



TBI SPP
Traumatic Brain Injury
State Partnership Program

Grantee Profile 2021-2026: **New Jersey**

The **New Jersey Division of Disability Services (DDS)** within the Department of Human Services is the designated lead state government agency for brain injury. DDS administers the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Fund and serves as staff to the Governor's New Jersey Advisory Council on Traumatic Brain Injury.

Main Grant Aim: A statewide coordinated system of services and supports that maximizes the well-being of people living with TBI

Additional Aims

- Build on the existing infrastructure for addressing traumatic brain injury to expand and maintain the coordinated system of services and supports for people living with traumatic brain injury
- Expand the New Jersey Advisory Council on TBI so that half the council is composed of members who are living with a TBI, and to enhance the cultural and linguistic diversity of the council

Early Accomplishments

- Have begun recruitment of advisory council members and formed workgroups

Legislative and Policy Accomplishments

The New Jersey legislature passed the Brain Injury Research Act in 2004 to promote necessary research that will result in the treatment and cure for traumatic injuries of the brain. The law established the New Jersey Commission on Brain Injury Research (NJCBIR), which is composed of 11 members who are appointed by the Governor. NJCBIR solicits and approves support of research projects, administers the awards through research grants, and promotes development of brain injury research projects within the State of New Jersey. NJCBIR is tasked with compiling a research directory of all TBI research projects being conducted in the state.

NJCBIR is funded from fines and penalties (\$2) imposed and collected by a court under authority of any law for any violation of motor vehicle or traffic violations, which are paid to the State Treasurer.



New Jersey Lead Agency Contact

Peri L. Nearon, MPA, Executive Director
Division of Disability Services
NJ Department of Human Services
Phone: (609) 631-2482
Email: peri.nearon@dhs.nj.gov

Registry & Data

The New Jersey Department of Health administers data systems, including hospital discharge data and TBI surveillance. New Jersey requires each Level I and Level II trauma center to maintain a trauma registry.



Advisory Council



The New Jersey Advisory Council on Traumatic Brain Injury was established in 1998 by both Executive Order (EO 84 of 1998) and by law. It is housed within DHS and staffed by DDS. The 26 members are Governor-appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The council meets quarterly and provides guidance and recommendations to the Department regarding brain injury services and supports. The council also conducts advocacy, engages in information and referral, collaboration, planning and education. The Council is chaired by the Commissioner of Human Services or designee.

Service Delivery

Individuals of all ages may contact DDS using the statewide toll-free hotline for information on programs and services for people with brain injury. The division administers the TBI Fund, established in 2002 via legislation that designated motor vehicle registration fees (50 cents per vehicle) to be deposited in a non-lapsing, revolving fund to provide financial assistance to New Jersey residents living with TBI. The Fund assists with post-acute care, services, and supports to foster independence for its beneficiaries. A case manager is assigned to every approved applicant to create a service support plan. Individuals may apply via the website by downloading an application or call in to a toll-free number. The Fund considers supports and services that may include but are not limited to:

- Home modifications
- Service coordination
- Assistive technology
- Cognitive therapy
- Neuropsychological services
- Pharmaceuticals
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapies

Individuals with brain injury may also receive Medicaid services through the Managed Long Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) administered by the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS). New Jersey established a Medicaid TBI Home and Community-Based Services waiver in 1993, which was

combined into the Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver for MLTSS in 2012. MLTSS serves people with TBI who are between the ages of 21 and 64 and require assistance with at least three activities of daily living in the community. MLTSS uses NJ FamilyCare managed care organizations (also known as HMOs or health plans) to coordinate all services. Individuals with a brain injury may also be eligible for self-directed personal care assistant services through the Personal Assistance Services Program administered by DDS.

Revenue for TBI Services (direct, purchase, contracts, grants)

Fiscal Year	Trust Fund Allocation
2018	\$3,700,000
2019	\$3,700,000
2020	\$3,700,000

Trends

- New Jersey sees trends of gender, age, and racial/ethnic disparities among residents living with TBI:
- Men and women are at similar risk for TBI, yet TBI incidence rates are 2 to 3 times higher in men compared to women.
 - People age 75+ are at greatest TBI risk, regardless of race.
 - Black people represent 15% of New Jersey's population but have had the highest incidence of TBI in the state consistently for the past 15 years.

