

**The Edith G. Prague Compassionate Caregiver Award
For Innovative Dementia Caregiving**

Edith Prague has been a longtime advocate for the elderly, serving in two separate appointments as the Commissioner of the State Department on Aging, and serving in the legislature for 26 years. Prior to her retirement, she served as Co-Chair of the Alzheimer’s Task Force, leading a groundbreaking initiative to examine and address the challenges faced by families caring for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease, as well as to strengthen the supports and services available to caregivers: the unspoken heroes.

This award was designed to acknowledge the selfless sacrifices that caregivers make every day to provide the best care possible. Providing care to an individual with dementia is a challenging task, making each day unpredictable and often exhausting. Recognizing the uniqueness of this disease progression, this award seeks to highlight unique approaches that only a creative caregiver could design, through personal experience and perseverance.

Application Process: Applications are due by October 10 of each year from individuals living in the region being recognized that year. One award will be made annually in November, which is National Alzheimer’s Month.

Winners will be judged by a committee comprised of one CT Statewide Respite Care Program Care Manager from each of the five Area Agencies on Aging, Ms. Prague (or her designee), Cynthia Grant (or designee from the State Department on Aging), and the regional representative from the CT Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association.

Each year, one winner will be selected from the region being recognized that year (of the five regions of the state) and will be recognized at a ceremony in November of that year.

Eligible participants will be individuals who have been caring for residents of the State of Connecticut who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease or a related dementia for at least 6 months.

Applicants must answer the following questions:

- 1. Do you care for this individual in a professional or personal capacity? For how long have you provided care for this individual (or these individuals)?**
- 2. Do you have experience working with this disease?**
- 3. What do you see as the most important tools a caregiver must possess?**
- 4. What do you consider your most valuable tools as a caregiver?**
- 5. Do you have innovative techniques that you use in your work as a caregiver?**
- 6. What is the most important lesson this disease has taught you?**

In addition, applicants must provide their name and address, as well as that of the individual for whom they are providing care, as well as a brief summary of the diagnosis and history of care being provided to the individual with dementia.

All applications should be sent to:

**Cynthia Rangoon Grant
State Department on Aging
55 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105-2730
Or emailed to: Cynthia.grant@ct.gov**