

Background Information about the *Grant to Improve Dementia Care in BC*

In June of last year the Alzheimer Society of B.C. (ASBC) was given a \$ 1-million *Grant to Improve Dementia Care in BC* from the B.C. Ministry of Health, to begin the implementation of the B.C. Dementia Service Framework to help all British Columbians affected by dementia.

What is the Dementia Service Framework (DSF)?

The Dementia Service Framework is a provincial initiative funded by the Ministry of Health. Developed in 2006, the framework summarizes evidence-based recommendations for dementia care to ensure people with dementia receive the best care, based on best practices and established evidence.

How was the DSF created?

The Alzheimer Society of B.C. (ASBC), Health Authorities, the Ministry of Health and other agencies have been working to improve the lives of people living with dementia. Plans have been written by Health Authorities, Clinical Practice Guidelines have been developed for physicians, and a provincial Dementia Policy conference has been held. In 2006, much of the work that had been done in the province on dementia was incorporated into the DSF.

The development of the DSF involved a cross-section of stakeholders, including representatives from the Ministry of Health, all five health authorities, the ASBC, the Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health and Addiction, and Impact BC. Through the development of the DSF, people involved in receiving, planning, and delivering care and services to people living with dementia came together and developed evidence-based recommendations for improving outcomes for people living with dementia and their families.

What is the Grant to Improve Dementia Care in BC?

Awarded to the ASBC, this \$1 million grant is intended to create action within the system of care for people living with dementia based on the recommendations contained in the DSF. The grant is a one time funding source that can be spent in fiscal years 2007-08 and 2008-09.

The ASBC was tasked to focus on evidence-based initiatives that support any or all of the following:

- early detection of dementia;
- early intervention with an individual and their family when a diagnosis is provided;
- the development of supports that help people stay in their community;
- the generation and/or spread of knowledge of evidence-based practices in dementia care through the fostering of education, evaluation, research, and policy;
- improvement in acute care for people with dementia; and
- the use of technology as an enabler to support the person living with dementia, their families and caregivers, and their health care providers.



What did ASBC do with the grant?

ASBC has targeted approximately \$910,000 of this grant for the seven projects announced today as well as two learning forums.

To build on the existing programs and research being done, the ASBC put out a call for proposals to interested organizations. To increase the impact of the funding available through the grant, ASBC also requested applicants to submit proposals with contributing funds or in-kind contributions from other sources. Grant applications between \$50,000 and \$150,000 were considered. A total of 16 proposals were received and seven will receive funding. Including contributing funds, more than \$1.4 million will be spent on these seven projects, with \$760,000 coming directly from the ASBC.

A second and equally critical part of these funds is the \$150,000 being invested in two province-wide learning forums, one to be held in the fall of 2008, and the other in the spring of 2009. ASBC sees the learning forums as both an important and strategic opportunity to broadly share knowledge to further dementia care – reaching out far beyond the original grant recipients and their partners. At these learning forums, the information and experiences being gleaned by these projects will be shared widely. In addition, the connection to the DSF will be strengthened and discussion on how to continue moving forward on the DSF will occur.

The remaining funding is being used in two ways: firstly to administer the above noted activities, and secondly to strengthen the internal capacity of the ASBC. To continue to develop the DSF, and to build on the outcomes of these seven projects, the ASBC must advance its own leadership capacity in the field of dementia care - and this funding will help it to do so.

Where can I get further information?

Background information about the DSF can be found at:

http://www.alzheimerbc.org/pdf/DementiaServiceFramework_PDF.pdf

Further information on the *Grant to Improve Dementia Care in BC* can be found in the Call for Proposal's at http://www.alzheimerbc.org/documents/CFP_final.pdf. General information is available on the ASBC website at www.alzheimerbc.org

