

Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Program State Grant Fact Sheet

MASSACHUSETTS

Implementation Partnership Grant 6/1/14 – 5/31/18

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/mrc/agency-programs-and-divisions.html>

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 Administration for Community Living (ACL) to award grants to States for the purpose of planning and implementing needed health and related service systems changes.

Lead State Agency

Rehabilitation Commission, Division of Community Living, Brain Injury & Statewide Specialized Community Services Department (BI&SSCS).

Massachusetts' Grant History

Grant: H21MC26927. Titled: "Improving MA Systems of Care for Elders Sustaining A TBI." Massachusetts has received \$1 million in Federal TBI Implementation and Implementation Partnership Grants. The State will match \$500,000 in support over the four-year period.

Grant Objectives

1. To improve awareness, screening and identification of elders who sustain a TBI.
2. To improve access to appropriate information, resources, services and supports for elders who sustain TBI and their families.
3. To enhance the state's "No Wrong Door" model that provides simplified, streamlined and consumer-directed access and coordination of services for this high risk population.

Progress

- Partnered with the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts, Community Living Division of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Independent Living Center of the North Shore and Cape Ann, North Shore Independent Living Program, Metro West Center for Independent Living, Bay Path Elder Services Inc. HESSCO Elder Services, Senior Care Inc., Greater Lynn Senior Services Inc., North Shore Elder Services Inc., and Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, Inc. to carry out grant activities.
- Established Project Advisory Board inclusive of individuals, family members and professionals reflecting the elder community.
- Operationalized three TBI Specialist positions within three ADRCs in the pilot regions for additional community support for TBI survivors in the elder service system.
- Hired a BIA of MA Information and Resource Specialist to enhance elder TBI resources and work collaboratively with the elder provider network.
- Developed educational materials for dissemination to community agencies serving elders.
- Implementation of the H.E.L.P.S Screening Tool has been adopted in the pilot areas.

- Developed and implemented training curricula on TBI in the elderly including consequences, impact on functional living skills, elder culture, specialized needs and available resources.
- Conducted cross-training sessions for MRC and BIAMA staff on the impact of TBI on elders, aging issues, and navigation of resources within the elder care system.

Continuing Effort

- Carry out outreach and awareness campaign and disseminate education materials developed to Hospitals, Nursing facilities, rehab centers and community based multicultural organizations in the Northeast and MetroWest Regions.
- Offer more training opportunities for community professionals.
- Offer support group for adult children, siblings and spouses/partners of elders with TBI in each targeted region.
- Complete development of free Web-based course on TBI in Adults and Elders.
- Continue data collection, analysis and share lessons learned Statewide.

For Further Information

Statewide Head Injury Program

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Go to the ACL Federal TBI Program website at <http://www.acl.gov/Programs/AoD/TBI/Index.aspx> to learn more.

