
Accomplishments made with the $50,000 one-time legislative allocation to the TBI Fund

For every $1 spent of the TBI Fund at least 81 cents of private matching funds were obtained (Figure 1). As a result of the limited funding and with the desire to stretch the dollars to help as many people as effectively as possible, the TBI Fund Advisory Committee determined to: 1) focus efforts on resource facilitation, and 2) request in-kind match from contractors.

The following services have been provided as of June 30, 2012:
- **127 participants** received one-to-one resource facilitation services at an average cost to the TBI fund of **$337 per person**. The contracting agencies provided matching funds, so the actual cost of the services was higher.
- **13 participants** received a neuro-psych evaluation to assist with an accurate diagnosis and clarify needed services that will be most beneficial. Participants were determined to have no other financial resources available to them to pay for the cost.
- **50 of the 127 participants** who received resource facilitation services are in need of and have been connected to ongoing services.
- **47 additional people** received an intake interview and did not qualify for services because they did not have a ‘traumatic’ brain injury but an ‘acquired’ brain injury (e.g., as a result of West Nile virus, encephalitis, or anoxia, etc.). There is also a great need for services for acquired brain injured individuals.
- **212 emergency department TBI patients** were contacted and of those, **97 received TBI education**.

We are so happy with the neuropsych evaluation our son received through the TBI Fund. The results are helping our family know what things need to be done to better help our son. The resource facilitator helped us learn about resources we never knew existed. The whole experience was positive. Thank you.

![Figure 1: FY2009 - FY2012 TBI Funds Spent vs. Private Match](image-url)
Overview

The TBI Fund was established in 2008 by the Utah Legislature with a one-time appropriation of $50,000. Contracts were restricted due to budget cuts until April 2009. The fund monies were expended to:

- Educate the general public and professionals on treatment and prevention of TBI;
- Provide access to evaluations and coordinate short-term care to assist an individual in identifying services or support needs, resources, and benefits for which the individual may be eligible; and
- Develop and support an information referral system for persons with a TBI and their families.

The fund is administered through the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) Violence and Injury Prevention Program (VIPP).

Needs and Concerns Documented by Contractors

- Services work best when families are intact and supportive.
- Insurance and Medicaid barriers included:
  - Limited benefits, high co-pays, uninsured, and unaffordable.
  - Most assistance applications are too complicated for a TBI survivor to be able to complete without extensive help.
  - Providers who are not willing to serve individuals with TBI due to low reimbursement levels from Medicaid.
- Isolation and lack of support among TBI survivors combined with impulsivity increases the risk of suicide.
- People often avoid asking for help due to fear of being told “no again.” They are overwhelmed by needs and underserved with resources.
- Funding to cover outreach costs and the publicizing of the resources available.

TBI Fund Advisory Committee

TBI Fund Advisory Committee members were appointed by the UDOH Executive Director annually and represent individuals who are familiar with TBI, its causes, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and support services, including individuals who have sustained a TBI and family representatives.

Outreach Efforts

A web page (http://www.health.utah.gov/vipp/traumaticBrainInjury/tbifund.html) refers individuals to service agencies and answers inquiries from families on how the fund might help them. Meeting times and past meeting minutes are available on the web page.

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