

Disability & Rehabilitation Research

- Increased funding for NIDRR TBI Model Systems/ Research and Training Centers
- Translating and disseminating findings on brain injury research and rehabilitation to State and community brain injury programs

Dual Diagnosis/Co-Occurring Conditions

- Coordination of resources between HRSA and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Reauthorization of SAMHSA to include funding for TBI & co-occurring conditions; screening and treatment

EMS/Trauma Care

- Funding the HRSA Emergency Medical Services for Children Program
- Standardized protocols for EMS practices, based on evidence-based research
- Funding and legislation to support organized State trauma systems

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The NASHIA Public Policy Platform is
available on the website: www.nashia.org



Legislative Priorities



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About NASHIA

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) was incorporated in 1994 by State government employees to help States plan, implement and administer an array of public programs and services for individuals with brain injury and their families.

Members represent a range of State agencies, including health, Vocational Rehabilitation, mental health, Medicaid, social services, developmental disabilities, and education; as well as by rehabilitation professionals, private agencies, advocates and others interested in brain injury. NASHIA is a member of the American Brain Coalition, Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition.

Mission

NASHIA's mission is to assist State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injury and their families.

About Traumatic Brain Injury

At least 1.7 million Americans seek treatment for a traumatic brain injury (TBI) each year as the result of a car crash, fall, sporting injury or other contributing factor. TBI is caused by a sudden jolt, blow or penetrating injury to the head that that disrupts the normal function of the brain. TBI results in problems with thinking, memory, emotions, language, physical, mobility and sensory that affects how a person is able to return to school; and to live and work independently.

Without coordinated systems of care, individuals are at risk of being placed into nursing homes or correctional facilities or becoming homeless, or left to the families to care for without much support or assistance.

Funding for TBI Act Programs

The TBI Act of 1996, as amended in 2008, authorizes funding to the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for (1) State grants to improve service delivery and for Protection & Advocacy (P&A) grants to provide client advocacy; and (2) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for public education, prevention and injury data.

NASHIA supports a federal interagency work group to coordinate resources across agencies and to develop a national plan. NASHIA recommends for FY 2012:

- **\$8 million** for the HRSA Federal TBI State Grant Program to increase the number of grant awards
- **\$10 million** for CDC TBI programs
- **\$4 million** for the HRSA Federal P&A Program

Returning Servicemembers and Veterans

- Increased funding to the Department of Defense (DoD) for TBI care, services and outreach programs
- Coordination of community resources among DoD, the Veterans Administration and local and State TBI programs
- VA funding to support brain injury home and community-based services waiver options to veterans with brain injury
- Funding and implementation of the caregiver support and training as directed by the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act

Employment

- Funding the Supported Employment and Projects with Industry (PIC) programs as authorized by the Rehabilitation Act

- Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment and the Rehabilitation Act
- Research in best practices in vocational training and job retention for individuals with TBI
- Increased VR funding and resources to support transition services for students with brain injury

Health/ Disability/Entitlement Programs

- Reauthorization of the Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act
- Protection of entitlement programs, such as Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, TANF and food stamps

Children & Youth with TBI-Education

- Reauthorization and full funding of IDEA
- Reauthorization and full funding of NCLB
- Prioritizing the needs of children and youth with TBI, and their families, in the Maternal Child Health Block Grant, Special Health Care Needs program
- Medicaid school health and related services for children with disabilities

Health Care – Medicaid -- Medicare

- Funding to implement the health care reform law
- Funding for training of health care providers about the needs of children and adults with brain injury, including practices to prevent secondary conditions
- Legislation to eliminate Medicare's "in the home" restriction for coverage of mobility devices (i.e. wheelchairs and scooters) for those with expected long-term care needs
- Funding for demonstration programs to implement individual care coordination for individuals with brain injury, particularly

those who have complex and chronic health care needs

Aging and TBI

- Funding to accommodate needs of aging caregivers of adults with lifelong TBI-related disabilities
- Coordination of resources among the HRSA Federal TBI program, the Administration on Aging (AoA), Aging and Disability Resource Centers, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Caregiver training on TBI screening, identification and symptoms

Prevention

- Legislation on concussion screening technology and concussion management guidelines; improved helmets used in sports
- Traffic safety programs and incentives for State mandatory laws requiring: (1) motorcycle helmet usage for all riders, (2) primary safety belt usage, (3) prohibition of open containers of alcohol in vehicles, and (4) strong DUI/ DWI laws
- Increased funding to CDC/AoA for prevention of fall related injuries among the elderly

Community Living Services & Supports

- Implement the CLASS act provisions of the health care reform law
- Funding to rebalance long-term care systems to provide necessary community services and supports, including Money Follows the Person demonstration grants
- Community options for individuals who wish to reside in the community in lieu of institutional or nursing facilities
- Supports for family and caregivers