

## TN Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Program Mentor State Grant Award

The purpose of the **Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Program** as overseen by the **Administration on Community Living** is to create and strengthen a system of services and supports that maximizes the independence, well-being and health of people with TBI across the lifespan. This includes all related demographics, family members and support networks.

Applicants agreed to:

- Support a state TBI advisory board
- Provide at least one full-time dedicated staff person
- Create an annual TBI state plan
- Create and/or expand their state's TBI registry
- Expand and strengthen their state's capacity to provide access to services for individuals with TBI and their families
- Work with one or more partner state grantees to increase their capacity to provide access to services for individuals with TBI and their families; and
- Work with other mentor state grantees and with ACL to improve national coordination and collaboration of TBI services and supports.

The Tennessee TBI Program proposed to build on the foundation of services and supports developed through our prior Health Resources and Services Administration grant, entitled Project BRAIN. That grant had the overall goal of improving educational outcomes for children with brain injuries in Tennessee by providing education and training for educators, families and health professionals who support students with TBI. In addition, the project included the development of a hospital-to-home-to-school transition liaison program in three children's hospitals across the state.

In addition to supporting and adding to the existing system of services and supports, the goals and objectives of the new grant, **Brain Links** will also address **person-centered planning** and development of a trained TBI workforce. Partnerships include but are not limited to the Tennessee Disability Coalition, Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Tennessee Department of Education.

## BRAIN LINKS AREAS OF EMPHASIS AND OBJECTIVES

### ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Obj. 1.** Expand the capacity of the TBI Advisory Council to actively and meaningfully engage people with TBI as key decision makers. **Strategy:** Partner with key stakeholders to increase awareness of and encourage attendance and participation in TBI Council activities.

### ANNUAL STATE PLAN

**Obj. 2.** Create an updated TBI state plan with long and short-term goals in collaboration with the TBI Advisory Council and people with TBI and their families. **Strategy:** Develop, distribute and analyze needs assessment surveys for TBI survivors, their families and professional providers of TBI services and use results for the development of a comprehensive state plan for TBI.

### TBI STATE REGISTRY

**Obj. 3.** Expand the capacity of the TBI registry to connect more survivors to services. **Strategy:** Provide education to relevant hospitals on the importance of their role in connecting TBI patients to services and improve the response rate to registry letters.

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

**Obj. 4.** Collaborate with other states to develop comprehensive workforce development training as part of a national infrastructure for TBI professionals. **Strategy:** Work collaboratively with other mentor state grantees to complete a review of existing curricula and training materials, develop new training materials as needed and use these resources to create a national professional development infrastructure for TBI service professionals and paraprofessionals.

**Obj. 5:** Develop and provide TBI workforce development training for relevant professionals. **Strategy:** Build on the foundation established by the previous grant project: training materials and products, excellence in training with documented increases in knowledge and staff members with expertise in brain injury and educational program development. Incorporate the core competencies of the national workforce development training into Tennessee training materials.

**Obj. 6:** Collaborate with the Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to provide continuing education opportunities related to brain injury and provide pediatricians across the state with educational materials to share with families. **Strategy:** Build upon and expand the capacity of the transition liaison process developed in the previous grant to serve children across the state.

### MENTORSHIP AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

**Obj. 7.** Provide mentorship and technical assistance to partner state grantees in areas of expertise.

### PERSON CENTERED PLANNING

**Obj. 8:** Increase the capacity to incorporate person-centered planning into TBI services by collaborating with the Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to develop a TBI-specific person-centered planning guide.

*2018-21 Brain Links*

