



Each year, at least **10,000 Alabamians** sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI), and many will experience short and long term cognitive, behavioral and physical disabilities that impede their ability to return to home, school or work.



While Alabama has a long history of providing services and supports to Alabamians with TBI of all ages, these systems lack capacity for serving people with complex behavioral health needs, including substance use and opioid addiction. Alabama is addressing these service gaps and ensuring that services reflect a consumer guided, culturally competent system.

Increase Access to Address Behavioral Health Needs and TBI

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) is the state lead agency for Alabamians with TBI. Through a state system of care coordinators, ADRS' TBI program coordinates services and supports for adults, and ADRS' Children's Rehabilitation Services coordinates services for children and youth with TBI. ADRS partners with the Alabama Head Injury Foundation (AHIF) for resource facilitation.

To address the needs of Alabamians with both TBI and behavioral health needs, Alabama TBI staff partner with the Alabama Department of Mental Health Assistant Commissioner and key managers for the Divisions of Mental Illness (MI) and Substance Abuse (SA) and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) to identify training needs for providers.

Alabama has identified the Ohio State University TBI Identification Method as the tool to identify individuals with TBI who are currently mental health consumers.

Delivered
2-day training to 30 staff

on person-centered planning



2 trainings to 141
family members, caregivers and survivors



Empower Consumers and Families

- Alabama Head Injury Foundation (AHIF) piloted a Caregiver Needs Assessment to be conducted statewide.
- AHIF partnered with two universities who hosted Caregiver Focus Groups to identify needs and provided education and training on self-advocacy.
- AHIF also provided self-advocacy, empowerment training and resource identification for mental health services and caregiver support to consumers with TBI and caregivers.

Improve Linkages to Services

The AL Department of Public Health partners with ADRS to link people to services through information gathered through the AL Head and Spinal Cord Injury Registry. To improve reporting, ADRS is piloting with Level 1 hospitals throughout the state.

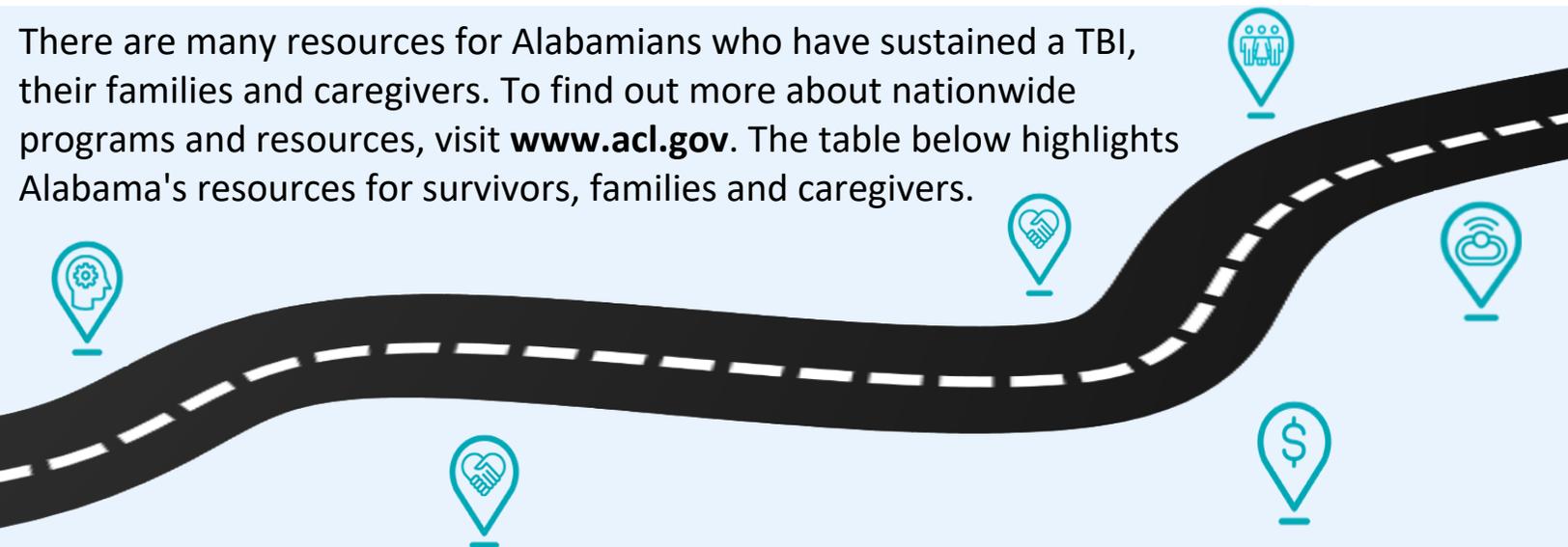
Service Delivery Milestones

- ◆ **1989** – ADRS established the **Alabama Head Injury Task Force** and designated a statewide coordinator to develop a plan to address needs.
- ◆ **1990-1992** – ADRS piloted the **Interactive Community Based Model (ICBM)** to assist Alabamians with TBI and their families as they transition from the hospital to home and community, with the goal of improving the person's readiness that leads to employment.
- ◆ **1992** – Legislators established the **Impaired Driver's Trust Fund** to create a revenue stream and the **Advisory Board** to oversee the funds used for care coordination and to expand the ICBM program.
- ◆ **1996** – ADRS established the **PASSAGES program for children and youth** with TBI with funding from the Federal TBI State Grant. The program is supported with Special Health Care Needs (Title V) funding.
- ◆ **1998** – Legislators established the **Alabama Head and Spinal Cord Injury Registry** to collect data and link people to resources following hospitalization.



The Road to Resources

There are many resources for Alabamians who have sustained a TBI, their families and caregivers. To find out more about nationwide programs and resources, visit www.acl.gov. The table below highlights Alabama's resources for survivors, families and caregivers.



Resources for TBI Community and State Assets



Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Contact the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) to learn more about obtaining and retaining employment. Visit the [ADRS website](#)



Alabama Traumatic Brain Injury

Contact ADRS to find out about the state trust fund services provided to adults, such as care coordination and other services and supports.

Visit the [Traumatic Brain Injury Program page on the ADRS website](#) or AlabamaTBI.org



Alabama PASSAGES Program

Contact ADRS' Children's Rehabilitation Service (PASSAGES) for care coordination services for children and youth with TBI.

Visit the [PASSAGES page on the ADRS website](#)



Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP)

Contact ADAP for legal services and assistance in accessing services.

Visit the [ADAP website](#)



Alabama Head and Spinal Cord Injury Registry

Contact to learn about the registry, which serves as a service linkage system containing all head and spinal cord trauma reported by hospitals statewide.

Visit the [Registry page on the ADRS website](#)



Alabama Head Injury Foundation

Contact to find out about information and resources for individuals with TBI and their families, as well as resource facilitation, support groups and other assistance.

Visit the [Alabama Head Injury Foundation website](#)



The University of Alabama at Birmingham TBI Model System (UAB-TBIMS)

Contact to learn more about how the UAB-TBIMS promotes knowledge in research, health, and quality of life for people with TBI, their families, and TBI-related professionals.

Visit the [UAB-TBIMS Information Network on the University of Alabama at Birmingham website](#).

