



**TBI SPP**  
Traumatic Brain Injury  
State Partnership Program

## *Grantee Profile 2021-2022:* **Alabama**

The **Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS)** is the state's lead agency in traumatic brain injury (TBI) and a source of education and resources for survivors, professionals, and organizations. They also provide TBI navigation, helpline assistance, community reintegration, counseling, care coordination, cognitive remediation, TBI education/training, Trauma Registry service linkage and transition to school/ community and employment. ADRS houses the Alabama Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund, The Alabama Head Injury Task Force, and TBI Adult and Pediatric Care Coordination Programs.

### **Main Grant Aim: Develop and strengthen person centered, culturally competent, and evidence-based system of services and supports**

#### **Additional Aims**

- Streamline and coordinate processing of TBI information, referrals and resource facilitation
- Expand the scope of evidence based TBI Screening, implementation, training and data collection within the Behavioral Health Systems of Alabama
- Empower individuals with lived experience and their families to advocate for person centered, culturally diverse social supports, outreach, education and awareness
- Increase state capacity and improve program impact across systems

#### **Accomplishments/Outcomes**

- Developed the new Alabama Statewide TBI Navigation System and merged the TBI Helpline and Trauma Registry service linkage system within ADRS.
- Hired two statewide TBI Navigators for TBI Information, Referral and Resource Navigation.
- Assisted with the development of the Online Brain Injury Screening and Support System (OBISSS) through a pilot project with the National Association of Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA).
- Presented the OBISSS to the Alabama Head Injury Task Force and Advisory Council, Vocational Rehabilitation statewide supervisors and TBI core staff.
- Partnered with the Alabama Department of Mental Health and the Behavioral Leadership Team to demonstrate the OBISSS and begin piloting across systems statewide.
- Presented to State Psychiatric Hospital Leadership and collaborated on the OBISSS incorporation on all new patients.
- Presented to all Hospital Behavioral Unit Directors through the Alabama Hospital Association on the OBISSS and its incorporation into health systems across the state.
- Presented and partnered with a Rural Circuit Court Judge and the Veterans Court Program in using the OBISSS and provided TBI education to all court staff and Veterans Service Programs.
- Developed the statewide Advisory Council to the Alabama Head Injury Task Force with majority of individuals with lived experience..
- Established five Task Force Priority chairs alongside other state partners and survivors within the newly restructured Task Force and accomplished year 1 priority goals set forth in the 5-year TBI State Plan.
- Offered virtual Caregiver Education, Training and Peer Support Groups statewide.
- Established a Quarterly Virtual Newsletter called the BrainLiner to strengthen survivor's advocacy and awareness.

#### **Alabama Lead Agency Contact**

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# Advisory Council



The new Task Force Advisory Council established in 2021 oversees the existing Alabama Head Injury Task Force (est. 1989) within ADRS. Members are appointed by the ADRS Commissioner which includes a majority of individuals with lived TBI experience. The Task Force Advisory Council provides oversight to the Task Force and the statewide TBI Priority areas outlined in the TBI State Plan.



## The Alabama Department of Public Health Administers:

- The **Alabama Trauma Registry (ATR)**, established in 1999 – a system that supports the collection, storage, and analysis of trauma-related data on a statewide level.
- The **Alabama Head and Spinal Cord injury Registry (AHSCIR)**, established in 1989 – which requires Alabama hospitals to submit data related specifically to head and/or spinal cord injury patients.

Information is forwarded to ADRS; individuals with moderate to severe brain and spinal cord injuries are contacted within 1-2 months post-injury and provided with service and resource linkage by the ADRS TBI Program.

## Legislative & Other Policy Accomplishments

- In FY 2020, the Trust Fund received a \$250,000 line-item appropriation (general revenue) through the Special Education Trust Fund.
- In FY 2021, the Trust Fund retained the total \$500,000 line-item funding from 2019 and 2020.
- ACL TBI Program Director presented on statewide Veterans Townhall Panels sponsored by the Governor’s Challenge on Veteran’s Suicide, the Alabama Department of Veteran Affairs and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA).

## Service Delivery

ADRS, Alabama’s lead agency in TBI, is unique across the US for providing services to children, youth, adults, and older adults with disabilities within a single department. All services are individualized, person-centered, culturally sensitive and focused on helping individuals achieve their maximum potential. Housed within ADRS are the Pediatric TBI Care Coordination Program, with Children's Rehabilitation Services, and the Adult TBI Care Coordination program (known as Interactive Community Based Model) with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). The programs provide specific TBI Care Coordination for individuals and families in the community.

Adult TBI Care Coordination assists individuals with TBI and their families to address cognitive retraining, social skills development, independence, community reintegration and employability. It provides pre-employment services to prepare people to return to community, school, or work. Referrals are made to the program from the TBI registry, trauma/rehab Programs, community providers, and Children’s Hospital clinic. VR Services, including transition services and supported employment services, are offered to people with TBI and are individualized to assist them in preparing for, gaining, or retaining employment.

Case management, counseling, pre-vocational services, cognitive remediation, family education, community resource provision, respite care, recreational supports, and attendant care are provided by programs within ADRS and the Alabama Head Injury Foundation (AHIF) – the advocacy organization for people with TBI. Services within these two programs are made possible through the Alabama Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund.

The State of Alabama Independent Living (SAIL) Waiver provides services to adults with disabilities who have specific medical diagnosis and who would otherwise qualify for nursing home level of care. Individuals with TBI may also receive services from the SAIL Waiver, operated by ADRS Medicaid 1915 (j) waiver self-directed personal assistance services program.

Children with TBI (ages 0-21) seek services through the Children’s Rehabilitation Services (CRS) TBI Program, formerly known as PASSAGES. Pediatric Care Coordinators assist children and family members in accessing the full range of services required for optimal community reintegration through a family-directed program. Initially created by a federal TBI grant, the program funded by the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant (Title V of the Social Security Act) and is housed within ADRS.

### Revenue for TBI-Specific Programs/Services

Fiscal Year	General Revenue Allocation	Trust Fund Allocation
2019	\$250,000	\$967,676
2020	\$250,000	\$967,676
2021	\$250,000	\$984,626

