Improving Life After Cancer Diagnosis

Putting the National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Priorities into Action

Supporting Cancer Survivors and Caregivers

Nearly 15 million cancer survivors live in the United States today.

A cancer survivor is a person diagnosed with cancer, from the time of diagnosis throughout their lifespan.

Cancer survivors and their caregivers face physical, emotional, psychosocial, spiritual, and financial challenges as a result of diagnosis and treatment.

Comprehensive cancer control programs address the needs of cancer survivors and their caregivers using:

- **Surveillance** to routinely assess the needs of cancer survivors.
- **Education programs** to help survivors, caregivers, and providers make informed decisions.
- **Patient navigation systems** to optimize treatment and care.
- **Policies and systems changes** to improve access to palliative care and other cancer resources or services.

National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (NCCCP) Making a Difference

Examples of successful NCCCP program activities focusing on survivorship include:

- **Alaska—Assessing Tobacco Cessation Needs**
  Alaska Tobacco Quit Line collected information about cancer survivors’ ongoing tobacco cessation needs to educate health care providers.

- **Fond du Lac, Minnesota—Circle of Life Education Program**
  Survivors and caregivers participate in culturally tailored educational sessions, as well as an annual “Cancer Survivors Celebration.”

- **Wyoming—Camp Courage Wyoming**
  First statewide survivorship support network for children with cancer and their families.

Cancer Prevention & Control Works

Communities can prevent and control cancer when they have the right partners, plans, and solutions. CDC’s NCCCP is leading cancer prevention and control efforts that are saving lives and supporting survivors.