



FY2023 Recommendations for Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Act Programs

Department of Health and Human Services	FY 2021	FY 2022	President's Recommendations FY 2023	NASHIA/BIAA FY 2023 Recommendations
Administration for Community Living Administration on Disabilities TBI State Partnership Program Total	\$7.321M	\$8M	\$8M	\$19M
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Injury Prevention and Control TBI Program National Concussion Surveillance Total	\$6.725M -- 0 -- \$6.725M	\$6,750,000 \$ 500,000 \$7.2505M	\$6.750M -- 0 -- \$6,750M	\$6.750M \$5.000M \$11.750M

Background

At least 5.3 million Americans live with a disability-related traumatic brain injury (TBI), which is caused by a sudden jolt, blow or penetrating injury to the head. A TBI disrupts the normal function of the brain, resulting in problems with thinking, emotions, language, mobility, and sensory that affects how a person is able to work and live independently. Causes are attributed to falls, motor vehicle crashes, sports-related injuries, war-related injuries and violence. To address the needs of Americans living with a TBI, the TBI Program Reauthorization of 2018 (P.L. 115-377) authorizes funding to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) for:

- The Administration for Community Living (ACL) TBI State Partnership Program (TBI SPP) to award State grants to improve access to rehabilitation and community services and supports; and
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct public education, prevention activities, and to establish a CDC National Concussion Surveillance System.

ACL's Administration on Disabilities (AOD) administers the TBI SPP and has awarded five-year grants to 28 States to assist States in improving and expanding service delivery for individuals living with a brain injury.

The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) and the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) support an additional **\$11 million** to fund **the remaining unfunded States** for the following reasons.

1) TBI is a leading cause of death and disability in children and young adults in the United States.

- *Through ACL TBI SPP grants, Colorado and Pennsylvania identified **youth with TBI in juvenile justice systems and county jails** through screening and linked identified youth to appropriate services and resources to address TBI-related disabilities and improve outcomes for these youth.*
- *The **Pennsylvania Department of Health** developed a **school re-entry program for children and youth with brain injury**, in collaboration with the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania (BIA-PA),*

using funds from the ACL TBI State Partnership Program grant, which the health department and **the Department of Education State** have continued.

- 2) Federal funding assists States in **leveraging other resources** to address the needs of individuals with brain injury and their families, **making the program a great investment**.
 - *The **North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services** was approved for a Medicaid 1115 Substance Abuse Disorder (SUD) Demonstration Waiver that included people with brain injury needing residential treatment for SUD, as the result of the ACL TBI SPP funding to assess TBI-related SUD needs.*
 - *Almost half of the States administer Brain Injury Trust Fund Programs, which provide a dedicated funding source for resources, services and supports. In many States, trust fund programs have been established or revenue increased due to the work afforded by the State's ACL TBI SPP grant with regard to assessing needs and resources and State planning.*
- 3) While States bear the costs of direct care and services, the ACL TBI SPP Program is the **only federal resource to assist States** to develop "best practices," including training to community providers, to improve public funded services and supports and to address unmet needs, particularly with regard to fall-related TBI among the aging population, children and youth sustaining concussions.
 - *The **Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC)** developed the **Massachusetts Traumatic Brain Injury in Elders Web Course** with funding from the ACL TBI SPP in collaboration with the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA), Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) and subject-matter expert consultants who assisted with web-based education for providers of services for adults with TBI who are older.*
- 4) **States and communities need data to assist with planning for prevention, identification, treatment and service needs in order to address issues relating to mild TBI (concussions)**.
 - *The **National Concussion Surveillance System**, would determine how many Americans incur a concussion each year that will inform and equip leaders within communities, States, and across America with regard to prevention, identification, treatment and ongoing needs.*

NASHIA and BIAA support full funding in the amount of **\$5 million** as authorized by the TBI Program Reauthorization Act of 2018.

In summary, NASHIA and BIAA urge Congress to increase funding for HHS' TBI programs to address the expanding needs of Americans due to the aging population that are at risk of TBI due to a fall; new diagnostic tools to assess concussions related to sports and other injuries; long-COVID, which can cause cognitive issues; and the increasing number of motor vehicle related crashes as noted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) is the country's oldest and largest nationwide brain injury advocacy organization. The mission is to advance awareness, research, treatment and education and to improve the quality of life for all individuals impacted by brain injury. For further information, contact Susan H. Connors, BIAA President/CEO, at shconnors@biausa.org. Website: www.biausa.org.

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) is a nonprofit organization comprised of State employees and others involved in service delivery to help individuals with TBI to live as independently as possible. NASHIA's mission is to assist States in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injury and their families. For further information, contact Zaida Ricker, NASHIA Government Relations Consultant, at zricker@ridgepolicygroup.com. Website: www.nashia.org.