

Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Program P&A Grant Fact Sheet

VERMONT

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

<http://www.disabilityrightsvt.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

Disability Rights Vermont, Inc.

VT P&A's Grant History

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

Grant Objectives

1. Provide individual advocacy to obtain access to community-based services and supports for people with TBI living in residential facilities.
2. Enhance access to comprehensive and coordinated supports and services for people with TBI and their families through system advocacy with partner agencies.
3. Collaborate with the State TBI Implementation Waiver program in attainment of the goals and objectives of the Program; specifically by improving access to TBI services and increasing TBI expertise of service providers and Veteran's Administration staff through educational trainings.
4. Work with State government agencies and the Vermont legislature to expand services, supports, and funding available to individuals with TBI.
5. Enhance the knowledge base of individuals with TBI and their family members, service providers and legislators about resources and provision of TBI services and supports.

Recent Progress

- Attended all meetings of the statewide TBI Advisory Board, the TBI Advisory Board Steering Committee and the BIA-VT Board of Directors, the Military Family Community Network.
- Presented disability rights clinics to veterans with TBI, their families and service providers.
- Distributed the 3rd edition of the award winning TBI legal resource manual for printing.

Continuing Effort

Disability Rights Vermont, Inc. is scheduling clinics throughout Vermont for veterans with TBI, family members and TBI service providers on disability rights and is working with the Vermont legislature and State Agencies to expand services, supports and funding available to individuals with TBI.

For Further Information

P&A TBI Program

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