

# Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Program P&A Grant Fact Sheet

## PUERTO RICO

Protection and Advocacy Grant: 10/01/09-09/30/13

<http://www.oppi.gobierno.pr>

### **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**

Office of the Ombudsman for Persons with Disabilities

### **PR P&A's Grant History**

Since 2003, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has received nine Federal TBI Protection and Advocacy Grants of approximately \$50,000 each, for a total of \$450,000.

### **Grant Objectives**

1. Provide information and referral, professional assistance, advice and support to individuals with TBI regarding vocational rehabilitation, employment, education, community, and other existing services.
2. Organize and offer workshops aimed towards educating parents and consumers, government officials, service providers, private employers and employees, professionals, attorneys and the community about individual rights under federal and local laws.
3. Organize and offer, in coordination with other organizations, workshops to individuals with TBI and their family members. Five-thousand brochures will be developed and disseminated.
4. Provide public information through local radio, TV programs and newspaper.

5. Advocate to identify and correct deficiencies in entities providing health, education, vocational rehabilitation, employment and other services to persons with TBI.
6. Provide education and training to community providers and other organizations.
7. Provide mediation and negotiation services as well as administrative and legal services to clients with TBI.

### **Recent Progress**

- Provided information and referral services to 149 individuals.
- Trained 96 individuals, providers, and service workers.
- Conducted outreach at 28 university, health, employment and service fairs.
- Held 7 TBI Educational Workshops with 96 attendees.
- Disseminated over 9,454 TBI information materials.
- Provided advocacy services to 5 individuals.

### **Continuing Effort**

The Office of the Ombudsman will continue to implement the 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/getthehealthcare/conditions/traumaticbraininjury/>

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