

# Federal Funding Avenues for State Brain Injury Programs and Partners



**February 8, 2024**  
**1:00-2:00 pm ET**

## NASHIA Professional Development 2024 Series

**Support States.**

**Grow Leaders.**

**Connect Partners.**

**nashia.org**



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF STATE HEAD INJURY  
ADMINISTRATORS**

# Welcome!

**Maria Crowley, MA, CRC**

Director, Professional Development

NASHIA

Moderator

# Welcome!

- **Problems?**

Send a chat to the moderator  
Visit Zoom's Support site

- **Questions?**

Please use the Chat feature

- **Closed Captioning**

Available at the bottom of the viewing window



# Our Mission



NASHIA is a nonprofit organization created to assist State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injury and their families.



# Join NASHIA

Member-  
Only  
Resources

Access  
to Peers

Special  
Interest  
Groups

Discounts  
on  
Training

Membership  
Information:

Questions?

[nashia.org/membership](https://nashia.org/membership)

[hcushen@nashia.org](mailto:hcushen@nashia.org)

# Technical Assistance & Consult

Advisory Board Development, Training and Sustainability

Brain Injury Speakers Bureau

Data Collection & Registry Creation

Dedicated State Funding

Facilitation of Workshops and Summits

Interagency Coordination and Partnership

National Trends and Best Practices

Person-Centered Thinking & Planning

Program Evaluation and Service Coordination

Public Policy

Resource Development

State Plan Development and Assessment

# Today's Presenters:



**Derek Fales**

**Co-Chair, Public Policy Committee**

Maine Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Aging & Disability Services

Waiver Services Director Brain Injury Services Program Manager



**Zaida Ricker, MPS**

**Co-Chair, Public Policy Committee**

NASHIA, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Policy





## Tips for Working with Other State Agencies

- Know the Decision Makers, Policy, Finance, and Operations
- Establish Timeframes
- Have One Project Lead



## Examples of Innovative Funding Mechanisms in Maine

- HCBS Improvement Plan under Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). (Funding to purchase attachable accessible dwelling units, develop a Community Based Neurobehavioral Treatment Service.)
- Family Support Funds
- Brain Injury Core Services
- Medicaid funding under State Plan amendments and HCBS waivers
- ACL TBI Grant



# Funding is Everywhere!

You Just Have to Think Creatively

Center for Medicaid  
Services Technical  
Assistance

Vocational  
Rehabilitation  
Funding

Opioid  
Settlement  
Dollars

American  
Rescue  
Plan

Congressionally  
Directed Spending/  
Earmarks



You Can't Win If You  
Don't Play



# Center for Medicaid Services Free Technical Assistance

## Person-Centered Practices Support

The National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS) provides technical assistance on person-centered practice.

NCAPPS currently provides free short-term direct technical assistance to states working to implement person-centered planning consistent with the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule.

## Waiver Exploration and Submission

CMS has contracted with New Editions Consulting, Inc., to offer TA to states on the various authorities available, 1915(c), (i), (j), and (k), and how to prepare your submissions to CMS. This TA is at no cost to the state.



NASHIA helps to support any brain injury related technical assistance for both of these initiatives. Through this work, we have been able to help support:

- Georgia
- Utah
- Colorado
- Ohio
- Kansas
- Nebraska
- Virginia



# State Examples

# Next Steps

1

Discuss Your  
Goals with the  
Medicaid  
Director



2

Partner with  
Your Medicaid  
Director to  
Compile a TA  
Request for  
CMS



3

Your Medicaid  
Director  
Submits the TA  
Request



4

Receive TA!



# Vocational Rehabilitation

- The federal government gives grants to state agencies for vocational rehabilitation (VR) services.
- These grants support services to help individuals with disabilities prepare for and engage in employment.
- Many states have not been able to fully utilize their dollars.



Partner with VR Agency

Disability Innovation  
Fund



- Ensure VR counselors and community-based employment service providers possess competencies to effectively support job seekers with BI
- Establish and increase the availability of Supported Employment Services for people with BI
- Implement an evidence-based screening tool for lifetime history of BI to identify and support people with BI
- Address specific needs for successful employment strategies
- Support peer mentoring from others with brain injury
- Increase the availability of job retention services for people with BI who are already employed but may avoid job loss or may achieve advancement opportunities with the right BI-related supports
- Create additional Pre-Employment Transition Services geared towards encouraging school aged youth with BI to prepare and seek employment



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# Ways to Partner with Vocational Rehabilitation

Nebraska has:

- Ensured that all VR counselors possess competencies to effectively support job seekers with BI
- Increased the availability of Supported Employment Services for job seekers with TBI.
- Implemented a universal approach to applying an evidence-based screening tool for lifetime history of brain injury to identify specific needs for successful employment strategies and aid in augmented data collection related to prevalence of TBI.



# State Example



# Next Steps

1

Reach Out to  
Your VR  
Director/Team



2

Provide  
Education on  
BI if Needed



3

Give  
Recommendations  
on How to Utilize  
VR Dollars on BI



4

Support VR  
Team  
Application



# Opioid Settlement Dollars

Every State is getting dollars for Opioid Settlement. States are required to spend at least 70% of their share on future opioid remediation, including to:

- Expand warm hand-off services to transition to recovery services
- Broaden scope of services for cooccurring substance use disorder/ mental health conditions
- Provide comprehensive wrap-around services to individuals in recovery
- Hire additional social workers or other behavioral health workers to facilitate expansions above
- Provide evidence-based treatment and recovery support, including for co-occurring conditions and transitioning out of the criminal justice system



- Screening for brain injury
- Supporting resource facilitation
- Ensuring that mental and behavioral health and substance use disorder providers are brain injury informed

Some States have provided funding to:

- Secure consultation and implementation of brain injury support, which will provide funding to access expert consultations or learning collaborations across state agency systems
- Support the specific needs of criminal-legal involved individuals with substance use disorder, including with brain injury resources
- Provide wrap-around services, including for people with brain injury



# Funding Ideas for Opioid Settlement Dollars



# Next Steps

1

Reach Out to  
Opioid Advisory  
Committee



2

Provide  
Education on  
BI if Needed



3

Give  
Recommendations  
on How to Utilize  
Dollars on BI



4

Coordinate  
with Other  
State  
Agencies to  
Finalize



# American Rescue Plan Act - State Funding

State governments are allocated \$195.3 billion of this money. States have to allocate this money by December 31, 2024, and spend it by December 31, 2026. States can spend it in various ways, including but not limited to:

- Helping communities and households affected by the pandemic.
- Paying essential workers extra money for the risks they've faced.
- Supporting programs or services for people who suffered because of the pandemic.
- Providing money for healthcare, preventing violence, and dealing with COVID-19.
- Giving more help to households, small businesses, and nonprofits.

Unless a State has allocated 100 percent of its funding, there may still be an opportunity to have this funding allocated to support brain injury programs and States have some flexibility in changing their plans.

## State Examples:

- Addressing holistic approaches and violence prevention through mental health and substance abuse services, education, and job training and placement.
- Funding for the establishment of a training on trauma informed services as well as expanding access to services to children and families who are victims of severe trauma
- Funding for crisis intervention training and prevention on behavioral health
- Funding to nonprofits, such as Association/Alliances



# American Rescue Plan Act - Home and Community Based Services

Temporary 10 percentage point increase to the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for certain Medicaid expenditures for HCBS

Deadline: March 31, 2025

States are required to submit an initial HCBS spending plan with semi-annual updates to CMS to receive federal approval for use of the increased funds for HCBS.

While states have received approval for their initial plans and the necessary state legislative authority for spending, they continue to navigate the process of updating proposals and distributing funds.

## State Examples:

- Bolstering Workforce
- Addressing Equity
- Supporting Family Caregivers
- Investing in Behavioral Health and Cooccurring Conditions

Brain Injury Clubhouse Model



# Next Steps

1

State Funding:  
Review How  
State Has  
Allocated  
Dollars

HCBS: Review  
FMAP Plan



2

State Funding:  
Reach out to  
Governors  
Office

HCBS: Reach  
Out to Medicaid  
Director



3

Provide Education/  
Give  
Recommendations  
on How to Utilize  
Dollars on BI



4

Coordinate  
with Other  
State  
Agencies to  
Finalize



# Earmarks/ Community Project Funding

- Individual Members/Senators submit funding for governments & nonprofits. Funding is earmarked for a specific project.
- Certain “topics” that the project must be focused on.
- Average Award Size Last Year: \$2 Million, but different projects get different dollar amounts.
- Still competitive to receive the earmark; Members/Senators have limited amount they can submit. Not every member will submit earmarks
- Last year, deadlines were between April/May and guidance came out with only 2-3 week warning
- Community support is essential no matter the project. Members will look for things like: Broad coalition of support, articles/news about programs or projects, support from local elected officials, solid noncontroversial projects.
- Evidence of effectiveness also important. Scalability also a factor.





- Evidence-based substance use disorder and/or mental health treatment services.
- Improve or create new opportunities for older adults, individuals of all ages with disabilities, and their eligible family caregivers, to live independently and participate fully in their communities.
- Crisis Intervention Training
- Courts Training
- Other Community Development Programs



# Previous Examples



# Next Steps

1

Develop Ideas on  
What Might  
Need Funding



2

Review Eligible  
Bills Once  
Released  
(Expected in  
Next Month)



3

Reach out to  
Member of  
Congress to Discuss

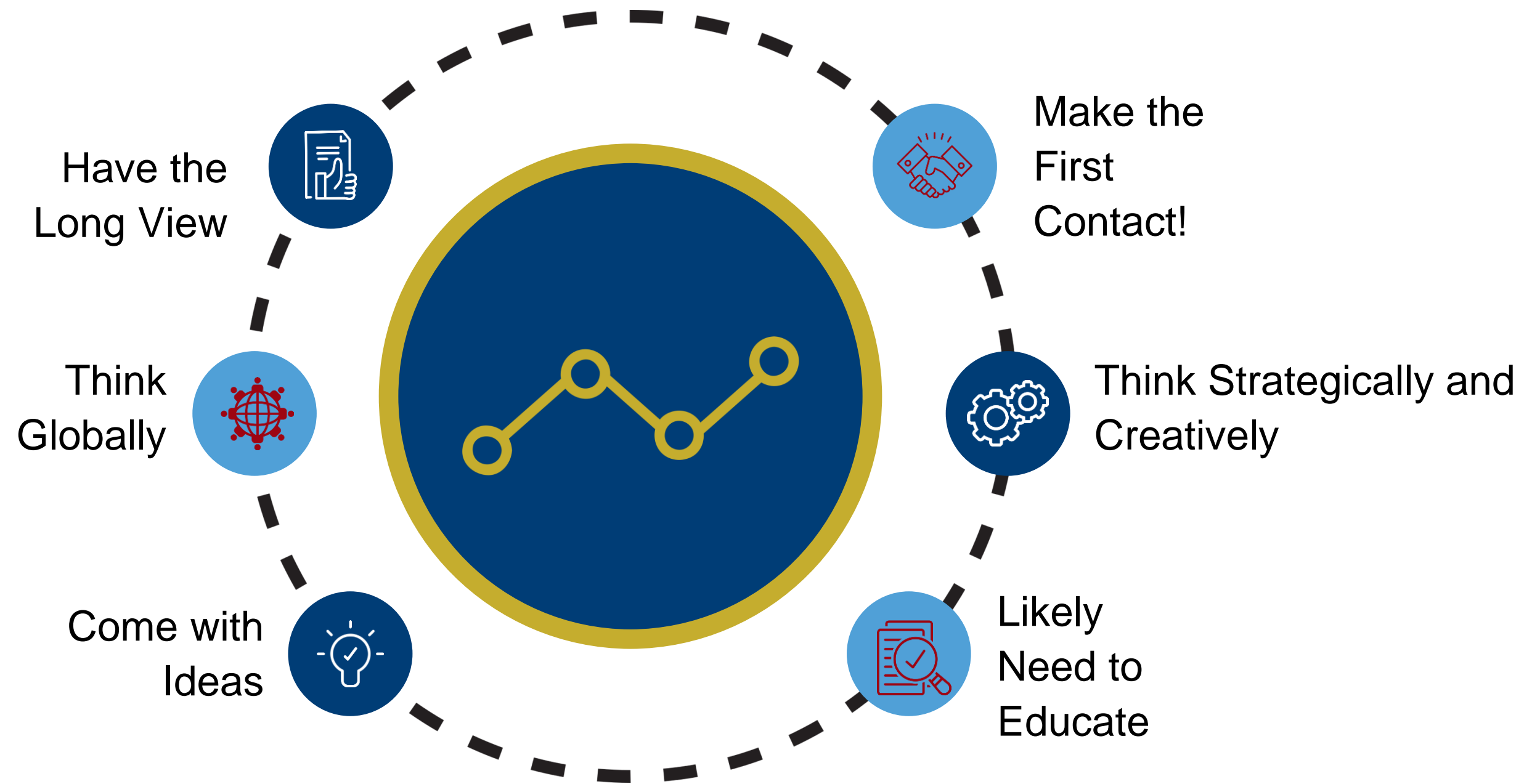


4

Submit  
Application  
with Strong  
Community  
Support



# Tips & Tricks



# NASHIA Can Help

1

Support You in  
Determining  
Funding  
Opportunities,  
Reviewing Past  
Funding,  
Developing Ideas



2

Brainstorm  
Formation of  
Concept



3

Develop White  
Pagers/ Write  
Applications



4

Help  
Coordinate/  
Support the  
Project if  
Awarded





# Thank you!

If you have any questions,  
you are welcome to contact me.

**Zaida Ricker**  
**[zricker@nashia.org](mailto:zricker@nashia.org)**

**Questions?**



# Upcoming Opportunities

## **Workshop: Grant Writing Basics**

Feb 14 and 21, 2024

12:00pm-2:00pm ET

## **Workshop: Ethical Practice as a Framework for Professional Development & Advancing Technology**

April 10 and 24, 2024

12:00pm-1:30pm ET

## **Coming Soon...**

### **Vulnerable Populations Series**

May/June 2024

**\*Data Visualization Workshop and more!**