

Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Program P&A Grant Fact Sheet

MARYLAND

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

<http://www.mdclaw.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

Maryland Disability Law Center

MD P&A's Grant History

Since 2003, Maryland has received nine Federal TBI Protection and Advocacy Grants of approximately \$51,118 each, for a total of \$418,144.

Grant Objectives

1. Advocate that persons found incompetent to stand trial due to a TBI receive community-based treatment to attempt to restore competency and that those committed to a state facility are not confined beyond a reasonable period.
2. Ensure that students with TBI are properly identified and receive appropriate special education services.
3. Promote alternatives to institutionalization by advocating for people with TBI in facilities and improved community-based options.

Progress

- MDLC continues to achieve significant outcomes through participation on Maryland's TBI Advisory Board. Through the TBI Medicaid waiver renewal process, MDLC is advocating for increased access to, and improved, community-based waiver services.

- MDLC has expanded focus on students with TBI in special education matters to provide targeted outreach and rights trainings, legal representation, and identify systemic issues.
- MDLC continues to provide legal representation to people with TBI in a broad range of areas, including housing and health care, to ensure access to specialized supports clients need to thrive in the community.

Continuing Effort

MDLC will continue its effort to eliminate unnecessary and prolonged confinement of persons with TBI who have been found incompetent to stand trial but not promptly restored to competency or tried. MDLC will increase its efforts to ensure students with TBI are identified and receive appropriate special education services. MDLC will also continue its efforts to ensure access to community services for persons with TBI to avoid institutionalization.

For Further Information

P&A TBI Program

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Federal TBI Program

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