

**State of Vermont Division of Disability and
Aging Services TBI Program**

DEFINITION

Traumatic Brain Injury:

"Brain Injury is an insult to the brain, not of degenerative or congenital nature, the result of either an external physical force or internal cause, which produces an altered mental status, which results in an impairment of behavioral, cognitive, emotional, and/or physical functioning." **(Vermont Division of Disability and Aging Services)**

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PROGRAM BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW

In 1991, the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and the Department for Children and Families began the operation of a three-year pilot project offering community-based rehabilitative services. The goal of this program was to divert from placement and/or return Vermonters with a moderate to severe traumatic brain injury from out-of-state facilities. Prior to the development of this service, individuals were placed in expensive out of state facilities, often there for years, with little hope of returning to their home communities. The project demonstrated that individuals with a moderate to severe traumatic brain injury participating in the pilot were appropriately served in community placements.

Effective October 1, 1994, this community based program, serving individuals 16 years of age and older, was approved and financed as a Medicaid Program [TBI Program] under the administration of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and renewed in October 1997 and October 2002. Through collaboration with the Division of Mental Health, a long-term option for individuals requiring ongoing intensive one-to-one support was also added. In 2005, the program was shifted from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to the Division of Disability and Aging Services.

The major goal of this short-term program is to assist individuals obtain their optimal level of functioning and to successfully resume living and working in their own home community among family, friends and neighbors. **Therefore, short term in nature, over time the level of services and supports necessary will decrease culminating with graduation.**

Since implementation of the TBI Program statistics indicate:

- Out of State placements dropped from a high of **20** to an average of **3** per year.
- TBI Program serves approximately 100 consumers per year.
- Many individuals on the TBI Program graduate and become competitively employed
- AH individuals improved their quality of life and level of functioning.
- Statewide recognition of disabilities associated with TBI and development of appropriate accommodations has occurred.
- The average financial plan of care per person is approximately \$5,500 per month versus a projected out-of-state cost of \$17,500 per month saving Vermont approximately \$9,000,000 per year.

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