



**TBI SPP**  
Traumatic Brain Injury  
State Partnership Program

# Grantee Profile 2019-2021: Alabama

The **Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS)** is the state's lead agency in traumatic brain injury (TBI) and a source of education and resources for survivors, professionals, and organizations. They also provide community reintegration, counseling, care coordination, cognitive remediation, TBI education/training, trauma registry information and referral linkage and transition to school/ community and employment. ADRS houses the Alabama Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund, The Alabama Head Injury Task Force, and TBI Adult and Pediatric Care Coordination Programs.

## Main Grant Aim: Enhancing consumer-guided, culturally competent service systems to foster optimal outcomes across the lifespan

### Additional Aims

- Increase state availability and capacity of comprehensive, coordinated behavioral services for individuals with TBI.
- Empower consumers and families to advocate for culturally competent person-centered services.
- Improve program impact across systems by strengthening state infrastructure through streamlined data collection, consumer-driven services, and optimize partner collaboration.

### Accomplishments/Outcomes

- Identified all mental health (MH) and substance abuse (SA) service providers in the state.
- Developed an AL Department of MH and TBI Leadership work group that meets quarterly.
- Identified MH/SA pilot sites, determined TBI needs and reviewed current MH/SA practices.
- Grant Manager appointed to the Governor's opioid council and Substance Abuse Council and Veterans Council and Governor's Challenge.
- Planned and implemented TBI screening using the OSU TBI ID method in all state MH/SA pilot sites.
- Developed a tracking system to collect all data.
- Provided Screener Training and statewide TBI/MH trainings.
- Provided Person-Centered Training for core staff and initiated PC Plan in care coordination system.
- Offered Virtual Caregiver Advocacy Training that included P&A services and MH/SA services around the state.
- Partnered with Auburn University to develop "Alabama's Brain Map to Services" - a TBI virtual resource manual.
- Partnered with OSU's John Corrigan to offer "What if There's a TBI?" training virtually along with "Positive TBI Screening? What Now?" to all core staff and MH pilot staff.
- Produced a short TBI and behavioral health (BH) training video for BH professionals and a One Pager outlining the training.
- Completed two needs assessments to prepare for the next five-year TBI State Plan.
- Updated [www.alabamatbi.org](http://www.alabamatbi.org) and hired consultant to assist with 508 compliance.

#### Alabama Lead Agency Contact

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The Advisory Council established within ADRS in 1989 added additional individuals with lived TBI experience as well as other community members. The council is appointed by the ADRS Commissioner and is involved in planning for statewide service delivery and. The Council led efforts to establish the registry, training, screening, advocacy, and federal grants to carry out their recommendations.



## The Alabama Department of Public Health Administers:

- The **Alabama Trauma Registry (ATR)**, established in 1999 – a system that supports the collection, storage, and analysis of trauma-related data on a statewide level.
- The **Alabama Head and Spinal Cord injury Registry (AHSCIR)**, established in 1989 – which requires Alabama hospitals to submit data related specifically to head and/or spinal cord injury patients.

Information is forwarded to ADRS; individuals with moderate to severe brain and spinal cord injuries are contacted within 1-2 months post-injury and provided with service and resource linkage by the ADRS TBI Program.

## Legislative & Other Policy Accomplishments

- In FY 2020, the Trust Fund received a \$250,000 line-item appropriation (general revenue) through the Special Education Trust Fund.
- Integrated person-centered planning into the TBI care coordination system.
- Worked successfully with the Substance Use, Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment Program (SBIRT) administered by VITAL and the Department of Mental Health and added TBI resources to the VITAL website.

## Service Delivery

ADRS, Alabama’s lead agency in TBI, is unique across the US for providing services to children, youth, adults, and older adults with disabilities within a single department. All services are individualized, person-centered, culturally sensitive and focused on helping individuals achieve their maximum potential. Housed within ADRS are the Pediatric TBI Care Coordination Program, with Children's Rehabilitation Services, and the Adult TBI Care Coordination program (known as Interactive Community Based Model) with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). The programs provide specific TBI Care Coordination for individuals and families in the community.

Adult TBI Care Coordination assists individuals with TBI and their families to address cognitive retraining, social skills development, independence, community reintegration and employability. It provides pre-employment services to prepare people to return to community, school, or work. Referrals are made to the Program from the TBI Registry, Trauma/Rehab Programs, Community Providers, and Children’s Hospital Clinic. VR Services, including Transition Services and Supported Employment Services, are offered to people with TBI and are individualized to assist them in preparing for, gaining, or retaining employment.

Case management, counseling, pre-vocational services, cognitive remediation, family education, community

resource provision, respite care, recreational supports, and attendant care are provided by programs within ADRS and the Alabama Head Injury Foundation (AHIF) – the advocacy organization for people with TBI. Services within these two programs are made possible through the Alabama Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund.

The State of Alabama Independent Living (SAIL) Waiver provides services to adults with disabilities who have specific medical diagnosis and who would otherwise qualify for nursing home level of care. Individuals with TBI may also receive services from the SAIL Waiver, operated by ADRS Medicaid 1915 (j) waiver self-directed personal assistance services program.

Children with TBI (ages 0-21) seek services through the Children’s Rehabilitation Services (CRS) TBI Program, formerly known as PASSAGES. Pediatric Care Coordinators assist children and family members in accessing the full range of services required for optimal community reintegration through a family-directed program. Initially created by a federal TBI grant, the program funded by the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant (Title V of the Social Security Act) and is housed within ADRS.

## Revenue for TBI-Specific Programs/Services

| Fiscal Year | General Revenue Allocation | Trust Fund Allocation |
|-------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2018        |                            | \$716,676             |
| 2019        | \$250,000                  | \$967,676             |
| 2020        | \$250,000                  | \$967,676             |

