

Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Program P&A Grant Fact Sheet

MINNESOTA

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

<http://www.mndlc.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

Minnesota Disability Law Center (MN DLC)

MN P&A's Grant History

Since 2002, Minnesota has received ten Federal TBI Protection and Advocacy Grants of approximately \$50,245 each, for a total of \$509,082.

Grant Objectives

1. Ensure that persons with TBI and their family members, advocates and service providers are informed of the availability of community-based services, supports and health care and how to access these critical resources.
2. Ensure that veterans and service members with TBI and their family members receive information about advocacy resources and their legal rights.
3. Provide advocacy to facilitate client access to Medicaid waiver services, health care, appropriate services, and community-based residential options, and respond to reports of abuse or neglect.
4. Advocate to preserve or expand community-based services, supports and residential options available to persons with TBI statewide.

Progress

- Provided legal advice or representation for 70 individuals with TBI during the recent grant period.
- Delivered 19 presentations for 1,332 persons with TBI, their families, advocates, and service providers.
- Participated in two Stand Down events that provided resource information to veterans who are homeless.

In response to state funding cuts to the personal care assistant (PCA) program, MDLC co-chaired a coalition work group that changed the PCA program and improved services for people with TBI. MDLC educated the coalition about the PCA statute, the legislative process, and how to assist persons with TBI to appeal their PCA service cuts. Due to PATBI advocacy, definitions were added in legislation that improved the PCA services assessment process and Extended PCA services were defined for home and community waiver programs, including the TBI Waiver, to assure that persons destabilized by Minnesota's PCA service cuts had an option to maintain needed services under these waivers.

Continuing Effort

MN DLC will continue to implement its grant objectives and provide advocacy for individuals with TBI and their families.

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.