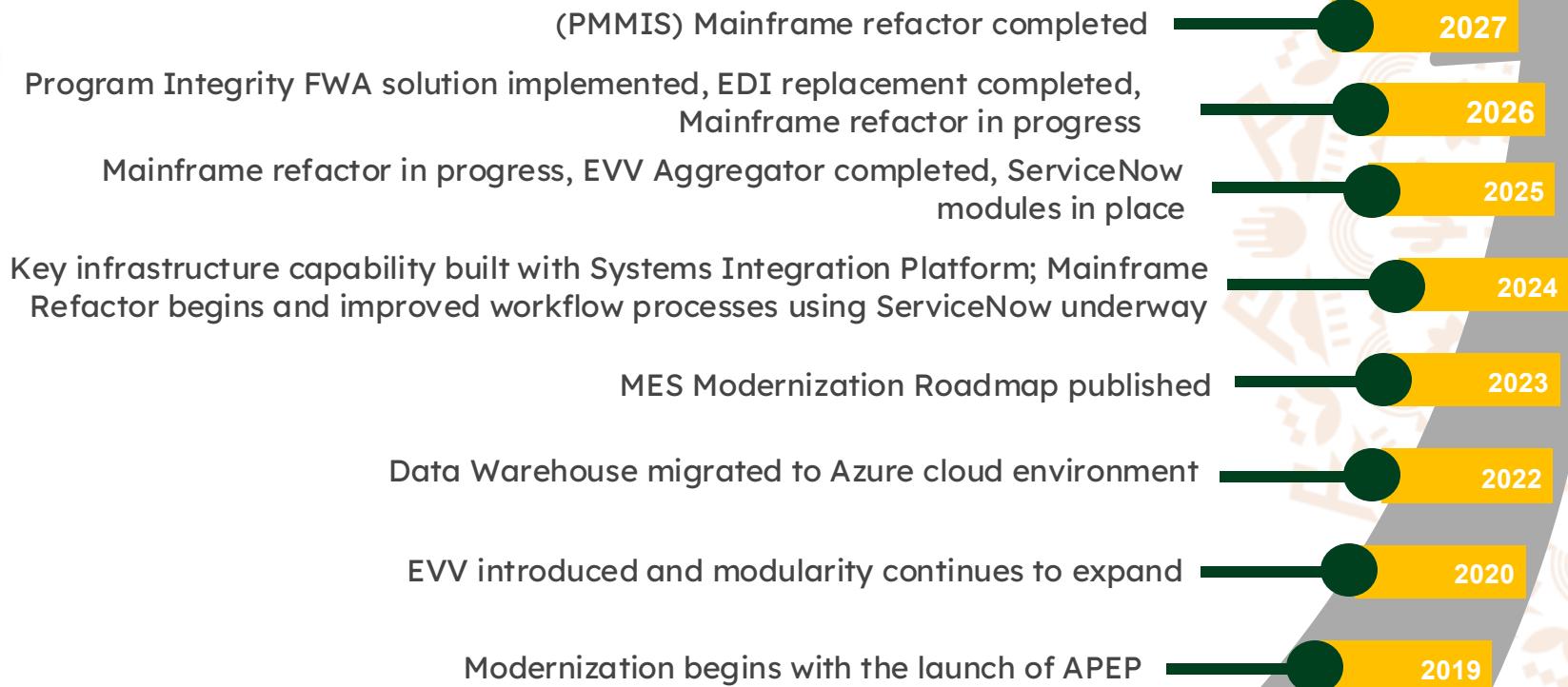
The modernization of existing systems and innovation through new tools and technology allows AHCCCS to **adapt quickly to meet the needs of members and providers** in an everchanging environment.

Putting the Pieces Together of MES Modernization



MES Modernization Program Evolution

Sustaining new tools and systems along with continued process refinement





AHCCCS Solutions Center



All new platform and modules to create continuity of care through **collaboration, integration and standardization.**

The SIP provides integration of platforms, systems and applications for better accessibility and reporting.

File, Data, and Document Retrieval and Transfer
Web Service Integrations

AHCCCS Systems Integration Platform & Services



File, Data, and Document Retrieval and Transfer
Web Service Integrations

Ability to change or update systems with the best fit now and in the future.

AHCCCS MES Business & Reporting Systems





Open Discussion

Wishing us all a successful 2026!!

SMAC Updates



Desiree Greene
Project Manager
BAC and SMAC Liaison
Division of Public Policy and
Strategic Planning

New SMAC Member Spotlight - Ryan Johnson

Let's welcome Ryan Johnson to the SMAC!

Ryan Johnson is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and currently offers therapy, consulting, and supervision services at Ryan Johnson & Associates, LLC. Her experience includes work as a family therapist, clinical supervisor, program developer, agency director, and private practitioner. Ryan's experiences have influenced her passion for advocacy and clinical care through a trauma-informed lens.

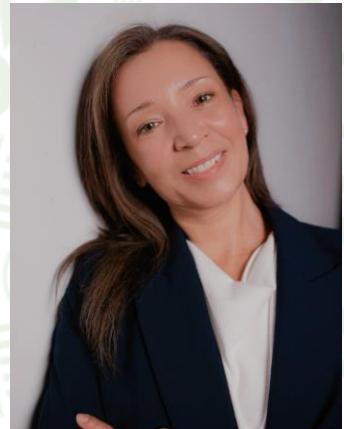


New SMAC Member Spotlight - Helena Whitney

Let's welcome Helena Whitney to the SMAC!

Whitney has deep expertise in both Arizona and federal health policy as well as an understanding of health policy and programs in other states. Notably, she most recently served as an associate principal at Health Management Associates (HMA), a prominent nationwide healthcare consulting firm. Whitney started her health policy career at the Arizona

Legislature serving as a senior health and human services policy advisor in the state House of Representatives. She also worked at the University of Arizona Health Network as the vice president of government relations & legislative affairs.



Beneficiary Advisory Council: Why?

- In 2024, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) established a requirement for all state Medicaid agencies to operate a Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC).
- The BAC creates an opportunity to elevate member, family member and/or caregiver voice in advising AHCCCS directly on policy and program administration.

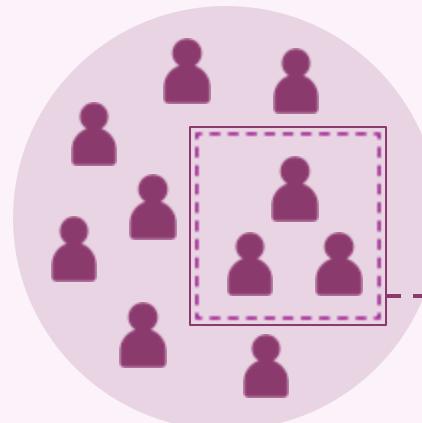
Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC)

The BAC is a dedicated forum for **people with lived experience** of the Medicaid program. BAC members must include:

Current and/or former Medicaid enrollees

Family members of enrollees

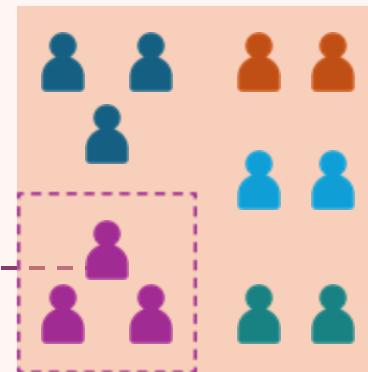
Paid or unpaid caregivers of enrollees



States must publicly post the MAC and BAC annual report, bylaws, membership lists, member recruitment/selection processes, and meeting minutes and MUST submit an annual report of all BAC activities.

Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC)

The MAC is a **diverse group of Medicaid stakeholders** with a wide range of perspectives and experiences. The MAC includes BAC members and at least one representative from each of these categories:



Clinical providers/
administrators

Participating plans/
state associations

Other state agencies as
ex officio members

State, local, or community-based organizations

By July 10, 2027, 25% of MAC members must be from the BAC*

*In the final rule, CMS opted to phase in this requirement, providing that 10% of MAC members must also be members of the BAC for the period July 9, 2025, through July 9, 2026; 20% for the period July 10, 2026, through July 9, 2027; and 25% thereafter.

Meeting Requirements



The BAC must meet separately and in advance of MAC meetings.

This helps ensure that the perspective of those with lived experience informs the broader discussions.



The BAC and MAC must offer a variety of meeting participation options.

Can be in-person, virtual, or hybrid, but telephone dial-in is always required.



At least two MAC meetings per year must be public.

Meetings must include dedicated time for public comment.



The BAC and MAC must each meet once per quarter.

Meetings may be held off cycle as necessary.

At least one member of the state's executive staff must attend all BAC and MAC meetings.

Beneficiary Advisory Council Members

Aimee Griffith-Johnson
Amanda Mae Sampsel
Bonnie G Danowski
Cindy Mittlestadt
Dave J Ruitenberg
Dominique Colunga
Edward Katz
Felicia Racquel Burford
Lois Earley
Trenae Lonetti

BAC Members Serving on the SMAC

- Beginning on January 7, 2026, each SMAC meeting will also have two BAC representatives in attendance.
- Four BAC members have been selected to also serve on the SMAC.
- Each pair will only attend two of the four quarterly meetings.

BAC Members	BAC Members	BAC Members	BAC Members
SMAC Jan Meeting	SMAC April Meeting	SMAC July Meeting	SMAC October Meeting
Bonnie Danowski	Dominique Colunga	Ed Katz	Aimee Griffith-Johnson
Bonnie Danowski	Dominique Colunga	Ed Katz	Aimee Griffith-Johnson

Updated SMAC Membership Subcommittee

- Current SMAC Membership Subcommittee Members: Tory Roberg, Dina Norwood, Vicki Staples, and Dr. Aaron Knudson.
- Welcome new subcommittee members: Tory, Vicki, and Dr. Knudson!
- We appreciate all the nominations and carefully review each to ensure we have all areas of expertise available to continue the SMAC mission which is to advise the AHCCCS Director or designee on policy, operations and administrative issues of the Medicaid program, including issues of concern to the community.

SMAC Membership Assignments & Voting Session



Vicki Staples
Director of Outpatient
Behavioral Health Programs
Valleywise Health

SMAC Member Nomination Review

The SMAC receives many nominations for consideration throughout the year. The SMAC Liaison saves and prepares them for submission to the Membership Subcommittee in accordance with the bylaws. The Subcommittee provides recommendations to the AHCCCS Director or designee for consideration to move forward with a formal majority vote of the SMAC during an open meeting.

Current Provider SMAC Members

Helena Whitney, Senior Vice President Policy & Advocacy, Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association

Dr. Aaron Knudson, Internal Medicine and Pediatric Hospitalist, Banner Page Hospital

Open Seat - Dr. Elizabeth McKenna, M.D., Co-Owner, Healing Hearts Pediatrics

Dr. Jessica B. Peterkin, Dentist & Founder/CEO, Ministry of Dentistry, Inc

Vicki Staples, Director of OP Behavioral Health, Valleywise Health

Ryan Johnson, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Ryan Johnson & Associates, LLC

Jennifer Longdon, Chief External Affairs Officer, AZ Alliance for Community Health Centers (new member)

Karen Ressegue, Behavioral Health Administrator, AllThrive 365

Katherine Andersen, Director of Health Information Management and Medical Staff; Privacy Officer, San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation

Brittney Kaufmann, Chief Executive Officer, Health System Alliance of Arizona



Thank You

Dr. Elizabeth McKenna

Recommendation for Provider Member Assignment

Nominee	Title	Association
Sara Wilson	President and CEO	Home Assistant Health



SMAC Member Assignment Vote



Open Discussion



Call to the Public

2026 SMAC Meeting Calendar

Per bylaws language, SMAC meetings are to be held during the 1st or 2nd Wednesday of January, April, July, and October from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

2026 SMAC Meetings:

January 7, 2026

April 8, 2026

July 8, 2026

October 7, 2026 (final meeting of the year)

For all SMAC Dates and Meeting Materials, see the following link:

<https://www.azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/HealthcareAdvocacy/smac.html>

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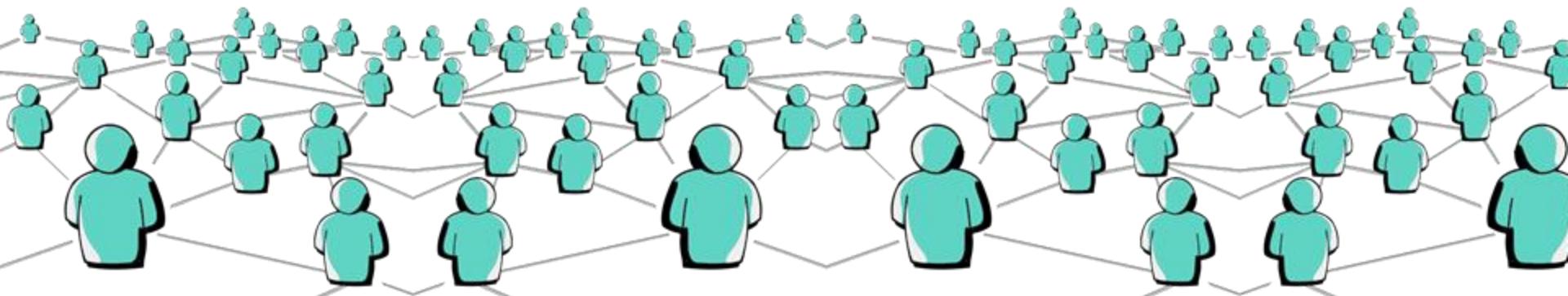
[@AHCCCSgov](https://www.instagram.com/AHCCCSgov)

LinkedIn



YouTube

[AHCCCSgov](https://www.youtube.com/AHCCCSgov)



Learn About AHCCCS' Medicaid Program on YouTube!



Watch our Playlist:

[Meet Arizona's Innovative Medicaid Program](#)



Other Resources - Quick Links

- AHCCCS [Waiver](#)
- AHCCCS [State Plan](#)
- AHCCCS [Grants](#)
- AHCCCS [Whole Person Care Initiative \(WPCI\)](#)
- AHCCCS [Office of Human Rights](#)
- AHCCCS [Office of Individual and Family Affairs](#)
- ALTCS Email: mcotransitions@azahcccs.gov and [FAQ](#)

Other Resources - Quick Links

- [About AHCCCS](#)
- [Acronyms](#)
- [State Medicaid Advisory Coommitee \(SMAC\)](#)
- [Communicating the BAC and MAC](#)
- [Beneficiary Advisory Council \(BAC\)](#)
- [Tribal Relations](#)





Thank you and have
a great 2026!