



## Traumatic Brain Injury Services

Center for Excellence in Disabilities

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All printed materials are available in braille, electronic format, CD and large print.

WVU is an EEO/Affirmative Action Employer – Minority/ Female/Disability/Veteran. TBI Program Brochure 8/17

## WHAT IS A TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY?

A TBI is a bump, blow or jolt to the head or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the normal function of the brain. In West Virginia, TBI also includes individuals who have anoxia due to near-drowning.

## LEADING CAUSES OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

- Falls (47%)
- Unknown causes (19%)
- Struck by/against events (15%)
- Motor vehicle crashes (14%)

For active military personnel in war zones, blasts are the leading cause of TBI.

## TBI FACTS

- Severity may range from “mild” to “severe” based on the level of change to your mental status or consciousness.
- Approximately 75% of TBIs that occur each year are concussions or other forms of mild TBI.
- Effects of TBI can include impaired thinking or memory, movement, sensation or emotional functioning.
- The effects of a TBI can be short-term or lifelong. These issues affect not only individuals but also families and communities.

(Centers for Disease Control)  
[cdc.gov/traumaticbraininjury/get\\_the\\_facts.html](http://cdc.gov/traumaticbraininjury/get_the_facts.html)

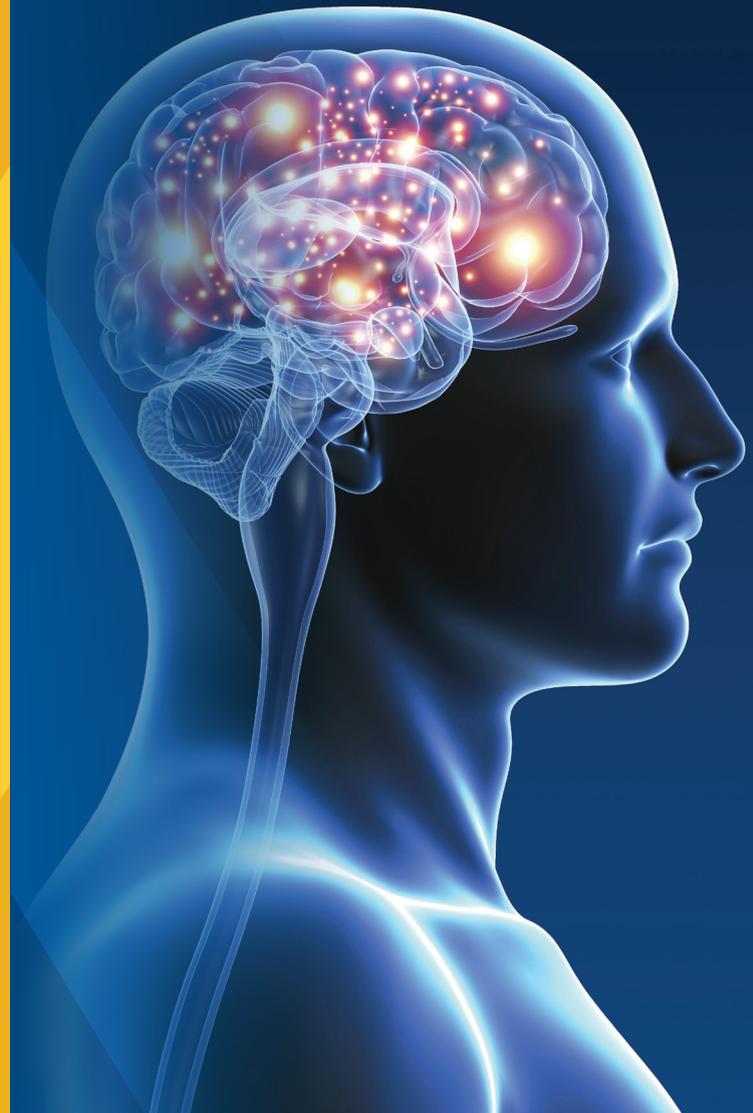
## TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

With the high prevalence of TBI in the country, it is critical to have a trained workforce that can identify and deliver appropriate services and support to individuals and families. Traumatic Brain Injury Services can provide training and technical assistance to agencies or organizations that request information about traumatic brain injury, at no cost to the agency. A core component of any information provided will focus on the importance of screening all individuals for a possible traumatic brain injury so the facilitation of appropriate resources and services takes place. Specific topic requests can be made based on the needs of an agency/organization.



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 West Virginia University  
CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DISABILITIES



## According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there were:



## Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Services

The WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities is proud to serve as West Virginia's designated lead agency for coordination of services for West Virginians with TBI.

A variety of services and resources are offered through the program for individuals who have experienced a traumatic brain injury and their caregivers.

There are also opportunities for service providers from multiple backgrounds to gain a greater understanding of the needs and experiences of individuals with a TBI through training and technical assistance from our staff of Certified Brain Injury Specialists.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES

All services are free of charge to any one who:

- Is a current West Virginia resident
- Provides medical documentation of a traumatic brain injury (TBI)

## RESOURCE COORDINATION

Due to the complex nature of a TBI, navigating medical and social services can be difficult. TBI Services can help families and service providers identify and address issues of concern through person-centered planning and resource coordination.

Seven resource coordinators are regionally located throughout the state of West Virginia. Each staff person is a highly trained brain injury specialist and has specific knowledge related to the resources located in their assigned region.

A resource coordinator will be assigned once a referral has been made and required medical documentation has been received. They will make arrangements to meet in the most comfortable setting and begin working to aid the individual/family in creating a plan to increase independence, address any immediate needs and improve current quality of life.

## NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION

After a brain injury, an individual may experience issues with memory, cognitive function and other functional issues. Evaluations identify potential deficits and create a comprehensive plan of strategies to improve the quality of life.

The evaluation involves an interview and the administration of tests that can take 2-8 hours. The tests are typically pencil and paper type tests and can be adapted to an individual's need or ability. Testing can provide information about the following aspects of cognition:

- Reasoning and problem-solving ability
- Ability to understand and express language
- Short-term and long-term memory
- Processing speed
- Planning, synthesizing, organizing abilities and executive functioning
- Personality/mood/behavioral aspects

Once eligibility is determined, a resource coordinator can help determine if a neuropsychological evaluation may benefit a client in the functional aspects of their life. Licensed West Virginia professionals complete evaluations. Payment for services is provided through TBI Services, if applicable.

## FUNDS FOR YOU

Funds for You is a limited funding program set up to provide goods or services that will increase the independence of people who have experienced a TBI. The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities funds the program fully, and oversight is provided by the West Virginia Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Fund Board.

## PERMITTED GOODS AND SERVICES

- Medical/dental/vision services
- Adaptive equipment or assistive technology
- Home modifications
- Therapy services (physical, speech, cognitive and occupational)
- Other items to promote independence

## AVAILABLE FUNDS

Funds may be requested ranging from \$50 - \$1,500, depending on individual needs. Funds can be applied for multiple times in a year up to \$1,500.

## PROCESS FOR APPLYING

This program is only available to current clients of TBI Services. The resource coordinator assigned to each client will help complete the required application and will explain the additional documentation required to show all other funding options have been exhausted. Once the entire application is completed, an Application Review Team will meet and determine approval. For more information, please contact TBI Services.