



# Building a Better Future for Brain Injury

## Understanding the Brain Injury Challenge

- Brain injuries are considered a significant public health issue in the United States and the leading cause of death and disability in both older adults and youth.
- 2.5 million brain injuries occur each year and 5.3 million Americans live with a life-long disability as a result of brain injury. This is likely an underestimation of the true prevalence.
- Approximately 200 Americans die each day due to a traumatic brain injury.
- Approximately 15% of high school youth in the United States report one or more sports or recreation-related concussions annually.
- Individuals with brain injury have high co-occurrence with behavioral health and substance misuse challenges and are significantly over-represented within the criminal justice system and among the intimate partner violence and unhoused communities.
- These data combined underscore the significant prevalence and growing complex challenges related to brain injury.

## Key Priorities for Fiscal Year 2025 Funding

Because of the significant needs associated with supporting individuals with brain injury, the Traumatic Brain Injury Act authorizes:

- The **Administration for Community Living (ACL)** to award grants to states, tribes, and territories to improve access to service delivery through a discretionary grant called the **Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Program**. The Act also authorizes The **Traumatic Brain Injury Protection and Advocacy Program** for all states to help protect the legal and human rights of people with brain injury.
- The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) TBI Program** is responsible for assessing and reporting on the incidence and prevalence of TBI in the United States. The CDC's **National Concussion Surveillance System** is the most comprehensive mechanism available for collecting national data on the number of Americans who have experienced a brain injury.

In addition to the Traumatic Brain Injury Act authorized programs, we also support funding for:

- **National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) TBI Model Systems**, which is authorized under Title II of the Rehabilitation Act. The TBI Model Systems is comprised of a network of 16 research institutions across the country that research best practices for rehabilitation and community integration for individuals with brain injury.

## FY25 Brain Injury Community Funding Requests

Program	<i>FY25 Funding Request</i>	<i>FY23 Funding Level</i>
<b>State Partnership Program and Protection &amp; Advocacy Grants</b>	\$25 Million	\$13.1 Million
<b>TBI Model Systems</b>	\$15 Million	\$7.1 Million
<b>TBI Program and the National Concussion Surveillance System (NCSS)</b>	\$11.75 Million with \$5 million specifically allocated for the NCSS	\$8.25 Million with \$1 million allocated for the NCSS

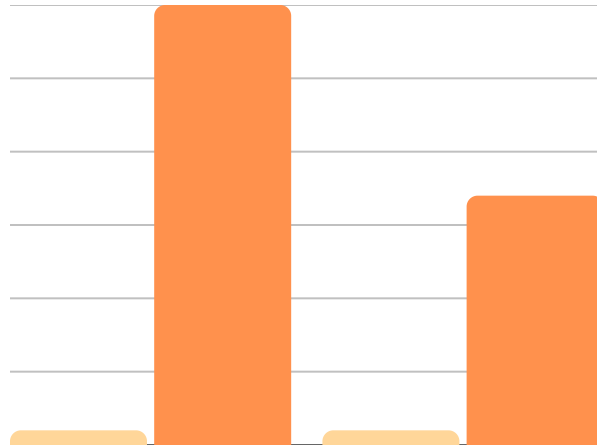
### Empowering States is Vital for Brain Injury Support

Current funding for the TBI State Partnership Program Grant provides funding for just more than 30 states. More funding is needed to ensure that every state is able to receive dedicated brain injury funding. Research shows that individuals with brain injury who live in states with TBI State Partnership Program funding have better longterm outcomes than individuals living in states without the grant. States use TBI State Partnership Program funds to:

<b>Expand and Improve State Capacity, including:</b>	<b>Collaborate with Other State Agencies who Serve People with Brain Injury, such as:</b>	<b>Maintain State Brain Injury Advisory Boards to:</b>
Ensuring Dedicated Staff	Criminal and Juvenile Justice and Law Enforcement	Develop State Plans on Brain Injury
Connecting Individuals to Community Resources	Aging	Promote Awareness
Creating Resource Networks	Behavioral Health	Identify Areas of Needed Focus and Resources
Providing Training to Community Professionals	Veterans	Amplify the Voice of Individuals with Lived Experience to Impact Service Delivery

## Data Needed to Drive Change

Existing national data underestimate the prevalence of brain injury across the country with most estimates coming solely from emergency department data. This data is not reflective of the many individuals who do not seek care, seek care outside of emergency departments, or those who are not reported. With internal funding, CDC was able to conduct a pilot of the National Concussion Surveillance System, which found significantly higher levels of brain injury.



30 times as many TBIs in Adults

17 times as many TBIs in Children

The CDC needs \$5 million annually to fully fund the National Concussion Surveillance System, in order to get a more accurate understanding of the incidence and prevalence of brain injury.