We have come together – community members, health care providers, government officials, caregivers, people with Alzheimer’s, academics, and businesses – to better support individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and their families.

ACT on Alzheimer’s is a public-private community collaboration that grew out of a 2011 legislative study to improve services and supports for people with Alzheimer’s disease. The collaboration has taken steps to make Minnesota the first state in the nation that is “prepared for Alzheimer’s.”

More than 50 organizations participate in ACT on Alzheimer’s and 150 individuals have helped create its products, which include:

- Tools for providers to help them identify and manage cognitive impairment and make referrals to specialty care
- Online interdisciplinary dementia education modules for undergraduate and graduate students
- Dementia care coordination standards for certified health care homes
- Consumer-based enhancements to MinnesotaHelp.info’s® dementia-related resources
- A community toolkit to assess and increase community readiness and capability to address dementia, currently being piloted in five communities, along with a community engagement plan
- A tool to project economic implications for use by policy makers to model the impacts of two types of interventions, one for care partner support and the other for improving transitional care.

ACT on Alzheimer’s represents an effective, robust, and widespread community initiative and its timing is impeccable as Minnesota’s population ages and lives longer than ever before.