

Brain Injury Funding Requests: Summary & Talking Points

Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill



Our Requests:

State Partnership Program and Protection & Advocacy Grants: \$25 million

Increases in funding should be prioritized for the State Partnership Program

TBI Model Systems: \$15 Million

CDC TBI Program and the National Concussion Surveillance System (NCSS): \$11.75 Million with \$5 Million specifically allocated for the NCSS

Continued funding for all existing brain injury programs and state grants.

Talking Points for Advocates When Speaking to Congress

Why More Funding is Needed

- Brain injuries are common – 2.8 million Americans suffer a brain injury every year, and over 5 million live with long-term effects.
- Many states do not get funding – Right now, 19 states receive no TBI Act funding, leaving survivors without needed services.
- Brain injuries last a lifetime – Many survivors struggle with memory loss, mobility issues, depression, and chronic pain for years. The TBI Model Systems support research and care for TBI survivors throughout their lives.

OVERVIEW



Brain injuries affect millions of Americans, but many do not get the care and support they need. Right now, funding for brain injury programs is too low, leaving many states and people without help. Advocates are asking Congress to increase funding for programs that support people with brain injuries, improve treatment, and fund research. More funding will ensure that all 50 states have the resources to help survivors and their families. Ask your legislators to sign onto the appropriations letters in support of these programs. We will follow-up with them with more details.

HOW MORE FUNDING WILL HELP



- All states will have brain injury services – More funding will help all 50 states, not just a few.
- Research shows that people who live in states with State Partnership Program funding have better long-term outcomes than those who live in states without grants.
- More research will improve care – Increasing funding for TBI Model Systems will help doctors and scientists find better treatments.
- Better tracking means better services – More funding for the CDC's TBI Program will improve brain injury research and prevention.

WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO

- ✓ **Increase funding for the ACL State Partnership Program and Protection & Advocacy Program** to \$25 million so that all states can provide brain injury services. The priority should be to fund TBI State Partnership Program Activities.
- ✓ **Support TBI Model Systems of Care** – Increase funding to improve treatment and research for people with brain injuries.
- ✓ **Fund the CDC's TBI Programs** – Ensure better data collection to improve care.

QUESTIONS?

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BRAIN INJURY
ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA



NASHIA

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FULLY FUND TBI MODEL SYSTEMS OF CARE

The TBI Model Systems are a collection of 16 research centers building national capacity for high-quality treatment and research for persons with TBI, their families, and the communities in which they reside. They are the only source of long-term data on what happens to people with brain injury across the lifespan, and their findings are critical to identifying and designing future improvements in brain injury treatment. The Model Systems receive grants administered by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) for civilian and military populations.

We urge Congress to increase funding for the TBI Model Systems by at least \$15 million over the next 5 years to:

- Increase the number of multicenter TBI Model Systems Collaborative Research projects from one to three, each with \$1 million budget.
- Increase the number of competitively funded centers from 16 to 18 while increasing per center support.
- Increase funding for the National Data and Statistical Center for tracking participants over their lifetime.

OVERVIEW



Brain injuries affect millions of Americans, but many do not get the care and support they need. Right now, funding for brain injury programs is too low, leaving many states and people without help.

Advocates are asking Congress to increase funding for programs that support people with brain injuries. **Please sign onto the appropriations letters in support of these programs.** We will send additional information in follow-up.

INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE TBI ACT



The Administration for Community Living (ACL) administers the TBI State Partnership Grant Program, which helps states increase access to services and supports for individuals with brain injury throughout their lives. It also authorizes the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) TBI Grant Program, which helps states provide advocacy services for people with brain injury.

Currently 31 states receive TBI State grants, and they are severely underfunded, as are all the P&A grants. We urge Congress to increase funding for the TBI Act to \$25 million, and appropriate

- \$19 million to the State Partnership Grant Program so all states can participate (an increase of \$11 million),
- \$6 million to the P&A Grant Program (an increase of \$3.5 million)

Research shows that individuals with brain injury who live in states with TBI State Partnership Program funding have better long term outcomes than individuals living in states without the grant.

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. 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.

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