Dear NASHIA Member,

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) recently surveyed administrators of State brain injury programs and staff administering grants awarded by the Administration for Living (ACL) TBI Partnership State Program to gain information regarding the impact of COVID-19 on services and supports; individuals with brain injury and their families; and grant activities to improve service delivery. In response to the information we received, NASHIA has added a place to house resources on its website homepage. (The information previously displayed on Brain Injury and Opioid Misuse homepage can now be found under the Hot Topics’ tab, Substance Abuse, which can be accessed here).

The survey results noted the need for materials that are specifically developed for individuals with brain injury, as well as State policies and practices developed as the result of this pandemic. If you have information to share, please send to publicpolicy@nashia.org. Feel free to also contact us if there is other information you are looking for.

Meanwhile, as a reminder, NASHIA is hosting the webinar, “Virtual Resources with Real Solutions: Person-Centered Tools for Support During COVID-19,” noon–1:00pm (ET), on May 22. Register here. In closing, thanks to all who completed the survey. Stay safe!
NASHIA Builds COVID-19 Page on Website

In response to the State survey assessing the impact of the pandemic on services and supports for individuals with brain injury and their families, NASHIA compiled resources under the headings below. Click on the headings to access the resources. This is just a beginning. As new materials are identified, they will be added. If you have suggestions for additional resources or resources to share, please send to publicpolicy@nashia.org.

Information for Advocates
Information for Consumers and Families
Information for Staff and Providers

States Share Resources for Telehealth, Video-conferencing
As States have required staff to comply with stay-at-home orders, staff have turned to video-conferencing, as well as conference calls, to communicate with each other, with consumers with brain injury, and to conduct training that may have been scheduled. Below are some resources recently shared by the ACL TBI State Partnership Program grantees:

- The Telemedicine Video Visit Toolkit which has instructions for FaceTime, Hangouts, Skype, and Zoom
- The Center for Connected Health Policy, The National Telehealth Policy Resource Center
- The National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers
- The Institute for Successful Longevity at Florida State University
- The Ohio State University, Nisonger Center tips sheets for joining zoom meeting, setting up sound and video, meeting control buttons, and video meeting social rules. The tip sheets are available in plain language and PDF versions with screen shots.

Closed captioning resources include Caption Sync which offers a variety of services including real-time captioning and they have captioners throughout the country. They offer an educational discount for those associated with Universities. Another resource utilized by the University is 3Play Media. Please note that prices differ depending on the company.

Translation Resource: Spoken Here.

House Introduces 4th Stimulus Bill
Yesterday, the U.S. House of Representatives released a $3 trillion stimulus relief package to provide States, local governments, and individuals with funding to combat the coronavirus pandemic. The bill is entitled “The Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus
The House is set to pass the package on Friday, although the Senate and the White House have expressed disinterest in the legislation. Included in the bill is:

- $100,000,000 to Administration for Community Living (ACL), of which $10M is for the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Act activities, $5M for Assistive Technology (AT Act) activities, and the remainder for aging programs and supports.
- Increased Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP), which is the federal match for Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program, which would be bumped to 14% for July 2020-June 2021, then reverting to 6.2% July 2021 for the remainder of emergency period. Included is a specified 10% increase for Home and Community-based Services (HCBS).
- Increased pay and hazard pay for home health workers and direct support professionals and personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Anti discrimination clause for COVID testing, includes disability status.
- CDC charged to conduct Field Studies regarding the impact of disability status on health care access and disease outcomes.
- Emergency leave to care for a loved one is included.
- Disability (ADA definition) included as eligibility criteria for immediate release of vulnerable and at-risk individuals who are currently incarcerated.
- $7.6 billion for Health Centers to expand the capacity to provide testing, triage, and care for COVID-19 and other health care services at approximately 1,000 existing health centers across the country.
- $2.1 billion to support federal, State, and local public health agencies to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention including:
  - $2B for State, local, Territorial, and Tribal Public Health Departments and
  - $130M for public health data surveillance and analytics infrastructure modernization.

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators assists State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families.

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators | PO Box 1878, Alabaster, AL 35007