



National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

ABOUT NASHIA

In 1990, State government employees administering an array of traumatic brain injury (TBI) public programs on rehabilitation and community reintegration services held its first national meeting called "State of the States (SOS) in Head Injury." Conference participants established the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) in 1993 to assist State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injury and their families.

Members are State government agencies/government employees, retired State government employees, students supporting organizations, providers, and any individual who is interested in the field of brain injury. Members elect officers bi-annually and the organization is overseen by a Board of Directors and part-time staff. The organization is supported by dues and donations.

MEMBER SERVICES

Membership offers opportunities for peer mentoring and professional growth through these venues:

- **National Annual Conference**

The Annual State of the States in Head Injury Meeting offers opportunities for networking and for attending sessions on promising practices in best practices, program development, funding and administration.

- **Webinars**

NASHIA offers webinars providing information on TBI program administration, as well as opportunities to obtain continuing education credits.

- **Communications**

NASHIA informs members of its work through the *President's Newsletter* and *NASHIA News*. NASHIA produces the *Washington Weekly*, reporting on Administration news, including federal grants, federal rules and regulations, reports and studies, and upcoming webinars and meetings. NASHIA also produces an Annual Report.

- **Website and Materials**

NASHIA maintains a website to house information on best practices, current federal and State issues and upcoming meetings and events.

- **State Program Contacts**

NASHIA maintains a listing of key State programs and contacts within States, which are located on the website at www.nashia.org.

ADVANCING TBI SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

Members have collective representation before Congress and with federal agencies on TBI issues. NASHIA also partners and collaborates with other TBI, disability and health care organizations to promote collaboration on resources, information and public policy.

- **TBI Awareness**

NASHIA participates in the annual March Awareness Day activities sponsored by the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force to promote understanding of TBI and TBI issues and service needs.

- **Advocacy**

NASHIA adopts a bi-annual Public Policy Platform and actively advocates on critical federal legislation affecting TBI, especially reauthorization and funding for TBI Act programs. In addition, the organization responds to federal rules and regulations affecting rehabilitation, health care and disability services. NASHIA monitors and reports the status of federal issues through publications: *Action Alerts* and *Capitol News*.

- **Outreach and Collaboration**

NASHIA is a member of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), American Brain Coalition (ABC), Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition (DRRC), Injury and Violence Prevention Network (IVPN), and the Real Warriors Campaign.

NASHIA is also a member of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Working Group concerning Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers; and a partnering organization with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Injury Control and Prevention (NCICP).

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

States and organizations may contract with NASHIA for technical assistance (TA) on an array of issues, such as public policy training, policy development, systems change, service delivery, evaluation and program administration.

NASHIA MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND BENEFITS

NASHIA welcomes membership from State government agencies, State government employees and retirees, supporting organizations, and all individuals who are interested in what happens in brain injury nationally and at the State and local levels. Below is a description of membership categories and benefits.

Membership Categories for State Government Agencies/Employees

- **State Agencies:** are entitled to three (3) memberships. The State Agency shall designate three staff persons to represent the State Agency. The State Agency designees shall be eligible to vote and to hold office.
- **Full Individual:** Membership is for individuals who are employed by State or Territorial government. Full Individual Members shall be eligible to vote and to hold office. A Full Individual membership is not transferable.
- **Retiree Individual:** Membership is for individual for individuals who are retired from State or Territorial government and not currently employed by a Supporting member organization. Retired Individual Members shall be eligible to vote and to hold office as an Emeritus member and participate and vote on task forces and committees. A Retiree Individual Membership is not transferable.

(Note: In States where the governor or legislature has designated an entity as the State lead agency on brain injury, the entity will be eligible for State agency or full individual membership.)

Membership Categories for Non-State Government Persons/Agencies

- **Individual Associate:** A person who is not employed by State or Territorial government interested in prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, community integration and coordination of head injury services may belong to the Association under this category. An associate member cannot vote or hold office, but can participate and vote on task forces and committees. Individual Associate membership is not transferable.
- **Student Rate:** Membership is for individuals who are attending school (high school/college).
- **Supporting:** A non-State Agency, organization, or corporation interested in prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, community integration and coordination of head injury services may belong to the Association under this category. The member(s) have the same benefits as Associate members (above). Categories of supporting membership are: Gold (3 memberships), Silver (2 memberships), or Bronze (one membership).
- **Benefactor:** A person or organization who is interested in prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, community integration and coordination of brain injury services shall become a Benefactor Member for the calendar year when he or she contributes \$2,000 or more to the Association.

Membership Benefits

Members receive copies of NASHIA publications that are produced during the membership year, including:

- √ *Capitol News* - a periodic e-mail update on current, critical congressional legislation;
- √ *Washington Weekly* – a Friday publication summarizing federal Administration news, including grants, federal regulations, reports, research and resources; and
- √ *NASHIA News* – a periodic electronic newsletter featuring organizational events and updates.
- √ *President's Message* – a periodic update by the President on Board news and activities.
- √ *Annual Report*

NASHIA members also benefit from the following:

- Reduced registration for the annual State-of-the-States in Head Injury Meeting.
- Opportunities to participate in NASHIA sponsored webinars.
- Leadership skills development fostered through committee and task force participation.
- Collective State representation on federal legislation and proposed agency rules and regulations.

For further information contact Lorraine Wargo, RN, Executive Director, at execdirector@nashia.org or phone: 802-498-3349. To join NASHIA go to www.nashia.org.