

Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Program P&A Grant Fact Sheet

GEORGIA

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

<http://www.thegao.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

Georgia Advocacy Office, Inc.

GA P&A's Grant History

Since 2003, Georgia has received nine Federal TBI Protection and Advocacy Grants for an average of \$61,000 each, for a total of \$549,345.

Grant Objectives

1. Protect persons with TBI from abuse and neglect
2. Respond to allegations of discriminations and legal rights violations of persons with TBI
3. Promote the integration and self-determination of persons with TBI in the community

Progress

- Georgia Advocacy Office ("GAO") provided a range of remedies in advocating with and for individuals with TBI. GAO effectively engaged ordinary citizens in protection and advocacy on behalf of persons with TBI whenever possible, while also providing paid, formal, and legal advocacy services. In addition to supporting individuals with TBI who are confined to psychiatric hospitals, GAO expanded its advocacy efforts to assist individuals with TBI residing in nursing facilities with exercising the option of living in the most integrated setting. GAO worked to ensure a safe transition from the facility into the community by collaborating with the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program and advocating for Medicaid Home and Community Based-Waiver programs.

Continuing Effort

GAO will continue to implement its grant objectives and provide advocacy for individuals with TBI and their families in accessing services and supports to meet their needs.

For Further Information

P&A TBI Program

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Federal TBI Program

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

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