



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MARGARET M. O'NEILL BUILDING
410 FEDERAL STREET, SUITE 1
DOVER, DE 19901

VOICE: (302) 739-3620
TTY/TDD: (302) 739-3699
FAX: (302) 739-6704

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 16, 2013

TO: Members of the Joint Finance Committee

FROM: Daniese McMullin-Powell, Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: TBI Trust Fund

I write on behalf of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities' (SCPD) Brain Injury Committee (BIC) to thank you for providing \$40,000 to establish a Traumatic Brain Injury Fund in Delaware. \$25,000 was included in the Budget Bill (HB 200) and \$15,000 was included in the Grant-in-Aid Bill (HB 215).

The purpose of the fund is: 1) to minimize the likelihood of institutionalization by offering independent living supports not covered by existing public and private sources for Delaware residents with traumatic brain injury; 2) to enhance the continuum of community-based services offered by the State for individuals with traumatic brain injury; and 3) to reduce barriers to self-sufficiency through the availability of an array of coordinated vocational, rehabilitative, residential, remedial health, and other support services for individuals with traumatic brain injury.

The fund will be administered by SCPD, the State's primary brain injury council pursuant to Title 29 Del.C. §8210(b)(10). Council may adopt reasonable policies and procedures pertaining to the operation of the fund, including program eligibility, and will consult with the Department of Health and Social Services to minimize duplication of services. Approximately 22 states, including New Jersey and Pennsylvania, maintain brain injury funds which provide services and assistance to individuals with brain injuries. SCPDs intent is introduction of legislation (which has been drafted) in the 2nd half of the 147th General Assembly that will specify monetary sources, maintenance and sustainability of the program.

Again, thank you very much for the initial funding of this program and all you do for the citizens of Delaware.