

# ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION FORM

*Please include only one recommendation on each form.*

**This form must be returned via e-mail to [katie.mulford@iowa.gov](mailto:katie.mulford@iowa.gov) no later than 5:00 p.m., Tuesday Nov. 27, 2007**

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**Address**

**Each recommendation must fit into one of the following categories. Please check the appropriate box:**

**Education and training**

**Services and housing**

**Funding and reimbursement**

**Wellness and disease management**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the guidelines for use of adult day programming, respite, meals on wheels, and other supportive senior services be extended to include people under the age of 60 who have an established diagnosis of young-onset Alzheimer's disease or related neurodegenerative dementing disorders (such as Lewy body disease, vascular dementia, or frontotemporal dementia).

## **IN 250 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE INCLUDE COMMENTS, JUSTIFICATION, RESOURCES OR OTHER INFORMATION TO HELP THE TASK FORCE UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR RECOMMENDATION.**

People under age 60 who suffer from dementing illnesses are a small, yet growing population, who, because of young age, are excluded from almost all of the service programs. Many of these people have Alzheimer's disease, yet a significant number have frontotemporal dementia or other related dementing disorders making their care complicated and difficult. Known in the "Alzheimer's Community" as "young onset," these people have similar needs for activities and care as their older counterparts and have highly individualized special needs related to their young age including:

1. Because the family is too young for retirement and Medicare, a partner or spouse must remain employed. Often the young onset person remains in the home alone long past when it is safe because the family is unable to afford or find a companion.
2. Many senior services will not provide services to younger people due to regulatory parameters. The few Adult Day Programs who accept people under age 60, lack funding to help these people. In addition the activities are designed for older adults are not appropriate for younger individuals who were not socialized to play bingo, cards, and enjoy "gentle" music programming.
4. If no services are available the young onset person requires premature institutionalization, often on Title 19, thereby increasing burden on the state.

Tier Rating: Tier 1 The cost of this recommendation is relatively small, yet critical. It should be implemented within 1-2 years