



# Press

# Release



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**For Immediate Release**

**September 17, 2024**

## **Wichita Falls – Wichita County Public Health District Awarded \$150,000 Grant**

Wichita Falls, Texas- The Wichita Falls Wichita County Public Health District is excited to announce the Wichita Falls City Council approved the receipt of grant funds during the September 17, 2024, City Council meeting.

The funds will be awarded from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD) Grant for \$150,000, with the Notice of Award received on September 4, 2024.

Amy Fagan, Director of Health says, "These funds are so important to the advancement of public health initiatives within the communities served by the Health District."

The grant is a result of State funding for the Grants to Increase Local Dementia Support (GILDS) program to provide support to persons with ADRD, and their Caregivers, and promote early detection and diagnosis. This is a one-year grant, with the possibility of up to four annual renewals.

This funding will allow the Health District to address ADRD challenges and improve access to resources in an 11-county service area including Wichita County. The grant will provide funding for 1.5 Full-Time employees.

Alzheimer's Disease is growing at an alarming rate. In 2020, there were 400,000 people age 65 and older suffering from Alzheimer's in Texas. By next year, that number will grow significantly to an estimated 490,000. That's a 22.5% increase. In Wichita County, the number of deaths from Alzheimer's Disease between the years 2018-2022 was 203.

Health District staff are thankful for the opportunity to help as many people as possible by meeting with caregivers and current Alzheimer's and other dementia patients to create preventative measures to help others avoid or delay the onset of ADRD.

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