

COLORADO STATE PLAN ON BRAIN INJURY

Fiscal Year 2024-2027

Purpose: MINDSOURCE and The Colorado Advisory Council on Brain Injury aim to improve the lives of people impacted by brain injury by improving services, resources and supports.

Overarching Values:

The north star for all services, resources and supports for people impacted by brain injury:

1) Champion Accessible, Equitable & Inclusive Services and Supports.

- Services are culturally and linguistically inclusive, timely and available in all areas of the state.
- System of support fosters a sense of community.
- No barriers, including communication, transportation and technology, for ease in enrolling, accessing and continuing services.

2) Provide Comprehensive, Whole Person Care Across the Lifespan.

- Brain injury specific options, including in person and virtual, exist for all health needs, including behavioral health, for all ages and developmental stages.
- Person/family is connected to services as they transition from hospital.
- Strong care coordination/partnerships make referrals and data sharing efficient and effective.
- Providers, including caregivers, have adequate financial support.
- Services, including translation/interpretation, are fully funded for effective and equitable implementation and sustainability.
- Peer support is a core part of the entire system of support, starting at discharge from hospital/care.
- Developmentally appropriate services and supports for children are available, including skill-building into adolescence and adulthood.

3) Exemplify Person/Family Centered Care, Supporting and Celebrating All Brain Injury Journeys

- The process starts with developing a support team with the individual/family.
- Individual/family prioritizes what is important to them at that time to direct their care.
- Assessment protocols, supports and services are tailored to be relevant to people with brain injury's individual needs and experiences.
- Providers build relationships based on mutual trust through respect, dignity and compassion, promoting resiliency, and using person first and culturally and linguistically appropriate language.

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Goal 1: Strengthen the infrastructure and capacity of MINDSOURCE and its partners by designing a sustainable system of supports for *early identification and effective referrals* for individuals and families impacted by brain injury throughout Colorado.

STRATEGY ONE: Expand brain injury screening

Objectives:

- Conduct an environmental scan to determine where screening is occurring and inform gaps to be prioritized
- Support and strengthen partners who have existing brain injury screening and protocols (e.g., criminal justice partners) that are trauma-informed
- Develop or adopt and implement an approach for incorporating brain injury screening into routine wellness exams, such as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) assessment, for children and adults (reference CDC resources)

STRATEGY TWO: Enhance BIAC's hub for resources and providers specializing in supporting people with brain injury and organizations who are trained in working with people with brain injuries.

Objectives:

- Expand and house a brain injury friendly resource directory on MINDSOURCE page: Mindyourbrain.org
- Connect hub with existing efforts to provide statewide resource systems across the social determinants of health, including behavioral, intellectual, and developmental needs

STRATEGY THREE: Establish a hospital transition plan system for connecting to community resources

Objectives:

- Research how to infuse community transition planning into hospital treatment and discharge plans. Explore existing standards of care for discharge after brain injury.
- Develop plan to infuse brain injury resources, including peers, into hospital discharge infrastructure for community supports

STRATEGY FOUR: Maintain and expand MindYourBrain Campaign

Objectives:

- Partner with Trust Fund Vision & Outreach Committee to plan for community request for funding opportunities with MindYourBrain Campaign and brain injury awareness month
- Explore opportunities to promote the campaign year round with Trust Fund Vision & Outreach Committee

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Goal 2: Strengthen the infrastructure and capacity of MINDSOURCE and its partners by building and sustaining a *straight-forward, efficient and effective system of ongoing supports* for people with brain injuries across the lifespan.

STRATEGY ONE: Increase brain injury informed behavioral health services and supports

Objectives:

- Provide training to behavioral health providers to expand screening and use of brain injury informed treatment approaches
- Track outcomes for people with brain injury receiving care from a trained behavioral health provider on brain injury approaches

STRATEGY TWO: Advance use of the Colorado Symptom Questionnaire

Objectives:

- Regularly update TIPS sheets to include effective, online and print resources for each symptom area
- Explore validating the Symptom Questionnaire
- Improve visibility of the Symptom Questionnaire on the MINDSOURCE website
- Embed Symptom Questionnaire into brain injury trainings and expand to include in trainings for neurodiversity supports

STRATEGY THREE: Increase education and accountability to address gaps in professional's support for people with a BI waiver

Objectives:

- Train Case Managers on best practices for supporting people with a brain injury in enrolling and accessing services (to include but not limited to Single Entry Point Case Managers)
- Increase awareness of members and caregivers on brain injury waiver about services available, particularly respite, and knowing their rights to services

STRATEGY FOUR: Develop a resource options booklet that guides people through the steps for identifying and accessing services and supports for a brain injury

Objectives:

- Determine if the MINDSOURCE Client Services logic model is a good starting point for a resource options tool that supports people on their brain injury journey
- Develop a brain injury passport for the resource booklet (print and electronic) that tracks contacts, appointments, and notes from conversations

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Goal 3: Promote *inclusive communities and systems* while also supporting individuals with brain injuries in *engaging at home, school, work, and community in ways that are meaningful to them.*

STRATEGY: Develop and implement training for navigators, peer supports and professionals on how to support meaningful engagement for people with brain injuries in school, work, home, and community.

Objectives:

- Identify navigator and peer support positions within helping agencies
- Develop training with brain injury peer coaches/mentors about what individuals with brain injuries need to know and do to meaningfully engage
- Develop training with brain injury peer coaches/mentors about what employers, educators, family and community members need to know to respectfully engage people with brain injuries

COLLABORATIONS ARE KEY

Below is a list of partners we plan to engage as we implement the state plan on brain injury. This list is not exhaustive, we will likely identify more partners as we move forward.

Colorado Advisory Council on Brain Injury
Colorado Brain Injury Trust Fund Board
Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado
Centers for Independent Living
Craig Hospital (Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury Model System)
Colorado Department of Education
Colorado Department of Labor and Employment
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
Colorado Behavioral Health Administration
Colorado Judicial/Probation
University of Denver
Regional Accountable Entities
Single Entry Point Systems
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
Intimate Partner Violence Service Providers (to be determined)
Healthcare Partners (to be determined)