

# factsheet

MARCH 2016

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## Fiscal Year 2017 Alzheimer's Research Funding

**The escalating Alzheimer's epidemic has profound implications for government budgets – in addition to its devastating impact on families.**

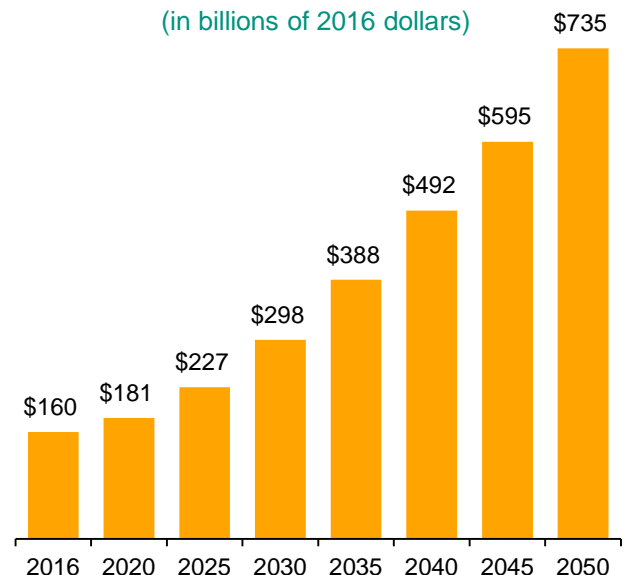
- Alzheimer's is the most expensive disease in America, costing more than heart disease and cancer.
- In 2016, caring for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost the United States an estimated \$236 billion. Cumulatively between now and 2050, it will cost \$19.8 trillion, with nearly half of the cost being borne by Medicare.
- Nearly one in every five dollars of Medicare spending is spent on people with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

**Despite the growing burden of the disease, the investment in Alzheimer's research falls far short of the need.**

- For fiscal year 2016, Congress provided an additional \$350 million for Alzheimer's research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
- With the recent increases in funding, the NIH is expected to spend \$991 million on Alzheimer's research in 2016.
- However, this still means that for every \$16,000 Medicare and Medicaid spend caring for people with Alzheimer's, the NIH spends only \$100 on Alzheimer's research.

### Alzheimer's Costs to Medicare and Medicaid

(in billions of 2016 dollars)



**Congressional action is needed to stay on the path to discovering scientific breakthroughs.**

- In 2012, an expert panel of scientists concluded that a ramp up to \$2 billion in annual Alzheimer's research funding is necessary to achieve breakthroughs in developing preventions and effective treatments for Alzheimer's by 2025 – the goal established in the National Alzheimer's Plan.
- To achieve this, the next step is for Congress to provide at least an additional \$400 million in NIH Alzheimer's research funding as part of the fiscal year 2017 appropriations process.