

Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Program P&A Grant Fact Sheet

FLORIDA

Protection and Advocacy Grant: 10/1/09 – 9/30/13

<http://www.disabilityrightsflorida.org>

Federal TBI Program

More than 3.17 million Americans live with a disability as a result of a traumatic brain injury (TBI). Many of these individuals and their families are confronted with inadequate or unavailable TBI services and supports. Passage of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 1996 (PL 104-166) signaled a national recognition of the need to improve state TBI service systems. The Act authorized the Health Resources and Services Administration to award grants to State Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems for the purpose of planning and assessing the States' P&A responsiveness to TBI issues to ensure that P&A services will be delivered appropriately to individuals with TBI and their families.

P&A System

Disability Rights Florida

FL P&A's Grant History

Since 2003, Florida has received nine Federal TBI Protection and Advocacy Grants of approximately \$78,000+ each, for a total of \$764,750.

Grant Objectives

1. Address abuse, neglect and exploitation in institutions.
2. Assess adequacy of and improve access to Florida Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Waiver, Medicaid, public education, housing, employment, other programs and public accommodations.
3. Promote economic self-empowerment; person centered planning; least restrictive alternatives to guardianship; and voting rights.

Progress

- Completed 153 information and referral requests and worked on 27 cases involving abuse, neglect and exploitation, healthcare, governmental services, programs and benefits, appropriateness of placements and services, guardianship issues, criminal justice issues, education, transportation and other matters.
- Conducted outreach with TBI support groups and service providers, including VA; and attended Brain Injury Association of Florida events.
- Conducted ongoing research on employment and related services and supports; special education for children and youth with TBI; access to healthcare services; and mental health services for persons with TBI.

Continuing Effort

Florida PATBI continues to work in these focus areas, as well as respond to other requests for individual advocacy as they arise.

For Further Information

P&A TBI Program

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<http://www.hrsa.gov/gethealthcare/conditions/traumatibraininjury/>

Go to <https://tbitac.norc.org> for information on additional P&A TBI activities.