

Serving Individuals with Brain Injury in Rural and Frontier Communities

Individuals with brain injury have a variety of needs. Meeting these needs is more challenging in rural and frontier communities. Relationships between providers are often key. The purpose of this document is to direct providers to state level contacts within national organizations to support providers in establishing these relationships.

Key:

Social Support & Mental Health 

Medical Care & Physical Health 

Financial & Essential Needs 

Education, Training, & Advocacy 

Underserved Populations 

Brain Injury Resources

BrainLine

BrainLine offers information and support to anyone whose life has been affected by brain injury or PTSD: people with brain injuries, their family and friends, and the professionals who work with them.

Key resources: [Glossary of Brain Injury Terms](#) | [Military Resource Directory](#)

Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA)

BIAA's works to advance awareness, research, treatment, and education and to improve the quality of life for all people affected by brain injury.

Key resources: [Brain Injury Information](#)

United States Brain Injury Alliance (USBIA)

USBIA engages the community in preventing brain injury and improving lives of those with brain injuries and their families.

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA)

NASHIA provides information on national trends, best practices, and state contacts to federal agencies, state and national associations and TBI stakeholders across the country.

General Resources

[Aging and Disability Resource Centers \(ADRC\)](#)



ADRCs provide information about options for long-term services and supports. Contact information for many ADRCs can be found through the Eldercare Locator.

Key resources: [Caregiver Corner Resources](#) | [Brochures](#)

[American Indian and Native American Organizations](#)



Indian Health Service (IHS): [IHS Area Offices](#) | [IHS Health Facilities](#)

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA): [Regional Offices](#) | [Tribal Leader Directory](#)

[Centers for Independent Living \(CILs\)](#)



The CILs provide independent living services, including: information and referral; skills training; peer counseling; individual and systems advocacy; and services that facilitate transition from institutions to the community.

Key resources: [Training for CILs](#)

[Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation](#)



Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) assists individuals with disabilities to get and keep a job that matches their skills, interests and abilities. VR staff work in partnership with the community and businesses to provide services that are individualized to help each eligible person receive services that are essential to their employment success.

[Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women \(OVW\)](#)



OVW works to develop capacity to reduce violence against women, administer justice for and strengthen services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Key resources: [Native American Domestic Violence Services](#) | [Abused & Brain Injured](#)

[National Coalition for the Homeless](#)



National network of people who work to end and prevent homelessness, meet the immediate needs of those who are currently homeless, and ensure civil rights are respected and protected.

Key resources: [State Homeless Shelters and Service Organizations](#) | [Fact Sheets](#)

[National Disability Rights Network-Protection & Advocacy](#)



Each state or territory has a Protection and Advocacy for individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI) program to help people with TBI and their families with legal issues.

[Project ECHO \(Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes\)](#)



Project ECHO is a model designed to increase workforce capacity to provide best-practice specialty care and reduce health disparities. The model uses video conferencing to create a virtual learning community that connects a team of interdisciplinary experts to professionals working in underserved communities.

Key resources: [Head Injury ECHO](#) | [Directory of Hubs and Programs](#) | [Start an ECHO Hub](#)

[Rural Health Information Hub](#)



The Rural Health Information Hub, formerly the Rural Assistance Center, is funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy to be a national clearinghouse on rural health issues. They are committed to supporting healthcare and population health in rural communities.

Key resources: [Concussion in Rural America](#) | [Community Health Workers Toolkit](#)

[Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#)



SAMHSA is the agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to meet the behavioral health care needs of individuals, communities, and service providers.

Key resources: [Treating Clients with Traumatic Brain Injury](#) | [Managing Stress Fact Sheet](#)

[University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service \(UCEDDS\)](#)



UCEDDs support people with disabilities across the lifespan by providing pre-service preparation, technical assistance, community education, direct services, conducting research, and engaging in information sharing.

Key resources: [Acronym Dictionary](#)

[Veterans Organizations](#)



Department of Veterans Affairs:

[Find VA locations](#) | [Veterans Service Organization Directory](#)

Military Health System: [Traumatic Brain Injury Center of Excellence](#) | [Provider Resources](#)

Fact Sheets and Tip Card

[Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana TBI Model Systems](#)

Fact sheets about brain injury and a variety of topics (e.g., fatigue, stress, problem solving).

[American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Chronic Brain Injury Task Force](#)

A tip card for physicians treating individuals living with chronic brain injury.

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