

California Alzheimer's Disease Centers (CADCs) are in trouble, with some at risk of shuttering their doors as soon as July, potentially leaving many living with Alzheimer's and dementia, and their families, in the cold.

Housed at university medical centers and established over 40 years ago, the state's 10 CADCs are a smart investment that leverages hundreds of millions in federal Alzheimer's research spending to expand access to diagnosis and treatment, and specialized training and education for California's primary care providers.

They also serve as critical community educational centers for caregivers, families and medical students, especially within communities of color, who are disproportionately affected and face challenges accessing experts and care.

Sadly, these centers have been drastically underfunded for years while expectations to provide services and support continue to swell.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, nearly 720,000 Californians aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's or another dementia, and that number is expected to more than double by the year 2040.

If these centers shutter, patients will be displaced, thereby increasing the wait time and distance associated with appointments.

We are calling on our state legislators to support increasing total spending on the state's 10 CADCs to \$5 million, representing a \$2.2 million budget augmentation. If we don't act now, we will lose the infrastructure that California has spent millions of dollars and several decades to develop and risk being unprepared for an increased older adult population that we're already woefully underequipped to serve.