



Grantee Profile 2018-2021: Iowa

The **Iowa Department of Public Health** (IDPH) is Iowa's lead agency for brain injury; it receives a state appropriation for services and is the recipient of ACL's State Partnership Program grant. The Iowa Department of Human Services Iowa Medicaid Enterprise administers a Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Brain Injury (HCBS BI) Waiver, though individuals with brain injury may receive services under other Medicaid waiver programs.

Main Grant Aim: To increase access to appropriate services and supports by individuals with brain injury and their families.

Additional Aims

- Increase implementation of evidence-based Return to Learn (RTL) protocol
- Increase awareness of brain injury and concussion
- Increase outreach to, and services for, underserved and inappropriately served individuals with TBI
- Increase effectiveness of the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Advisory Council on Brain Injuries
- As a Mentor state, improve the national impact of the federal TBI program

Accomplishments/Outcomes

- Updated concussion law to require individual RTL plans and standardized RTL protocol
- Purchased statewide subscription to Teacher Acute Concussion Tool from Get Schooled on Concussions
- Continued to recognize brain injury awareness month and concussion awareness month
- Developed concussion awareness campaign—Put Brains before Games—to develop cohesive messaging
- Partnered with Iowa Athletic Trainers' Society to develop a youth sports concussion reporting process with high school athletic trainers
- Advisory Council on Brain Injuries aligned its task force groups to each of the focus areas of the state plan
- Provided professional development opportunities for IDPH staff and council members, including attendance at NASHIA's State of the States annual conference and ACL Brain Injury Stakeholder Day
- Iowa Medicaid Enterprise adopted a process for notifying HCBS brain injury waiver applicants about the availability of Resource Facilitation
- The Council facilitated a group of stakeholders to develop community-based, neurobehavioral rehabilitation service (CNRS) standards for provider training
- IDPH collaborated with the Council to adapt a brain injury screening tool for people ages 13+ and a pediatric screening tool (ages 5-21)
- Served as a Mentor for the ACL grant's Strategic Partnership workgroup and the Waivers and Trust Funds workgroup
- Participated in the ACL grantees' Workforce Development workgroup that produced several workforce competencies to guide future trainings based on target audience

Iowa Lead Agency Contact

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Advisory Council & Partners



The **Advisory Council on Brain Injuries** was established in statute in 1989 and is located within the IDPH's Office of Disability and Violence Prevention. Members are appointed annually by the Iowa Governor for a 2-year term beginning in July.

IDPH has developed **partnerships** with several organizations that have since incorporated screening for all program participants for a lifetime history of brain injury and incorporated ongoing training and education for their staff.

Service Delivery

The IDPH Brain Injury Services Program:

Receives general revenue funding to link lowans with brain injury and their families to needed information, services, and supports. The program contracts with the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa to provide neuro-resource facilitation services to carry out these functions.

The Medicaid HCBS BI Waiver provides service funding and individualized supports to maintain eligible members to live in their own homes or communities.

Revenue & Numbers Enrolled

Fiscal Year	General Revenue Allocation, Number Served	BI Waiver, Number Enrolled
2018	Resource Facilitation Administration: \$840,000 (5,500 callers) Total \$1,034,441	1450
2019	Resource Facilitation Administration: \$860,850 (5,330 callers) Total \$1,055,291	1504
2020	Resource Facilitation Administration: \$861,000 (5,711 callers) Total \$1,055,000	152

Promising Practices and Trends

Promising Practices

- Screening tools for lifetime history of brain injury for both adult and pediatric populations
- Iowa Concussion Guidelines for Schools
- Inclusion of information about how to access resource facilitation in the denial letter to individuals seeking Medicaid waiver services and to individuals placed on a waiting list for the HCBS BI waiver.

Trends

The length of stay for people with brain injury has increased in hospitals, in out-of-state and in-state neurorehabilitation facilities, and in community-based neurobehavioral rehabilitation services due to the lack of community-based provider capacity in less restrictive settings. **Community-based providers across the state are experiencing staffing shortages between 20% to 50%.**

