

The Developmental Disability Supportive Services Program (DDSSP) at the Alzheimer's Association-Michigan Chapter provides education programming and behavioral consultations to agencies and individuals caring for people with developmental disabilities and dementia or those at risk for developing dementia.

Please join us for our Spring Webinar Series! Upcoming programs and registration links are listed below. **All programs take place from 1-2:30 p.m. Each program offers 1.5 free nursing and social work CEs.** For more information, call **800.272.3900** and ask about DDSSP or visit alz.org/gmc.

April 7 - Introduction to Dementia in People with DD

People with developmental disabilities are living longer than ever, and with longer life comes an increased risk of dementia. Join us to learn the risk of dementia for those with developmental disabilities; the unique signs and symptoms of dementia in this population; and how to best respond to changes in behavior, personality, communication, and self-care abilities.

Register [here](#).

April 21 - Healthy Living: Protecting the Brains of Individuals Living with Developmental Disabilities

People with developmental disabilities are living longer than ever. As a result, it's important for clinicians to have the knowledge base to help them take care of their brains for a long, healthy life while aging. In this training, attendees will learn the factors that may increase a person living with a developmental disability's risk of dementia and the ways that their brain health can be supported through healthy habits.

Register [here](#).

May 5 - Communication Changes in People with DD and Dementia

Come learn how communication can change for people with DD who develop dementia, as well as how caregivers can modify their own communication to be best understood by those they support.

Register [here](#).

May 19 - Preventing and Responding to Behavior and ADL Changes in Individuals with DD and Dementia

Behavior and ADL changes are common symptoms of dementia and may require different interventions than responding to behaviors caused by a developmental disability (DD). This training is designed to help attendees learn more about dementia-related behavior and ADL changes in those with DD. Topics include common changes; strategies to help decipher the root cause of the change; and how to best respond to and support individuals.

Register [here](#).

June 2 - Home Safety and Environmental Modifications

Working with people who have a developmental disability and dementia can pose quite the challenge. However, there are modifications that can be made to the home environment to help ensure safety and independence. In this presentation, we will discuss how to assess the environment and the person for safety, learn about safety issues for different stages of dementia, and learn about dementia-friendly environments and modifications that can be made.

Register [here](#).

June 16 - Activity Planning for People with DD and Dementia

Engaging people with DD and dementia in activities is important. Involvement in structured and routine activities can decrease agitation, increase mood, and provide meaningful opportunities for engagement in life. This session will teach participants how to design and implement activities for people with DD during each stage of dementia.

Register [here](#).

June 30 - Dementia Screening and Diagnosis

Dementia in those with a developmental disability may not look like what you expect. In this training, attendees will learn the common changes that may indicate dementia in those with a DD, when and how to use two screening tools to record changes that may indicate possible dementia. This training will also help you determine when to refer to a diagnosing physician for further investigation and the components of a comprehensive dementia diagnosis.

Register [here](#).

July 14 - End of Life Issues for People with DD and Dementia

Dementia is a progressive disorder and Alzheimer's disease is the 6th leading cause of death in America. In this training, attendees will learn what dementia looks like in the late stages; strategies and resources to maximize quality of life; and why commonly used medical interventions for those with DD may not be useful for those with late-stage dementia.

Register [here](#).