



# Grantee Profile 2018-2021: Tennessee

The **Tennessee Department of Health (DOH)**, Division of Family Health and Wellness, is the lead agency that administers the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Program, which is supported by the TBI Trust Fund.

**Main Grant Aim: Establish innovative programs to maximize the independence, well-being, and health of people with TBI—and their families and support networks—across the lifespan**

## Additional Aims

- Expand capacity of the TBI Advisory Council to engage people with TBI actively and meaningfully as key decisionmakers.
- Create an updated TBI state plan with long-term and short-term goals.
- Expand capacity of the TBI registry to connect more survivors to services.
- With other states, develop comprehensive workforce development training as part of a national infrastructure for TBI professionals; provide training for 1,500 professionals.
- Collaborate with Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to provide continuing ed opportunities related to brain injury; supply 1,000 pediatricians and family practitioners with educational materials to share with families.
- Increase capacity of TDH to incorporate person-centered planning into TBI services; collaborate with the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to develop a TBI-specific person-centered planning guidance.

## Accomplishments/Outcomes

- Implemented measures for encouraging participation in the TBI Advisory Council by TBI survivors.
- Developed and implemented State Plan; conducting a needs assessment to guide the State Plan update.
- Planned and implemented the March 2019 and October 2020 Annual TBI Survivor and Caregiver Event with over 100 individuals in attendance.
- Developed and implemented a plan to recruit hospitals across Tennessee to report TBI Emergency Room data, which is now incorporated into the Annual TBI Program Report with each eligible individual receiving a TBI Registry letter that directs them to free services.
- Collaborated with mentor states to develop workforce competencies for: 1) Return-to Learn/Return-to-Play, 2) Criminal and Juvenile Justice, 3) Opioid Use and Mental Health, 4) Transition and Employment, 5) Underserved Populations.
- Created a concussion/TBI survey to ascertain the educational needs of healthcare professionals relative to pediatric mild traumatic brain injury.
- Grant staff received training in Person-Centered Planning.
- Completed 158 trainings with a total of 6,442 attendees between June 1, 2018 and Dec. 30, 2020 on topics such as Brain Injury 101, Brain Injury 202, Concussion/mTBI, Train-the-Trainer, Concussion and Cognition; Toolkit Overview (Healthcare Providers and School Nurses), Brain Links Overview.
- Established working relationships with the Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Executive Director and staff.
- Surveyed Tennessee pediatricians, family physicians, and school nurses to identify educational areas of need; conducted research on existing materials at both a state and national level.
- Developing toolkit for advisory board development.
- Developing "Sustaining Partnerships Tip Sheet".

### Tennessee Lead Agency Contact

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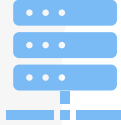
### Other Contact

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# Advisory Council



The Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council was established in statute in 1993 and is located within the DOH. The 9-member Council is appointed by the Governor and meets quarterly. The Council provides recommendations to the department on program and policy issues and concerns that relate to health and human services for survivors of TBI. The Council also promotes advocacy, education, and collaboration with other entities and associations. The body reports to DOH.



DOH administers the TBI Registry, which is established in statute and reporting is mandatory. Follow-up occurs within six months post-injury with a letter providing information regarding the TBI program and the Service Coordination Program. Information from the TBI Registry is used for follow-up and resource facilitation.



In 2019, the total number of TBI Registry patients represented a 10.7% increase from 2016. This increase is due to 2019 being the first year using the nationwide new coding system. In Tennessee, intracranial injuries are by far the most common type of TBI. Intracranial injuries were present in 94% of TBI Registry patients.

# Service Delivery

In Tennessee, individuals of all ages with TBI may contact DOH’s TBI Program via a toll-free number for information and referral services. The TBI Program also connects callers to one of eight TBI service coordinators located in various nonprofit agencies across the state. The service coordinator’s role is to assess current resource needs, develop a comprehensive plan of care, refer individuals and families to available resources, and coordinate services.

The TBI Program is authorized to provide grants to county and municipal governments and/or nonprofit organizations for home and community-based programs. Grant awards have been used to establish or expand programs such as day treatment, housing, supportive living services, education and prevention, behavioral counseling, camp, professional training, and service coordination. The grants are funded through the TBI Trust Fund, established in 1993 to support a TBI registry, staff, other expenditures and grants.

An example includes program collaboration with Easterseals Tennessee weekend and weeklong camping programs for adults and youth with a brain injury that focus on providing a unique social and recreational opportunity to people with brain injury. Activities include arts and crafts, swimming, hiking, games, and boating. Scholarships are available through the state’s TBI Program. The program also supports “Get Schooled on Concussions – Teacher Acute Concussion Tool (TACT)” and the Safe Stars prevention program and offers specialized training on brain injury.

## Revenue for TBI-Specific Programs/Services

Fiscal Year	Trust Fund
2018	\$1,000,000
2019	\$1,000,000
2020	\$876,381

