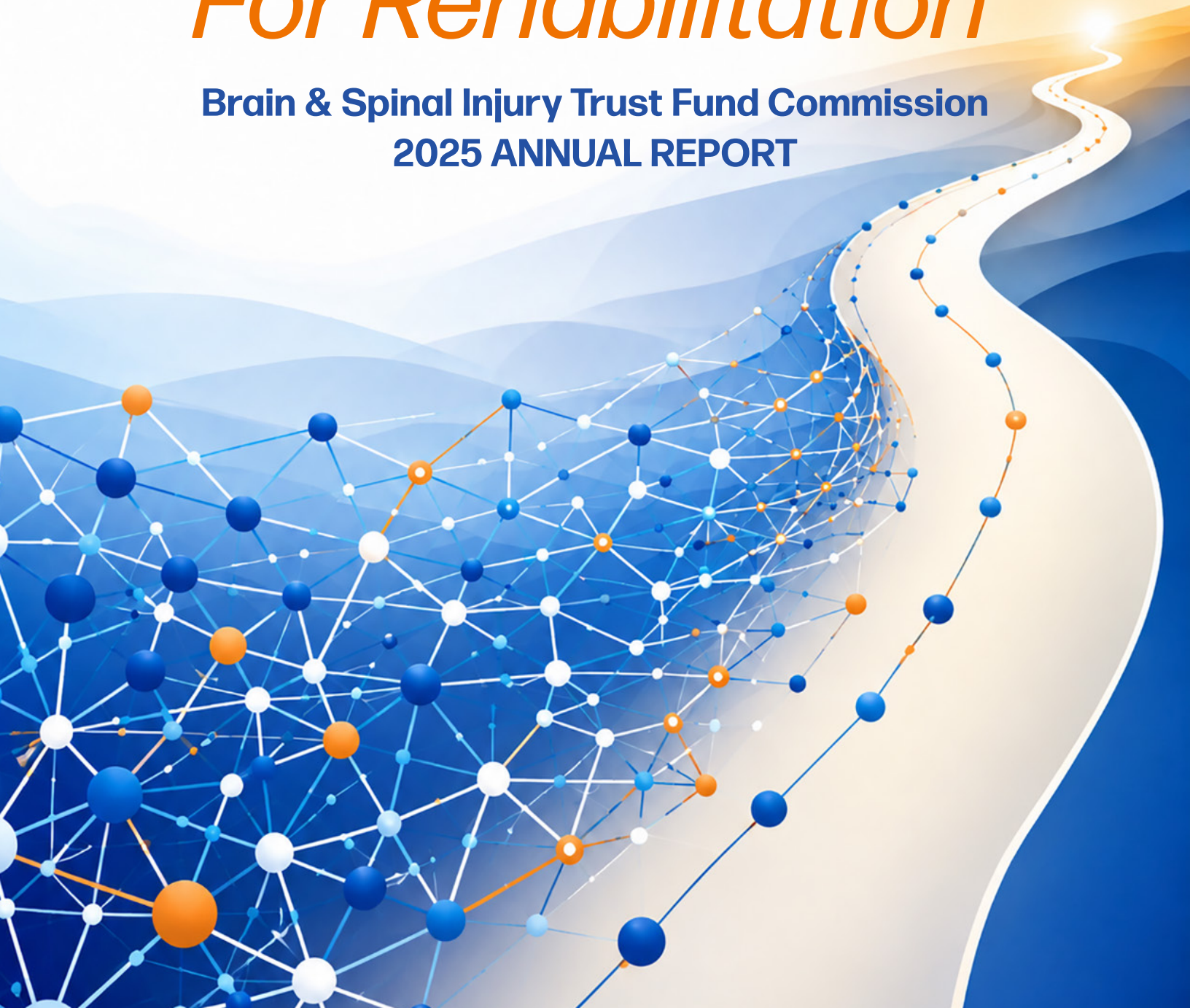




Brain & Spinal Injury
Trust Fund Commission

RESOURCES *For Rehabilitation*

Brain & Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission
2025 ANNUAL REPORT





We Have Strong Citizen and Legislative Support

In November 1998, Georgia voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment to create a Trust Fund for traumatic brain and spinal injuries, paid for by a surcharge on drunk driving fines. This landmark legislation won by a margin of greater than 2-to-1. In 2014, an additional fine on reckless driving convictions was directed to the Trust Fund to sustain revenue levels. Most recently, a 2020 legislative initiative passed unanimously by the General Assembly to further improve funding priority for the Trust Fund. We thank the citizens of Georgia, members of the legislature and the Governor for their continued confidence in our mission and commitment to improving quality of life for Georgian’s living with brain and spinal cord injuries.

We Are Guided by Those with Firsthand Knowledge

The idea of the Trust Fund and the advocacy efforts on behalf of the founding legislation was driven by people with traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury and those who serve them. Because of their first-hand experiences, they knew what was most important for people with these traumatic injuries – and what was missing in the range of services and resources available. They dreamed of an agency that understood the lifelong needs of people with traumatic injuries and was committed to supporting injured individuals at different stages in their life – not just in the critical moments after the injury occurs.

More than half of the people who serve on the Commission must have a brain or spinal cord injury or be a family member of a person with an injury. Other members are specialists in the field or service providers to people with traumatic injuries. Their collective knowledge and experience governs our day-to-day decisions, guides our award distributions, and informs our public policy agenda.

We Connect People to Their Communities

Georgians with traumatic brain and spinal injuries deserve lives of independence and inclusion, lives rich with vision and possibilities. Trust Fund awards assist individuals with injuries in reaching their chosen goals.

We Cast Vision

Our Vision is a Georgia where people with traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries are valued, have equal opportunity, and real choices.



Trust Fund Awards Change Lives.

The Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission is Georgia’s only state agency that offers dedicated funding and support for individuals who have sustained a traumatic brain or spinal cord injury. The Commission’s mission is to distribute much needed resources to eligible Georgia residents via direct grants for their post-acute care and rehabilitation.

The Commission serves through three major avenues:

The Central Registry identifies newly-injured individuals and their families and enables us to reach out to each one personally to educate them about and connect them to the resources they need to rebuild their lives. The registry allows us to efficiently gauge the needs across the state and the gaps we still need to address.

The Trust Fund provides much needed monetary resources for those who simply cannot afford necessary goods and services they need post-injury or whose insurance benefits have become depleted.

Alleviating even a small portion of financial burden or resource obstacles for those working to define a new way of life and strive for rehabilitation can leave a lasting impact across their entire lives. We assure them that they are not alone. We stand with them and are encouraging them, every step of the way.

As **the Lead Agency**, we are collaborating with stakeholders across the state to make sure Georgia has a system of care that truly meets the needs of people with traumatic brain and spinal injuries. Our State Action Plan partners are a collaboration of agencies, hospitals, schools, and service providers to improve comprehensive care. Our online, direct mail, and personal outreach efforts help potential applicants with the application process and connect them to services in their local community. Our legislative efforts have impacted laws that will reduce injury and make available added resources for Georgians with traumatic injuries. With the ever-changing landscape of the economy and healthcare coverage today, services and resources for individuals with traumatic injuries continue to be more expensive and harder to find. Hence, the role of the Brain & Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission has become more valuable than ever before. We are focused each day on making a difference across our state - through public awareness, grant administration and developing new partners.

For so many across our state, the Commission has proven to be a dependable resource they can count on to help them build lives of meaning, independence and inclusion.

Grateful for Support for Georgians

Dear Friends:

The Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission is grateful to our many supporters in the community and within the Gold Dome who understand the importance of providing concrete supports to Georgians with traumatic brain and traumatic spinal cord injuries. By concrete supports I mean real goods and services that are directly provided to our grantees by the provider/vendor of their choice – paid by the Trust Fund. Many organizations provide services but are unable to provide tangible direct support. The Trust Fund was designed to be that support. But more than that, the Trust Fund is empowered to fund goods and services that make a difference in that grantee’s specific activities of daily living.



To do more, the Trust Fund must find more support from our stakeholders. Traumatic injuries are most likely to be caused by motor vehicle crashes, falls and violence. Those impacted are our families and neighbors. They may be children, grandparents, and ages anywhere in between. Every demographic is included in the Registry of individuals hospitalized. After the hospital, costly rehabilitation is prescribed and is, indeed, a necessity. The Trust Fund can fill the gap to assist Georgians who need recovery costs covered and are unable to bridge with their own resources.

Trust Fund grants are not cookie cutter selections from a limited menu. Grantees can select up to five items in each grant application. An application may include, for example, requests for physical therapy, personal support services, automatic door opener, dental, and hearing aids. These items will greatly assist that grantee in remaining in their community with a new degree of confidence and independence.

Statewide in scope, grants can be used throughout Georgia and if the request is only available outside of Georgia, the Commission can fund those requests as well. New categories of assistance grow with innovation in technology. Smart devices are now the number-one way applicants now access Trust Fund applications for grants.

In closing, I must point out that the Trust Fund had annual funding of two million dollars in 2008. For 2027 the Trust has, almost, the same amount of funding. Your earnest support is greatly needed to effectively continue our mission for all Georgians with traumatic brain and spinal cord injury.

Sincerely,



Craig L. Young

The Commission is guided by a strategic State Action Plan designed to help mold the state infrastructure and aid in the development of services to improve the lives of Georgians with traumatic brain injuries and spinal cord injuries. State Action Plan activities focus on seven core areas to ensure an individual’s needs are being met by our direct grants:

- Screening and Identification
- Training and Awareness
- Rehabilitation and Wellness
- Service Coordination
- Long Term and Life Long Supports
- Independent and Integrated
- Living Community Participation

Representatives from advocacy organizations and services providers across the state, as well as individuals with traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injuries and their family members actively serve on three strategic committees and multiple work groups. These dedicated members work tirelessly throughout the year to plan and assess the statewide service structure and recommend changes to ensure care needs are being met and supports are available to promote community integration and independence for all individuals.

The Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission is the lead agency for traumatic brain injuries and spinal cord injuries in the state of Georgia. We collaborate with our state and community partners to ensure that the work we do has a sustainable impact on the lives of the individuals we serve.



The Commission Staff
Left to Right: Keisha Zachary, Dionne Braxton, Rosetta Clark, Craig Young, Samantha McCray, Diana Ballard, Kenisha Tait

Collaboration Creates Efficiencies & Builds Trust

The Commission is pleased to have many partners within state and federal government agencies, as well as national, state and local nonprofits and other businesses and organizations. Some collaborations are formal with intergovernmental agreements, or grantee and grantor contracts. Others are business relationships that inform our service delivery and best practices.

The Commission has an ongoing collaboration for our home modifications program with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Commission appointees from other state agencies ensure that the voices of survivors of TBI and SCI are heard and transmitted as appropriate throughout Georgia.

The Commission also does business with 400 vendors in Georgia such as AMS Vans, Mobility Works, Side by Side Clubhouse, Beyond Therapy, YMCA, and scores of medical, therapeutic and clinical providers that offer valuable goods, services and expertise for our grantees needs.

Developing effective, focused programs to address the community needs of injury survivors requires accurate data.

This was the intent of the legislation that created the Central Registry, and that’s the intent of the Commission as we work with communities, local and statewide organizations, hospitals, schools, and government entities to improve opportunities for Georgians living with TBI and SCI.

- We use the Central Registry data to:
- **Contact each newly-injured Georgian** with information on available resources.
 - **Identify Trends** - Information on causes of injury and affected age groups is vital for needs assessment and injury prevention.
 - **Educate policy-makers and community stakeholders** about the incidence of traumatic brain and spinal injuries, which ultimately illuminates the needs of injury survivors.

The Commission is committed to gathering accurate and useful information that will tangibly help the thousands of Georgians coping with new injuries each year and the agencies and service providers that support them. Our data is also used by other state agencies, hospitals, and nonprofits to support grant requests and strategic planning for the TBI and SCI populations.



TRAUMATIC BRAIN & SPINAL INJURIES
Total Injuries: 24,877 (2024)

By Age in Years	Emergency TBI			
	Hospital TBI			
	Hospital SCI			
By Sex	Hospital TBI+SCI			
	TBI ER			
	TBI Inpat			
By Race	SCI			
	Dual			
	TBI ER			
0-17	6,020	449	39	6
18-100+	12,131	5,310	776	146
	18,151	5,759	815	152
Female	9,269	3,491	269	37
Male	8,871	2,261	545	115
unknown	11	7	1	0
Total	18,151	5,759	815	152
White	9,099	3,363	397	71
Black	5,185	1,474	295	54
American Indian/ AK native	61	13	2	0
Asian	304	133	22	5
Native Hawaiian/ Pac Island	40	10	1	2
other	1,332	433	64	23
refused	2,116	327	34	6
No race reported	1	0	0	0
Invalid race	1	0	0	0
Blank	12	6	0	1
Total	18,151	5,759	815	152

Note: some columns may not add up to correct total for privacy reasons.

The primary purpose of the Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission is to fund direct grants for Georgians who have survived neurotrauma i.e. traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries. (OCGA 15-21-140).

By supporting home and community-based services for the care and rehabilitation of those injured we will foster lives of meaning, independence and inclusion. Grant applicants choose the type of assistance they need to move on with their lives. The Commission has a wide range of categories of goods and services available for our applicants to apply for: home modifications, transportation, medical services and therapies, personal support and respite, vocational training and supports, durable medical equipment, health and wellness activities are just some of the areas that the Commission routinely funds.

For many of our grant recipients the Commission is the only funder available. (The Commission reviews all requests to be sure that there are no other funders or programs an applicant can take advantage of.) The Trust Fund can augment existing funding sources; insurance (either private or public), waivers from state and federal programs, and applicants’ own resources. The Commission accepts applications from all Georgians who are medically eligible. The Commission’s Distribution Committee is composed of individuals who have first-hand knowledge regarding costs of post-acute care and rehabilitation to ensure the most efficient, effective grant distributions.

A traumatic injury is not a one-time event like a broken arm that is treated and returns to more or less pre-injury function. Brain and Spinal Cord injury is disease causative and accelerative. Those with severe injury have recurring issues with the original injury and often, shortened life-spans. Even mild brain injury can, over time, cause cognitive and functional deficits that negatively impact the individual and their family.

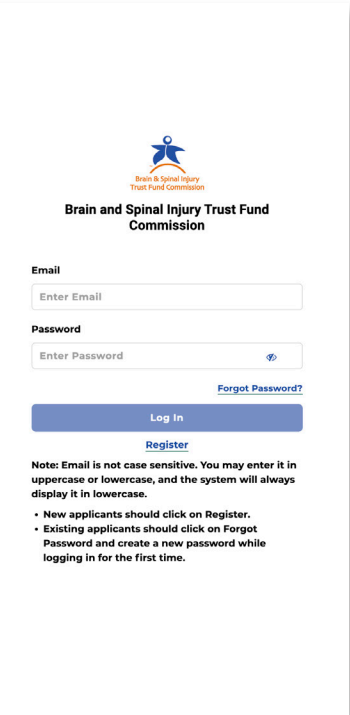
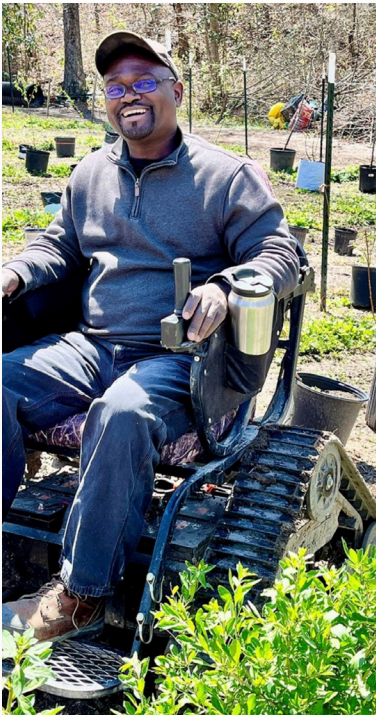
2025 Grant Distributions • \$1,024,147.69 • 133 Awards

Category	# Awards	Percent	Award Amount	Award Amount	# TBI	TBI Amt	# SCI	SCI Amt	# Both	Both Amt
Computers	14	10.53%	\$11,900.00	1.16%	8	\$6,800.00	5	\$4,250.00	1	\$850.00
Dental Services	8	6.02%	\$8,000.00	0.78%	5	\$5,000.00	2	\$2,000.00	1	\$1,000.00
Durable Medical Equipment	11	8.27%	\$43,894.29	4.29%	1	\$5,300.00	9	\$29,594.29	1	\$9,000.00
Health & Wellness	12	9.02%	\$49,896.00	4.87%	6	\$19,896.00	6	\$30,000.00	0	\$0.00
Housing	1	0.75%	\$1,800.00	0.18%	0	\$0.00	1	\$1,800.00	0	\$0.00
Medical Care	3	2.26%	\$25,000.00	2.44%	2	\$15,000.00	1	\$10,000.00	0	\$0.00
Personal Support Services	31	23.31%	\$267,300.00	26.10%	21	\$184,650.00	6	\$47,650.00	4	\$35,000.00
Psychology/ Counseling	3	2.26%	\$18,100.00	1.77%	3	\$18,100.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Transportation	46	34.59%	\$585,794.40	57.20%	7	\$84,160.40	27	\$328,719.00	12	\$172,915.00
Vision/Hearing Services	4	3.01%	\$12,463.00	1.22%	4	\$12,463.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Total	133	100.00%	\$1,024,147.69	100.00%	57	\$351,369.40	57	\$454,013.29	19	\$218,765.00

New Grants Software System Provides New Tools for Applicants

The Commission is happy to announce a new grants management system that will provide greater ease of access to Trust Fund grants for our applicants. The software as a service system (SaaS) provides a cloud-based system to process applications for Commission staff.

The Grants Case Management System (GCM) replaces our 2004 grants software system. Our new software provider Cardinality was selected to provide a new system based on the historical legacy system records that were migrated to the new system in 2025. Combining older data records with a continuously updating new system ensures data accuracy, continuity, and improved record keeping along with enhanced security features.



For our returning applicants the application will seem familiar as many of the application sections are essentially the same as before. Improvements that can speed filling out the application are the ability to upload any required documents from your computer to the BSITF cloud environment. Applicants will now be able to certify and electronically sign the application and submit directly to the Commission. Applicants will see an application Timeline so you can determine where in the process your application is currently. Applicants also receive automated emails that provide reminders to submit required documents, vendor forms and important expiration-date reminders.

The Commission still provides applicants with one year to complete and submit an application for a grant. The GCM system allows upload of

multiple documents to support your application, from describing special circumstances in your activities of daily living to vendor invoices that are ready for payment. System administration is now provided by the BSITF which is involved in all applicant inquiries for new passwords, lockouts and duplicate applications.

Commission staff will continue to work with Cardinality to identify processes that can be implemented which speed the workflow for staff and make application system accessibility and site navigation a more intuitive user-friendly process for you. Finally, as you open your device browser and navigate to our website at <https://application.bsitf.ga.gov> you will be met by one of the Commission’s many grantees who requested and was awarded a tracked wheelchair for working his farm. Let us assist you and your family as we work to enable independence and community living for our stakeholders.

Trust Fund Awards Change Lives.



The Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission (BSITFC) through funding from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) State Partnership Program, continues to partner with the Brain Injury Association of Georgia (BIAG) to execute our TBI Resource Facilitation program. We also partnered with BIAG to administer our TBI Public Health grant. With the help of grant funding, BIAG hired a bilingual Resource Facilitation Outreach Specialist position. The outreach specialist devoted their time to organizing activities and outreach with local community programs that focus on underserved populations in the program service area. The outreach specialist activities included establishing new client setup/screenings, consulting, assessments, follow-ups, communication through calls, notes, emails providing resources, information, as well as education.

Following the community outreach plan, the resource specialist identified thirty-one organizations that provided services to Georgians with TBI. For example, meetings were held with the Georgia Department of Corrections to identify possibilities for collaboration (i.e., support groups in prisons, education of health team on identifying TBIs, creation of a program that supports parolees with TBIs in transition from prison back into the community). These meetings led to ongoing discussions regarding collaboration and the identification of Spanish-speaking individuals with TBIs within the prison system or parolees. Relationships with Northside, Wellstar, and Atrium Hospitals were made and the outreach specialist continued to develop relationships to reach out to the underserved communities as well as being trusted for referrals. The outreach specialist also translated and identified many fact sheets, outreach materials, and other products created, identified or translated into Spanish.

Resource Facilitators continue to connect with hospitals and community organizations to develop relationships and ensure they are aware of the BSITFC grant opportunities and the benefits of the Resource Facilitation Program. The program strategically covers all areas of the state with RF specialists who provide support to those individuals who have sustained a TBI and require current and on-going support services and resources. The team continues to expand our reach to underserved and rural populations throughout the state. The RFP team continues to develop relationships with healthcare providers in these areas to better serve populations. This continues to be a joint effort and will take some time to connect with and build relationships. The final year of our grant expands our growing community relationships by providing and receiving new referrals from the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC), Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA), Emory hospital system, Shepherd Center, Wellstar Marietta, case managers and other Georgia community providers.

The TBI State Partnership Program provides the unique opportunity in our state to be innovative with how we partner, collaborate and support the brain injury community. The TBI State Partnership Program has strengthened Georgia’s ability to support individuals living with brain injuries through enhancing resource facilitation and increasing system wide collaboration over the past four years. The partnerships established through this grant have been maintained across multiple grant cycles, ensuring that we create true sustainable and systemic changes in our systems.

Making a Difference in Georgia

Dear Members of the Georgia Legislature and Friends,

As we mark another year of service, the Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund remains committed to supporting Georgians living with traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries. I would like to share our progress, the continuing needs across the state, and the importance of sustained legislative partnership.

Although meaningful progress has been made, the demand for support remains significant. The Central Register for 2025 documented 23,910 traumatic brain injuries in Georgia, 815 spinal cord injuries, and 152 dual diagnoses.



Research across the nation is reshaping our understanding of traumatic brain injury. TBI is no longer viewed as a short-term condition that resolves quickly; it is increasingly recognized as a complex injury that can lead to long-term biological changes affecting cognitive, emotional, and neurological health. Emerging innovations offer hope, including stem cell therapies in clinical trial phases, advances in artificial intelligence that improve the detection of mild TBIs, precision drug-delivery methods designed to target damaged brain tissue, and light-based therapies being explored to address cognitive challenges, sleep disturbances, and mood disorders.

In the area of spinal cord injury, research continues to advance regenerative therapies. Chronic pain remains one of the most debilitating daily challenges for individuals with spinal cord injuries, and ongoing research into spinal cord stimulation aims to provide more effective relief. These scientific developments are encouraging, but they require time and do not replace the immediate, practical needs of the individuals we serve.

Georgians living with traumatic injuries continue to rely on the Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund for critical support that is not provided by other resources. Our work helps stabilize medical needs and, just as importantly, helps restore independence, dignity, and quality of life. The Trust Fund remains a vital lifeline, bridging gaps in care and providing opportunities that would otherwise be out of reach.

A Call for Continued Partnership

As legislators, your support directly shapes the future of thousands of Georgians living with brain and spinal injuries. Continued investment in the Trust Fund ensures that we can meet current needs while preparing for the breakthroughs ahead. With your partnership, we can strengthen the resources that help Georgians live fuller, safer, and more independent lives.

Best regards,

Jane Warnock
Chairperson, Brain & Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission

Average 2025 Characteristics of Applicants Completing an Application for Grants

Grid Applicant Characteristics FY2025	Totals/Avg
Number of Applicants on Grid	8.3
Number of requests	134
Number of first time requests by applicant.....	6.5
Total value of requests in dollars per month.....	\$86,025
Average # of Prior Awards per/applicant	0.17
Priority Score –Average	61.4
Priority Score – between 30 - 40 threshold	6
Number of Spinal Cord Injuries (SCI)	48
Number of Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI)	36
Number of SCI/TBI – dual diagnosis.....	16
Number of children under 18 years of age	8
Under 18 – amount of grant(s) year in dollars	\$83,850
Number applicants receiving ICWP	6
Injury mechanism – Motor vehicle crash	49
IM – ATV, Motorcycle, scooter, bicycle.....	5
IM – Falls.....	18
IM – Leisure/Sports related	1
IM – Violence	25
IM – Military combat	0
IM – Other	2
Date of Injury – less than 3 years of submitted	65
Date of Injury – more than 3 years of submitted.....	35
# on wait list at distribution meeting.....	3.7
Prevented institutionalization self-reported.....	23
# of modified vehicles requested	24
cost	\$408,000
# of non-modified vehicles requested.....	12
cost	\$114,310
# of vehicle modifications	4
cost	\$55,301

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Commission Members are a dedicated, group of individuals from around the state. They are committed to improving the effectiveness of the Trust Fund by overseeing its operations and resources to give Georgians new opportunities.

The Governor appoints 10 members for two-year terms, although many of our members serve longer. To ensure a breadth of experience and opinion, the Commission's Governor appointees must consist of: seven individuals or family members with traumatic brain or spinal cord injury and three representatives from medical or other relevant professions. Six Commissioners are appointed by state agencies.



Bob Bauer, PhD - Vice Chairman - Buford - was appointed by the Governor in 2011. Bob is the retired chair of the Dept. of Psychology & Counseling at Valdosta State University and an EX-Peace Corps Volunteer. He has served as a: board member of Georgia Family Connection; chair of the Lowndes/Valdosta Commission for Children and Youth; board member of Elderhostel (now Roads Scholar), Inc. Bob has held several positions on the BSITFC Executive Committee and sub-committees, with particular interest in data evaluation and measurement.



Michael Burns, Captain - Atlanta - serves as the Public Information Director for the Georgia Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol. Captain Burns manages media relations, social media accounts, and the Department website, as well other special projects assigned by the Command Staff. He began his career with the Georgia State Patrol in 2008 assigned to Post 1 Griffin, and has since worked at Post 44 Forsyth, Post 49 Motor Unit, Office of Professional Standards, and Post 48 Atlanta. He has a bachelor's degree in social science from Mercer University and a master's degree in criminal justice from Arizona State University.



Lisa Dawson, MPH - Atlanta - was appointed to the Commission as the representative of the Georgia Department of Public Health. Lisa is the Director of Public Health's Injury Prevention Section and is active as a member of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety - Safety Advisory Board, Emory Center for Injury Control, and SAFE KIDS Georgia.



Andrew Dennison, MD - Atlanta - is a Governor's appointee. Andrew is a physician at Atlanta's Shepherd Center. Dr. Dennison attended medical school at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and completed a residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Baylor College of Medicine/University of Texas-Houston. He also completed a fellowship in Traumatic Brain Injury at Carolinas Rehabilitation in Charlotte, NC. He is board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation and is an active member in the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine.



Rebecca Dugger, MA - Atlanta - appointed by the Georgia Department of Community Health Rebecca is currently the Director of Programs and Community Support with the DCH, where she has oversight of the Home and Community Based waiver services, Behavioral Health and Long-term care programs. Rebecca earned her BA and MA in Communications from Georgia State University, and another master's in human services (MHS) from Capella University. She also holds several certifications including Six Sigma Black Belt, Medical Coding and Billing, Medicaid Certifications and Project Management. Volunteering at the High Museum of Art Rebecca developed art programs for the families with special needs by working with the Green Family Learning Center.



Ruth Engelberg - Treasurer - Mansfield - is a Governor's appointee from Newton County. Ruth is currently the primary caregiver of her adult daughter, Jordyn, who is fully-dependent following a car wreck in 2016 which resulted in a severe traumatic brain injury. Ruth has previously worked at Atlanta's Shepherd Center as a Peer Support Liaison while studying the benefits of Peer Support to family caregivers in improving their self-efficacy and overall mental wellness. She currently volunteers for the Shepherd Center as a Peer Support Mentor working with family caregivers of patients undergoing brain injury rehabilitation.



Celeste Harris, MS, CRC, CPM - Atlanta - is a Policy and Compliance Manager with the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. In her tenure with the agency, she has also served as a District Manager, Service Area Manager, Team Lead and Counselor. Celeste focuses on improved quality assurance, case management and customer service while implementing guidelines aligned with the agency. She is committed to providing quality advisement ensuring individuals with disabilities are served most effectively. Celeste holds a master's degree in Community Agency Counseling from Jacksonville State University and a bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation from Troy University. She is a national Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and a Certified Public Manager. Harris was recognized by the Georgia Rehabilitation Association with the Peggy Rosser Award for her involvement in multicultural awareness.



Stephanie McDuffie Freeman - Macon - appointed by the Governor to the Commission, is a certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist with Henry County working with Wheelchair Sporting Events. Stephanie sustained a traumatic brain injury as a child in 1993 and has been passionate to help others going through brain trauma. She has been a mental health and disability advocate for Georgia for the past 10 years working with a non-profit brain trauma organization, Share Your Strong helping to bring awareness and hope to individuals across Georgia. She has served as a board member for the Brain Injury Advisory Council with BIAA.



Susannah Kidwell - Atlanta - is a Governor's appointee from Fulton County. Susannah is Director of Rehabilitation Services at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, where she has worked for the past 25 years. Kidwell has worked in the field of brain injury rehabilitation for more than 35 years. Kidwell received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Speech Language Pathology from Florida State University.



Gwen McKee - Secretary - Savannah - is a Governor's appointee from Chatham County. Gwen is past board chairman of the Brain Injury Association of Georgia and also serves on numerous non-profit organization boards in the Savannah area. She is a tireless advocate for individuals with physical and mental disabilities. Gwen is a member of the Commission's Distribution committee and the Traumatic Injury Advisory committee.



Randy Owens - Gainesville - is a Governor's appointee from Hall County. Randy is currently employed at Gainesville Internal Medicine. He serves as a board member of Challenged Child and Red Rabbit Transit and is an advisor to Northeast Georgia Medical Center. He is co-founder of Our Neighbor Inc., a nonprofit that serves the needs of those with limitations and enables them to be active in the community. Because of Owens' permanent injury that resulted from a car accident, Challenged Child and Friends was founded. He has been an impactful advocate for young adults with disabilities.



Timothy Wall - Brooklet - was appointed by the Governor in 2010. He is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist with a BS and MS in Sport Psychology. He is a wheelchair tennis enthusiast, having competed in regional championships since his spinal cord injury in 2001. Tim's brings valuable recreation/respite background to the Commission and first-hand experience working with organizations that provide recreational opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Tim serves as Chairman of the Distribution committee.



Jane Warnock - Chairwoman - Eastman - is a Governor's appointee that has been an advocate for people with disabilities since her daughter, Christy, sustained a traumatic brain injury in a car crash in 2002. Jane is the Commission's Vice Chairman and has served on the Executive committee as Secretary and Treasurer.

Apply online at bsitf.georgia.gov

Supporting lives of meaning, independence and inclusion.

3 Easy Steps

STEP
1



Determine Eligibility.

You must be a U.S. citizen, a Georgia resident, and have a traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury.

STEP
2



Identify your need.

Select an item or service that will improve your quality of life, independence and participation in the community.

STEP
3



Submit the required documents.

Complete the application and all required materials (see list below) and submit for review.

Required Documents



Injury Documentation

Medical documentation or letter on medical facility letterhead describing **nature, cause, and date** of your injury.

Affidavit of Citizenship

Present a Notary Public with a valid proof of U.S. citizenship; sign and notarize the affidavit and submit with original application.



Cost Quote

Include one cost quote or estimate from a vendor for each request.

Proof of Georgia Residency

Submit a copy of proof of Georgia residency (e.g., valid driver's license, utility bill from past 60 days, paycheck stub, etc.)



For additional support, call us toll free at 1-888-233-5760.

