

# Dementia Care Specialist Program

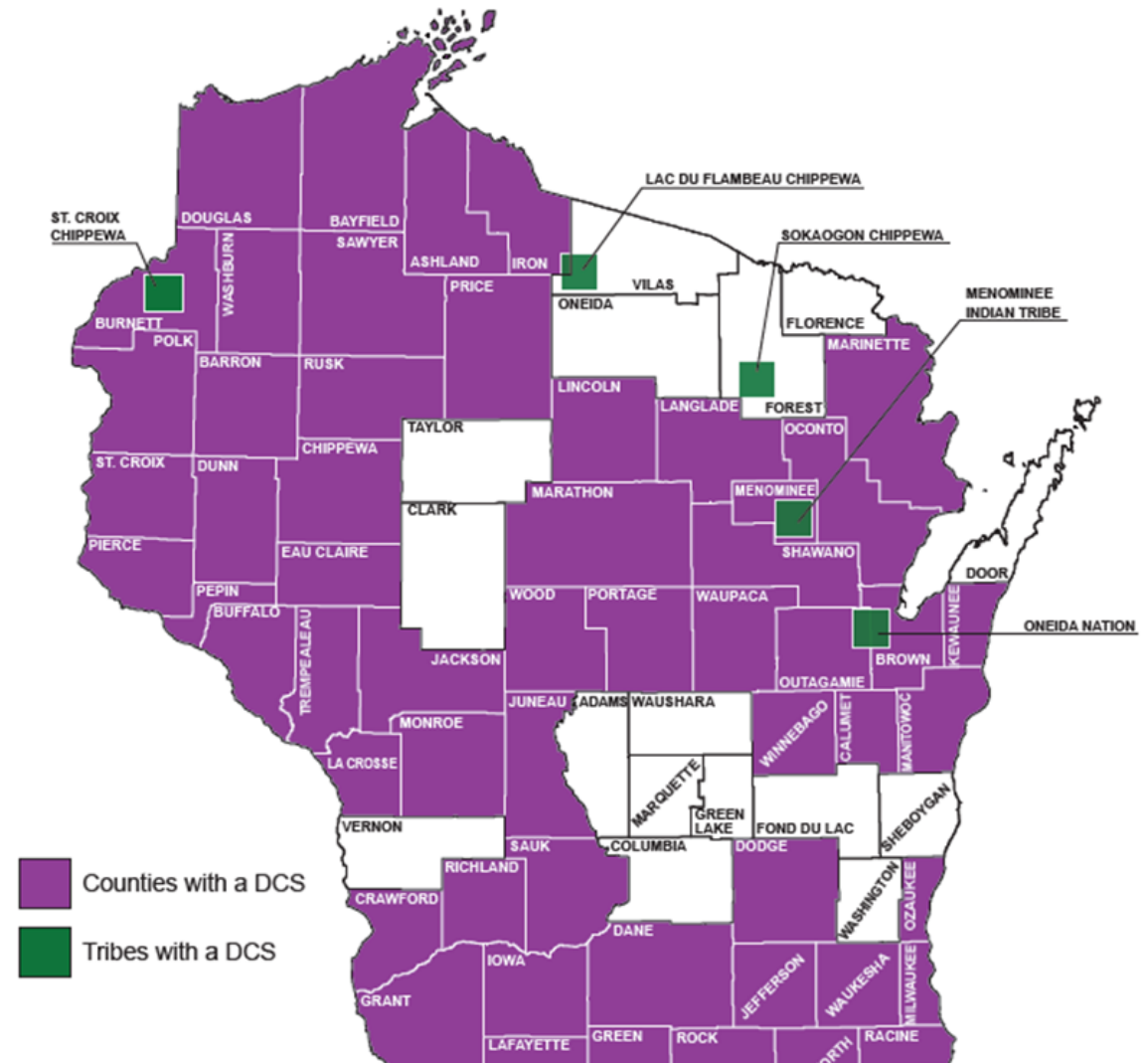
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# Wisconsin DCS

- Currently Wisconsin has 33 DCS's
- Services 34 ADRC's (56 counties)
- 5 tribes

Aging and Disability Resource Center and Tribal Dementia Care Specialists (DCS)



# What is a Dementia Care Specialist?

The Dementia Care Specialist Program is embedded within select Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) and has three primary goals

- To support the ADRC staff and county programs to be better prepared, with knowledge and resources, to support individuals with dementia of all ages and their families
- To act as a catalyst to create a dementia friendly community. Specialists may work with businesses, employers, local organizations, and the community to raise awareness of the unique needs of individuals with dementia and their families
- To assist individuals with dementia to remain active and in their homes longer, and provide support to their caregivers



# DCS Services & Programs

- DCS Consultations
- Community Memory Screening
- Tri-County Caregiver Support Group
- Let's Talk Over Coffee
- DICE Training
- Music and Memory Program
- Savvy Caregiver Workshop
- Community Presentations
- Dementia Friends Program
- Dementia Friendly Business Training



# When to Make a DCS Referral

- Someone looking for a memory screen that is not interested in the Long-Term Care Program
- Someone who is having concerns about their memory
- Someone looking for dementia specific education or assistance
- Assistance with advanced care planning
- Connecting someone to a dementia support group or other community resources
- Dementia specific caregiver education and support
- Dementia friendly business training



# DCS Referral Example 1

- A consumer calls the Resource Center and expresses that she has been caring for her husband with Alzheimer's disease for past 3 years and she is getting burnt out
- She says she would like help, but she is not sure what help is available or where to start
- I&A staff explains the DCS program and makes a DCS referral
- DCS contacts consumer to complete a DCS consultation and informs her of available resources



# DCS Referral Example 2

- A consumer's sister contacts the Resource Center explaining that she is concerned about her brother. She explains that he lives alone, his nutrition is poor and he often forgets to shower, changes his cloths and calls her many times during the day asking the same thing again and again. She doesn't understand why her brother is acting this way. I&A also discovers consumer is over asset for Medicaid
- I&A staff completes MOW application to address his nutritional concerns and also makes a DCS referral to help his sister address his memory concerns
- DCS connects with consumers sister to discuss her brother's memory concerns, other needed resources and support options



# DCS Referral Example 3

- Consumer's son contacts the ADRC call center saying he would like to get paid to take care of his mom
- I&A staff discovers that consumer had dementia and consumers son needs some education on dementia and caregiving
- I&A staff places Options Counseling referral and DCS referral
- DCS works with consumers son to provide education on dementia, caregiving and consumers son registers to take Savvy Caregiver Workshop





# Navigating Dementia Resources

- Dementia Care Specialist vs. Alzheimer's Association vs. Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute



MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
& HUMAN SERVICES

**AGING & DISABILITIES  
SERVICES**



**Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

alzheimer's   
association™



**MILWAUKEE  
COUNTY**

# DCS Buzz Words!

- Dementia
- Memory loss
- Confusion
- Caregiver
- Burnt out
- Stressed
- Overwhelmed
- Needing dementia education
- Dementia behaviors
- Respite
- Engagement programs



# How to Explain the DCS Program?

- The Dementia Care Specialists supports people with dementia and their caregivers to ensure the highest quality of life possible while living at home. The DCS can provide free information, assistance and support to adults with memory concerns and or dementia and their family members or caregivers.



# How to place a DCS Referral?

- External DCS Referral
  - Call DCS line: (414) 289-6259
  - Email DCS at: [DCS@MilwaukeeCountywi.gov](mailto:DCS@MilwaukeeCountywi.gov)
  - Visit DCS website to place DCS referral:  
<https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Department-on-Aging/Dementia>



# When to Not Make a DCS Referral?

- Crisis
- Anyone who is living in a facility (DCS's only work with community members)
- If consumer is in a Managed Care Organization (MCO) consult with DCS on the expressed needs/concerns
  - MCO Dementia Lead?
  - MCO Case Manger
  - Dementia Care Specialist



# Staying Up to Date on DCS Programs

- Check out our page on the Milwaukee County DHHS Aging and Disabilities Services Website (Dementia Page)

<https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Department-on-Aging/Dementia>



# If you have questions...

- Reach out via email or phone:
  - Email: [DCS@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:DCS@milwaukeecountywi.gov)
  - Phone: 414-289-6259





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