



TBI SPP
Traumatic Brain Injury
State Partnership Program

Grantee Profile 2018-2021: Georgia

The **Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission** is the lead agency that administers the trust fund program and the Central Registry for traumatic brain and spinal cord injury; it also provides support to the TBI Advisory Board. The Commission collaborates with multiple state and local agencies, especially in the areas of data, grants, resource information and training.

Main Grant Aim: Expand and increase access to services through statewide outreach and public awareness

Additional Aims

- Increase access to services for individuals with TBI and their families and caregivers.
- Expand surveillance of the Central Registry to increase the number of direct grants awarded annually.
- Provide dedicated TBI grant staff at 100% full time equivalent (FTE) throughout the grant period.
- Support and expand representation on the Georgia TBI Advisory Board.

Accomplishments/Outcomes

- Produced a statewide PSA campaign via Georgia Public Broadcasting for 3 consecutive years reaching over 3 million Georgians each year, according to A.C. Nielsen.
- Expanded the Central Registry mailings to reach 20,000 Georgians with TBI annually seeking care in emergency departments.
- Hired an ACL TBI Partnership Program manager.
- Recruited new agency and survivor members to the advisory committee.
- Created new TBI statewide plan with input from new advisory committee members and stakeholders.

Georgia Lead Agency Contact

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Legislative & Other Policy Accomplishments:

- The Governor reappointed the Commission as the Lead Agency for Traumatic Brain Injury in Georgia in 2017.
- A legislative initiative provided prioritized surcharges to the Trust Fund in 2020.

Partners

The Commission partners with the Aging and Disability Resource Connection Centers, providing staff for information and referral services for Georgians with TBI. The Commission also partners with injury prevention programs to develop PSAs.

Advisory Council



The Chairman of the Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission appoints the TBI Advisory Board Chairman who in turn appoints members to the Advisory Board. The Commission, with the assistance of its TBI Advisory Board, evaluates the needs of individuals with TBI and makes policy recommendations to improve the state's service system. The board is composed of 15 individuals who also advise on issues relating to spinal cord injuries.



Registry and Data

All Georgia hospitals are required to report persons treated and/or admitted to a hospital or emergency department for TBI. The Georgia Hospital Association sends injury data to the Commission. The Commission also accepts information from physicians and individuals who self-report to add to the Central Registry.

The Commission sends a follow-up letter to Georgians who have been reported with information on resources and direct grants, and with contact information for the Brain Injury Association of Georgia and the Georgia Aging and Disability Resource Connection, which maintains a No Wrong Door resource datacenter. The Central Registry data for Georgia is available upon request to the Commission.

Service Delivery

Georgia voters approved a constitutional amendment to create a Trust Fund in 1998, created by a surcharge on drunk and reckless driving fines for purposes of paying for services, items, and assistance not otherwise covered by other payers for people with brain and spinal injuries. Individuals of any age who have sustained a TBI may apply to the Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission for grants to assist them with costs of receiving care and rehabilitative services - ranging from health care and personal assistance, assistive technologies, and transportation, to respite, recreation and rehabilitation. The Trust Fund is governed by a state Commission, which is made up of 10 individuals appointed by the Governor and 5 by State Agencies.

The Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP) is available for Medicaid participants with TBI who are between the ages of 21 and 64. Children with TBI may also be served by the Medicaid HCBS waiver program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Revenue for TBI-Specific Programs/Services

Fiscal Year	Trust Fund Allocation
2018	\$1,120,000 *
2019	\$1,120,000
2020	\$1,120,000

*Funding available for individuals with brain or spinal cord injuries.

Promising Practices

- The Commission maintains membership on numerous boards and committees of multiple state agencies, including the Medicaid Independent Care Waiver Program stakeholder board and the Division of Aging Services - Aging and Disability Resource Connection advisory board, among others.
- The Commission provides direct grants of up to \$15,000 to Georgians who have sustained a TBI; the grant amount depends on the category of rehabilitation services and post-acute supports needed.
- The Commission has increased the number of submitted grant applications by 16.4% from CY 2018 to 2020.

