



**TBI SPP**  
Traumatic Brain Injury  
State Partnership Program

# Grantee Profile 2018-2021: West Virginia

The **West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities** (WVU CED) is the state's designated lead agency. It collaborates with the state-funded TBI Program administered by the Department of Health and Human Resources' Bureau for Behavioral Health. The DHHR's Bureau for Medical Services administers the 1915(c) TBI Medicaid Home and Community-based (HCBS) Waiver and a Utilization Management Contractor carries out daily operations of the waiver program.

**Main Grant Aim: Increase the capacity to provide services to people with TBI in identified gaps and needs areas for the long-term health, community integration, and independent living of those individuals**

## Additional Aims

- Increase the capacity to identify, diagnose, and treat TBI and its related symptoms
- Increase and improve service delivery systems and supports to people with TBI
- Improve and expand the TBI Registry System

## Accomplishments/Outcomes

- Provided resource coordination
- Conducted needs assessment
- Provided technical assistance and training
- Developed partnerships with the criminal and juvenile justice system
- Developed Return to Learn to be implemented in the schools; established an educational series with NASHIA to build the Return to Learn opportunities and offerings across the state and purchasing Get Schooled on Concussions for schools
- Hired an outreach coordinator focusing on increasing partnerships and a system of implementing screenings for at-risk populations
- Developed a monthly virtual support group
- Created a seasonal newsletter that is shared with partners, people with TBI, family members and is available on the website

### West Virginia Lead Agency Contact

Miranda Talkington  
TBI Program Manager  
Traumatic Brain Injury Services Program  
West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities  
Phone: 304-293-4692, ext. 60690  
Email: [Miranda.talkington@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:Miranda.talkington@hsc.wvu.edu)



### Other Contact

Amanda Acord-Vira, Principal Investigator, WV ACL TBI Grant  
West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities  
Phone: 304-293-8828  
Email: [Amanda.acordvira1@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:Amanda.acordvira1@hsc.wvu.edu)

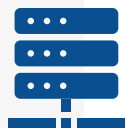
## Partners

State Medicaid Agency, State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, State Unit on Aging, State Department of Developmental Disabilities, State Behavioral and/or Mental Health Agency, Protection and Advocacy Programs, West Virginia University, State Independent Living Council, State I/DD Council, Recovery and Substance Abuse Treatment Center, and VA Medical Center.

## Advisory Council



The ACL TBI SPP Grant awarded to the Bureau of Behavioral Health supports the advisory board, which is composed of 28 individual members. Individuals interested in serving on the board submit an application, and the existing board members vote to approve. The advisory board meets quarterly and promotes advocacy, collaboration, education, planning, and information and referral. The advisory board produced the West Virginia State Plan.



## Registry and Data

The West Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services collects and maintains trauma and emergency care information to provide data for use in system design and operations. This system includes the State Trauma Registry; the State Medical Command Record; and the Electronic Patient Care Record.

Lawmakers established a central registry that requires acute care facilities to report TBI (Chapter 18-10A-15). The West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities maintains the central registry of persons who sustain severe head injury in order to facilitate the provision of appropriate services. Individuals who are reported through the registry may be contacted 3 months and 6 months post injury. Information on brain injury and resources is also available on-site at hospitals and other healthcare provider locations.

The WVU CED also has added brain injury-related questions to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YBRSS) to obtain additional information.

## Service Delivery

The West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities is the state's designated lead agency for the coordination of services for West Virginians with TBI and administers funding from the Division of Behavioral Health TBI Program and maintains the central registry. The West Virginia Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Fund, established in statute in 1996, is administered by the Department of Health and Human Resources' Bureau of Behavioral Health and is subject to an annual appropriations by the legislature. The Bureau of Behavioral Health oversees the program known as *TBI Funds for YOU*. The program purchases services through contracts with agencies and organizations and/or through competitive grants for specific services. The Bureau created an application review team that reviews applications to provide funds. WVU CED contracts with the Bureau using appropriations from the *Funds for YOU* program to promote increased independence for individuals with TBI. WVU CED also receives a separate appropriation specifically for TBI services.

The Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver, administered by the Department of Health and Human Resources' Bureau for Medical Services, provides HCBS waiver services to residents who are Medicaid-eligible. Applicants must be at least 3 years of age; however, there is no maximum age limit. The waiver is administered by the Bureau of Medical Services and a Utilization Management Contractor that carries out daily operations, including assessment and re-assessment, and authorizes TBI waiver services for eligible members.

### Revenue for TBI-Specific Programs/Services

Fiscal Year	General Revenue Allocation*	Trust Fund Allocation**
2018	\$700,000	\$200,000
2019	\$700,000	\$200,000
2020	\$700,000	\$200,000

\* Contract from the Bureau of Behavioral Health Trust Fund to WVU CED

\*\* Appropriations directly to WVU CED for TBI services

