

Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Program P&A Grant Fact Sheet

RHODE ISLAND

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

<http://www.ridlc.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

RI Disability Law Center, Inc. (RIDLC)

RI P&A's Grant History

Since 2002, Rhode Island has received ten Federal TBI Protection and Advocacy Grants of approximately \$50,000 each, for a total of \$500,000.

Grant Objectives

1. Improve individual/family skills and knowledge to better access culturally competent and appropriate services by: (a) providing legal representation to individuals with TBI and information/referral (I&R) services consistent with RIDLC's annual case acceptance priorities, (b) engaging in outreach to the TBI community, and (c) conducting trainings on self-advocacy and TBI-related legal issues.
2. Improve existing provider quality and competency by collaborating with RI partners to advocate for the maintenance of State funding streams to support comprehensive in-State TBI services and the RI Brain Injury Resource Center.
3. Build in-State capacity for TBI-competent services not currently available by advocating for the above funding streams and by participating in the Governor's Advisory Commission on TBI (GPACTBI) (RI's TBI Statewide Advisory Board) and other partnerships.

Recent Progress

- Represented individuals with TBI on disability-related legal issues, provided I&R, and conducted legal trainings.
- Supported continuing the \$250,000 State budget allocation to the RI Dept. of Human Services for brain injury services, a goal of which is to develop/ expand in-State TBI services/infrastructure.
- Advocated that the GPACTBI, which is responsible for reporting on TBI matters to both the Governor and General Assembly, reconvene and meet with State Medicaid officials.
- Participated as a member of the State's Global Waiver Implementation Task Force to advocate for individuals with disabilities including TBI.
- Investigated the barriers to discharge and potential remedies for individuals with TBI ready to return to RI from an out of State placement.

Continuing Effort

RIDLC will continue to implement its grant objectives by representing and providing I&R and training to individuals with TBI, and by advocating for individuals with TBI in an effort to improve their access to appropriate in-State services.

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.