

Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund program

Program Overview

What is a Traumatic Head Injury?

- An insult to the head that:
 - Affects the brain.
 - Is caused by an external physical force
 - Produces diminished or altered state of consciousness resulting in an impairment of cognitive abilities or physical functioning.
- **Not of a degenerative or congenital nature**

What is a Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury?

- An insult injury to the spinal cord that:
 - Is caused by an external physical force
 - Results in paraparesis/plegia or quadraparesis/plegia.
 - Para paresis (partial)/plegia (complete) loss of voluntary movement from waist down.
 - Quadra paresis (partial)/plegia (complete) loss of voluntary movement from neck down.

- **Not of a degenerative or congenital nature.**

Purpose

The purpose of the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund (THSCI) is to provide Louisiana citizens who survive traumatic head and spinal cord injuries a source of funds for services enabling them to return to a reasonable level of functioning and independent living in their communities.

History

The trust fund was created in 1993 with Act 654.

The program is funded by additional fees imposed on motor vehicle violations in this state for the offenses of driving under the influence, reckless operation, and speeding.

Program Criteria

➤ Must:

- Meet the definition of traumatic head or spinal cord injury
- Be medically stable
- Have a reasonable expectation to achieve improvement in quality of life and/or functional outcome
- Be a resident of Louisiana at the time of injury and during the provision of services
- Have exhausted all other governmental and private resources
- Provide proof of denial from other sources

Services

Services depends on how it affects the participant. All requests must be **related to the injury** and justified that because of the injury the participant needs that items requested.

- Evaluations
- Post-acute Medical Care Rehabilitation
- Therapies
- Medication
- Attendant Care
- Assistive technology and equipment necessary for activities of daily living



Services, contd.

- Durable medical equipment
- Environmental accessibility modifications
- Vehicle accessibility modifications
- Transportation
- Repairs to modifications, equipment that was purchased with THSCI fund.
- Batteries for scooters, wheelchair etc.

Note: The device and/or vehicle has to be worth repairing.

Services Not covered

- Home purchases;
- Vehicle purchases;
- Routine vehicle maintenance;
- Routine home repairs;
- Recreation;
- Routine bills or payments



Program Limitations

- Services are provided on a first-come basis
- Expenditures shall not exceed \$15,000 for any 12-month period or \$50,000 in total expenditures per participant



Support Coordinator Duties

If you think you have a participant who may be eligible and already receiving waiver:

- Discuss program with participant
- If interested, assist participant with application & send to Alicia Smith
- Ensure that the THSCI box on the Demographic Page of the POC is checked
- All THSCI documents for this point on should be sent to thsci@la.gov.



Support Coordinator Duties

- ▶ If they currently have waiver and their name came up on THSCI waiting list.
 - Support Coordinator (SC) will be contacted by State Office THSCI coordinators.
 - SC will go over the agreement of understanding
 - Complete the service plan with participant
 - Submit service plan to thsci@la.gov.

Wait List



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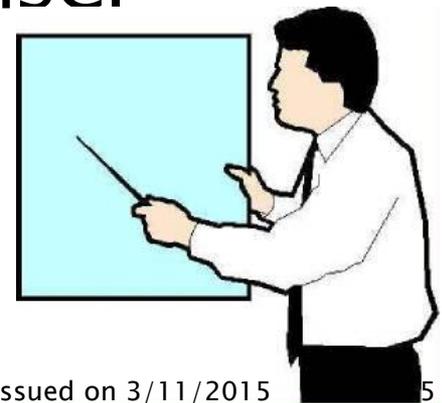
- Original applications are sent to state office
- Completed applications are date-stamped as received and reviewed to determine eligibility
 - If eligible, applicant is informed by mail and placed on wait list
 - If ineligible, a denial notice is mailed
- As resources become available, cases are opened based on the date stamped on the completed application on a first-come, first-served basis.

Assessment

- SC will conduct an individualized assessment (MDS–HC) to determine the scope of services that are needed.
- The assessment provides the foundation for support coordination (SC) service by defining the individual’s service needs and assisting in the development of the Participant Service Plan (PSP).

Participant Service Plan

- Once the individual's needs are identified, a Participant Service Plan (PSP) will be developed
- The PSP will be individualized and outcome oriented
- The PSP shall request approval of the purchase of the needed goods and/or services and be submitted to the THSCI-Program Manager (PM)



Participant Service Plan

- The PSP will include as a minimum:
 - Identifying information
 - Service provider information
 - Specific services to be delivered or rendered
 - Frequency of the service(s) beginning and ending dates
 - Cost of services
 - Justification of purchases

Once the participant and SC have developed the PSP, the PSP shall be sent via email to the THSCI-PM for final approval at thsci@la.gov.

Vendors



If an established vendor is not available to provide services, the SC shall obtain a completed W-9 packet and forward it to the THSCI-PM for review and approval.

Any good or service requiring a single expenditure of more than \$5,000 shall require competitive bids.

The participants/SC shall obtain three (3) price quotes and provide them to the THSCI-PM, who shall in turn notify the SC of the selected vendor.

Prior Approval



- Any good or service not planned, authorized and approved by purchase authorization prior to its provision shall **NOT** be paid for by the Trust Fund.
- Policy clearly requires prior approval from the THSCI-PM.
- In the case of an emergency, the SC shall contact the THSCI-PM by phone or email to request verbal or written approval.

Purchase Authorization

- If the PSP is approved:
 - The THSCI program staff shall then issue a purchase authorization for the requested goods/services.
 - The turnaround for purchase authorizations should be a week to 2 weeks depending on workload and proper documentation attached.
 - The purchase authorization shall be sent to the SC and vendor.
 - The SC shall arrange for services and goods to be delivered.
 - The vendor shall send the invoice to the SC.

- If the PSP is denied:
 - The THSCI program staff shall issue a denial notice with appeal rights to the individual and the SC.

Service Follow-Up

Following the provision/delivery of the good/service:

- Document on the Receipt of Goods/Services the good/service received
- Document whether the good/service has been satisfactorily received
- Have the participant sign off for the receipt of good/service.



Case Closure

An individual's case can be closed at any time in the process when it has been determined that the individual:

- Has an unstable medical condition
- Has shown consistent failure to cooperate
- Reaches the maximum \$50,000 in total expenditures
- Eligible for other funding sources
- Is not available for scheduled services



Case Closure (cont)

- ▶ No longer meets the program's eligibility criteria;
- ▶ has moved out of the state;
- ▶ fails to maintain a safe and legal home environment;
- ▶ is unable to be contacted by phone or mail;
- ▶ made misrepresentations in the eligibility determination process;
- ▶ made misrepresentations to obtain goods and services.

Appeals



- Individuals may request an Advisory Board Review for resolution of disagreements pertaining to eligibility decisions or denial of services.
- The appeal request must be made in writing and post-marked for receipt by the program manager of the trust fund program within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of notification of denial of eligibility or a denial of services.

THSCI Trust Fund Advisory Board

- ▶ Composed of thirteen members as follows:
 - The Assistant Secretary of the Office of Aging and Adult Services or his designee
 - A psychologist nominated by the La Psychologists Association
 - A survivor of a traumatic head injury appointed by the governor
 - A survivor of a traumatic spinal cord injury appointed by the governor
 - A family member of a survivor of a traumatic head injury appointed by the governor
 - A family member of a survivor of a traumatic spinal cord injury appointed by the governor

THSCI Trust Fund Advisory Board

Continuation:

- President of the LA Hospital Association or his designee
- The speaker of the LA House of Representatives or his designee
- The president of the LA Senate or his designee
- A representative of an organization recognized for its work in advocacy programs for persons with traumatic head injury, appointed by the governor from a list of names submitted by such organization.
- A representative of an organization recognized for its work in advocacy programs for persons with spinal cord injury, appointed by the governor from a list of names submitted by such organization
- Director of Louisiana Rehabilitation Services within the Louisiana Workforce Commission

Brain Injury Association of LA

The Brain Injury Association of Louisiana (BIALA) is a statewide 501(c)(3) non-profit organization focused on creating a better future for Louisiana citizens with brain injury and/or spinal cord injury through

- education,
- community support groups,
- obtaining services, and
- advocacy.



**BRAIN INJURY
ASSOCIATION**

OF LOUISIANA

▶ <http://www.biala.org/Home>

Brain Injury Association of LA

- ▶ Resource Center provides:
 - Toll-Free Helpline (800)444-6443
 - Resource Directory of Services Statewide
 - Community Outreach Activities
 - Referrals
 - Resources to assist with returning to work or school after injury
 - Library of fact sheets, brochures, periodicals, and articles
 - Information on local support groups
 - Latest progress on scientific research, medical discoveries, and newest technologies
 - Details on upcoming educational conferences, workshops, and other learning opportunities

Brain Injury Awareness Month

Life goes on for 2.5 million
Americans who survive traumatic
brain injuries each year.



**Help raise awareness.
#NotAloneinBrainInjury**



WWW.BIAUSA.ORG
1-800-444-6443

Sponsored in part by the American Association for Justice Traumatic Brain Injury Litigation Group

For more info...

- ▶ If you would like to contact someone from OAAS THSCI at 1-888-891-9441 or email at thsci@la.gov.
- ▶ Visit the DHH OAAS THSCI Trust Fund Program website
 - <http://www.dhh.state.la.us/index.cfm/page/126>