



**MICHIGAN RESOURCE GUIDE
FOR PERSONS WITH
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY
AND THEIR FAMILIES**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|---|
| How to Use this <i>Guide</i> | 1 |
| What if a Needed Service Is Denied? | 3 |

SECTION I: OVERVIEW OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| What Is Traumatic Brain Injury? | 5 |
| Traumatic Brain Injury Is Common | 5 |
| Effects of Traumatic Brain Injury | 7 |
| Effects on Families | 7 |
| Important Laws | 8 |
| General Resources | 10 |
| Books Written by Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury and Their Families | 14 |

SECTION II: COMMONLY NEEDED SERVICES

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Advocacy Organizations and Legal Services | 15 |
| Assessment and Rehabilitation | 18 |
| Assistive Technology | 21 |
| Living and Care Arrangements (Including Housing and Long Term Care) | 25 |
| Public Education | 35 |
| Transportation | 42 |
| Alcohol and Drug Abuse | 43 |
| Mental Health | 44 |
| Caregiver Support and Respite Relief | 45 |
| Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment | 47 |

SECTION III: FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR HEALTH CARE AND LOST INCOME

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Introduction | 51 |
| No-Fault Automobile Insurance | 51 |
| Michigan Department of Community Health's Crime Victim Compensation Program | 52 |
| Workers' Compensation | 52 |

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Social Security Administration | 53 |
| Medicare | 54 |
| Medicaid | 55 |
| Department of Human Services (DHS) | 55 |
| Dental Services - Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) | 56 |
| Benefits and Services for Military Veterans | 57 |
| Programs Specifically for Children | 60 |

SECTION IV: SUMMARY OF SERVICES OFFERED BY SELECTED GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE AGENCIES

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Table 1: Sources of Financial Support for Services | 63 |
| Table 2: Selected Michigan Service Providers | 64 |

SECTION V: CONTACT INFORMATION FOR AGENCIES, RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|----|
| Organizations and Contact Information | 67 |
| Frequently Called Numbers | 86 |

SECTION VI: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Glossary | 87 |
| Notes | 93 |

INTRODUCTION



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The goal of the *Michigan Resource Guide for Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury and Their Families* is to help direct people to appropriate state and local services. In Michigan, many traumatic brain injuries (TBI) (about 30%) are caused by car crashes. The services provided to such persons with TBI through automobile insurance companies are typically very good and comprehensive. This *Guide* is primarily meant for the remaining 70% of persons with TBI who are dependent on other forms of medical coverage and financial aid.

The *Guide* presents information on **financial aid, medical care insurance or aid, housing, education, vocational rehabilitation, legal aid and advocacy, mental health, and transportation services**. Sections I-III offer information followed by a listing and description of agencies or resources that provide services or information relating to the topic. **Note that not all resources or programs are available to everyone.** For such programs, eligibility criteria are listed along with a description of the program.

Agencies or resources are listed in alphabetical order rather than in order of importance. In some sections, there are many agencies or resources listed and you might not know whom to call first. Hints provided in boxes labeled **'TIP'** are meant to guide you through the process.

Section I explains what TBI is, its symptoms, and the impacts for individuals and families. The section presents information on the number of individuals who get a TBI. Important laws about the rights of persons with disabilities are described. **This section also supplies a list of important organizations that provide general information, advocacy and other services** to individuals with TBI and their families. A list of books written by persons with TBI is also included.

Section II provides information on frequently needed services that are available in Michigan. To help readers get services in their community, information about state agencies and other resources are listed. **This list does not include *all* direct service providers in your area. The organizations listed are**

statewide organizations that should be able to put you in touch with service providers and other resources in your area.

Section III gives information on potential sources of financial aid to cover needed services. Information to be eligible for these state and federal programs is given. Financial aid and medical care coverage programs specifically for children and veterans are also discussed.

Section IV provides an overview of the main agencies and resources described throughout the *Guide*. **If you are looking for a specific service, turn directly to the tables in Section IV to find agencies that offer the service, referral or financial aid.** Also check the appropriate section as listed in the Table of Contents, as some resources are not in the tables.

Section V lists the contact information for all agencies and resources discussed in the *Guide*, along with the pages on which they are discussed. The blank page at the end of this section is provided for you to make a note of numbers you call often.

Section VI is a glossary. Since many of the programs listed in this *Guide* come from federal or state statute, the terms may be confusing or unclear. This glossary is meant to help you understand these terms.

At the time this *Guide* was published, the accuracy of all contact and program information was verified; however, changes in addresses, telephone numbers and programs do occur.

Some steps to follow when looking for services:

- ◆ Identify current needs for treatment and services
- ◆ Contact the appropriate organizations
- ◆ Communicate with your insurer
- ◆ Identify other possible funding sources

Tips to help in the application process:

- ◆ Maintain a journal to chart progress
- ◆ Keep your paperwork organized
- ◆ Ask for copies of all records/paperwork
- ◆ Have documents, such as your insurance card or medical information, available
- ◆ Keep a list of contact information (names, phone numbers, and addresses) for all persons you talk with
- ◆ Keep written records of all communications and write down the name of the person you speak to
- ◆ When calling organizations, ask if there is a person available who specializes in TBI

WHAT IF A NEEDED SERVICE IS DENIED?

It is not uncommon for a request for services or financial aid to be initially denied, and later approved upon appeal. Whether dealing with state agencies or private insurers, consumers or their advocates have a right to appeal any denial that they feel was made in error. Many agencies have on-site advocates who can help settle disagreements and other concerns that individuals may have regarding delivery or denial of services, financial support, or other matters related to the agency. Ask someone from the agency how to file an appeal or complaint. It is important to have documentation of services, denials and other important records to support your appeal or complaint.

TIP

You or your advocate may have to be persistent to make sure your medical problems are taken seriously.

Having an advocate may be very important for persons with TBI. Advocacy support may involve appealing denials of service or financial coverage, or explaining limitations in detail. A person with TBI may have a range of advocacy needs. Often, a family member or other person may act as an advocate to assist in getting needed services. You may also want to seek out the services of an advocacy organization or even a lawyer. Advocacy organizations

can help you understand why services were denied and whether or not you are entitled to services. They can also offer advice on what steps to take next, and if similar services are available elsewhere. In some cases, such as in denial of Social Security benefits, obtaining a legal advocate to assist in the appeals process is wise. See the section on Advocacy Organizations and Legal Services on page 15 of this *Guide*.

SECTION I

OVERVIEW OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY



WHAT IS TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY?

A traumatic brain injury (TBI) is caused by a blow or jolt to the head or penetrating head injury that disrupts the normal function of the brain. Not all blows or jolts to the head result in TBI. TBI may or may not be combined with loss of consciousness, an open wound, or skull fracture.¹ A concussion is a type of brain injury.

Any brain injury that occurs after birth is called acquired brain injury (ABI). TBI is a type of ABI. Things like stroke, near suffocation, brain infections, and near-drowning can also lead to ABI. Brain damage that has been present since birth, or resulted from birth trauma or progressive deterioration of the brain over time (such as Alzheimer's disease), are not considered ABI. While some public service definitions are specifically for people with TBI, other resources in this *Guide* may be useful for people with other types of brain injury as well.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY IS COMMON

Over 50,000 people die from TBI in the United States each year, and 235,000 are hospitalized. Many more are treated and released from hospital emergency departments, seek care in a doctor's office, or do not seek care at all.¹ Michigan data show that each year about 11,000 Michiganders have a serious TBI - one that leads to hospitalization and/or death. Common causes of TBI-related hospitalizations in Michigan are falls, automobile crashes, and assault. TBI is more common among boys and men than girls and women. In Michigan, elderly, babies, and young adults are at particular risk for TBI.²

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2006). Facts about Traumatic Brain Injury. Web site: [//www.cdc.gov/mcipc/tbi/FactSheets/Facts_about_TBI.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mcipc/tbi/FactSheets/Facts_about_TBI.pdf). Updated 7/2006, accessed 3/28/2007.

²Michigan Inpatient Database and Michigan Vital Statistics (2004).

Depending on the severity of the injury, long term effects in both children and adults may include:^{3, 4, 5, 6}

Cognitive and Sensory Problems

- ◆ Slow thinking
- ◆ Difficulty with memory
- ◆ Impairments in judgment, concentration, learning new information
- ◆ Inability to do several tasks at once; easily distracted
- ◆ Trouble handling information from the senses (e.g., sight, sound, taste, smell, touch and balance)
- ◆ Language and communication difficulties
- ◆ Loss of personal safety skills
- ◆ Difficulty reading/writing/drawing

Physical Problems

- ◆ Headaches or pain
- ◆ Stiffness or weakness
- ◆ Lack of coordination/balance
- ◆ Problems with sleep/fatigue
- ◆ Slurred speech/no speech
- ◆ Problems with planning movement for eating, dressing, walking
- ◆ Trouble swallowing
- ◆ Seizures
- ◆ Trouble going to the bathroom

Behavioral and Emotional Problems

- ◆ Irritability, impatience
- ◆ Impulse control, difficulty with anger management
- ◆ Increased stress and anxiety
- ◆ Inability to read social cues and self-monitor responses to other people
- ◆ Trouble starting or completing tasks
- ◆ Violence
- ◆ Persistent crying
- ◆ Excessive mood swings or personality changes
- ◆ Lowered self esteem
- ◆ Isolation
- ◆ Inappropriate sexual behavior

Psychiatric Problems

- ◆ Depression
- ◆ Attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder
- ◆ Obsessive compulsive disorder

³NIH Consensus Statement. (1998). Rehabilitation of Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury. Web site: <http://consensus.nih.gov/1998/1998TraumaticBrainInjury109Program.pdf>, p. 2-4.

⁴NIH Consensus Statement. (1998). Rehabilitation of Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury. Web site: <http://consensus.nih.gov/1998/1998TraumaticBrainInjury109Program.pdf>, p. 17-21.

⁵National Resource Center for Traumatic Brain Injury. (2000). The Brain Injury Source Book: Answers to Questions Most Often Asked. Richmond, Virginia: Virginia Commonwealth University, p. 14-15.

⁶Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (1999). Facts about Concussion and Brain Injury: Where to get help. Version 2: 6-8.

EFFECTS OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

The brain is a very complex organ, and each injury is different. Therefore, the path to recovery and rehabilitation is difficult to predict. The signs of TBI can be subtle and easily overlooked. The symptoms of TBI may not be obvious at first - especially when combined with serious physical injuries. Sometimes TBI is a permanent life-long injury. Each person's ability to recover the loss of function(s) caused by their injury is different. Outcomes can range from no apparent effect to severe impairment. Friend/family support will be critical to the injured person as he or she proceeds through rehabilitation and returns to home and community.

Based on the length of time the person was unconscious, without memory, or confused, TBI can be classified as "mild," "moderate," or "severe." Usually, someone with a mild TBI will recover fully. However, since there are cases of people with mild TBI who have lasting disability from their injury, it is important not to dismiss the potential seriousness of such an event. Also, if a person experiences mild TBI more than once - the results may be worse than if only one mild TBI occurs.

TIP

Many of the references listed in this *Guide* are websites. The Internet can be the fastest and easiest way to find information. You may also connect with other people who are going through similar things by using internet chat rooms.

If you do not have a computer, you may be able to access the Internet from a computer at your local public library.

EFFECTS ON FAMILIES



Families of persons with TBI are affected when changes in personality, behavior, or physical ability become obvious and persist. Emotional or sexual relationships with the injured person may change. Family members may have to spend a lot of time caring for the injured person. The physical and emotional strain of caregiving may cause rifts and resentment among family members.

This may lead to anxiety, stress, guilt, loneliness and depression.⁷ If the injured person was the main financial provider, the family could also experience income losses *every year* – made worse if other family members no longer have time to work because they have to care for the individual. During this stressful time, a family member may have difficulty finding and getting desperately needed benefits.

Family members may need support to fulfill their new roles, including emotional and social support from others in similar situations, and the chance to take a break from caregiving tasks. In addition, they may need help and advice to get crucial benefits. Family members may need to be their own advocates in seeking care and social support for themselves.

IMPORTANT LAWS

THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)



The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law that protects millions of Americans with disabilities from discrimination and reaffirms their civil rights. The ADA is designed to make American society more accessible to people with disabilities. Some of the guarantees under the ADA include:

Employment: The ADA oversees all business practices including hiring, firing, wages and benefits. Businesses must provide reasonable accommodations to meet the needs of employees with disabilities unless these changes would produce undue difficulty or expenses, which are determined by specific guidelines.

Public Services: The ADA specifies that state and local government entities (e.g., school systems, park districts, etc.), including public transportation systems (e.g., buses, trains, etc.), provide equal access to their services and programs for individuals with disabilities.

⁷Kreutzer, J.S., (1998). Consequences of Traumatic Brain Injury for the Family. NIH Consensus Development Conference on Rehabilitation of Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury, p. 14.

Public Accommodations: All new and existing public accommodations that provide services to people must be accessible to individuals with disabilities. Public accommodations include facilities such as restaurants, hotels, grocery stores, retail stores, as well as privately owned transportation systems.

Telecommunications: Telephone companies must provide relay service to individuals who use telephone systems for the deaf (TTY). An ADA Information Line is available for general ADA information, answers to specific technical questions, and free ADA materials and information about filing a complaint.

(800) 514 - 0301

(800) 514 - 0383 (TTY)

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm>

FAIR HOUSING ACT

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 makes it illegal to discriminate in matters related to buying, financing, or renting homes and apartments because of race, national origin, disability, or other characteristics. For more information on the Fair Housing Act, please refer to page 26 in the Living and Care Arrangements section.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

This act sets requirements for special education in public schools. For more information about IDEA, please see the Public Education section on page 35.

OLMSTEAD DECISION

This important Supreme Court decision held that unnecessary segregation of individuals with disabilities in institutions is discrimination. Please refer to page 26 in the Living and Care Arrangements section for more information about the Olmstead Decision.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES CIVIL RIGHTS ACT (PUBLIC ACT 220 OF 1976)

This Michigan law prohibits discrimination based on disability in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations (businesses serving the public), public services, and education. Moreover, it specifies that reasonable accommodations must be made for persons with disabilities in these areas. Anyone who is denied equal opportunity in these areas may file a complaint with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. Please see page 16 for more information.

GENERAL RESOURCES

A number of national and statewide agencies and organizations offer information and referrals for individuals with TBI. Although the type of service available differs for each agency, these agencies are a good starting point for learning more about TBI, locating a specific resource, or determining the types of services needed.

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (BIAA)

BIAA is a nonprofit organization that brings together persons with TBI, their families and friends, concerned professionals, and their communities. There are state affiliates throughout the country. This agency is a good overall referral source for information, services, and products (such as audiotapes, books, and videos).

Contact Information: See page 68

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN (BIAMI)

BIAMI works to improve the lives of those affected by brain injury through education, advocacy, research, and local support groups. They also seek to reduce the number of brain injuries through prevention. BIAMI is a key source of information for brain injury services in Michigan. Books, videos, customized information packets, as well as an annual educational conference, serve as resources for families and persons

with brain injury. Local chapters and support groups throughout Michigan offer individuals with brain injury and their families support, local information, and activities.

Contact Information: See page 68

BRAIN INJURY CHAT

A TBI chat room is available at www.braininjurychat.org. It is a website that offers a connection for persons with TBI, family members, and caregivers to discuss issues relating to TBI over the Internet. Different chat rooms are available for sharing experiences, meeting new people, and finding support and information about brain injury.

Contact Information: See page 68

CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

There are 15 CILs in communities throughout Michigan. CILs provide services to integrate people with disabilities into the community. Services offered may include advocacy; resource and referral information pertaining to housing, transportation, community services and programs; peer counseling; independent living skills training; support groups; and recreational events. Some CILs offer services specifically designed to meet the needs of persons with TBI.

Contact Information: See page 69

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) – ADULT SERVICES

DHS - Adult Services provides protection, advocacy and Independent Living Services, including personal care services (Home Help) and Physical Disability Services. Adult Community Placement Services assist in locating Adult Foster Care Homes and Homes for the Aged for adults who can no longer live by themselves.

To be eligible: Adult Protective Services are available to all vulnerable adults who are at risk of harm from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Information and referral services are available to everyone. Medicaid

eligibility is required to receive DHS direct services, such as Home Help. DHS – Adult Services staff may assist customers in applying for Medicaid.

Contact Information: See page 71

DIABILITYINFO.GOV

This website is a comprehensive source for disability-related information and resources at the federal level. The site also has a state and local resources map to assist visitors in finding disability-related information in their own states and localities. The website includes nine subject tabs with information in the following areas: benefits, civil rights, community life, education, employment, health, housing, technology, and transportation.

Contact Information: See page 72

EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF MICHIGAN

Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan provides education and consultation services, public awareness, camp programs, support services, advocacy, and employment guidance for people with epilepsy, their families, and the general public.

Contact Information: See page 72

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH (MDCH) TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI) PROJECT

The MDCH TBI Project is funded by the State of Michigan and the federal Health Resources and Services Administration-Maternal and Child Health Bureau to improve public services for TBI in Michigan. The project produces information for people with TBI, their families, and service providers (including this *Guide*).

Contact Information: See page 77

MICHIGAN LONG TERM CARE CONNECTIONS (MLTCCs)

Michigan has four Long Term Care Connections across the state. These offices provide long term care information, referral, and options counseling for persons and families in need of long term care. The MLTCCs are located in Detroit/Wayne County, Southwest Michigan, West Michigan, and the Upper Peninsula.

Contact Information: See page 78

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (NRC FOR TBI)

This is a national nonprofit center committed to providing practical and relevant information to persons with TBI and their families. The NRC for TBI is a valuable resource for many different services and questions. The NRC for TBI produces a guide titled, *The Brain Injury Source Book: Answers to Questions Most Often Asked by Family & Survivors*.

Contact Information: See page 80

UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY (UCP) OF MICHIGAN

This nonprofit organization provides information about housing, special education, employment, technology and equipment, public benefits, and transportation. UCP Michigan has expertise in cerebral palsy, disability rights, and disability services. Anyone with a disability can call UCP for assistance.

Contact Information: See page 83

UNITED WAY

United Way organizations serve people in their community directly or in collaboration with other local nonprofit organizations. Many United Ways offer a program called "First Call for Help" – a single local telephone number that people in need may call and immediately be referred to the community service(s) that can help them.

Contact Information: See page 83

BOOKS WRITTEN BY PERSONS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY AND THEIR FAMILIES



The following are several books written by persons with TBI or their family members. You may contact the Brain Injury Association of Michigan for these and other books available through their lending library.

Abrahamson, P., & , Abrahamson, J. (1997). *Brain Injury: A Family Tragedy*. Houston, TX: HDI Publishers.

Bailey, A. W. (1999). *Fall Back Up: Surviving Brain Injury*. Philadelphia, PA: Xlibris Corporation.

Becker, S. (2004). *I Had Brain Surgery, What's Your Excuse?* New York, NY: Workman Publishing Company Inc.

Blakemore, J.T. (2004). *Until The Cows Come Home*. Philadelphia, PA: Xlibris Corporation.

Cramer, Jody. (2005). *An Excellent Life*. Lake Mary, FL: Strang Communications Company.

Crimmins, C. E. (2000). *Where is the Mango Princess?* New York, NY: Knopf-Random House, Inc.

Fryer, E.E. (2005). *My Lost Summer*. Morrisville, NC: Lulu, Inc.

Osborn, C. L. (1997). *Over My Head: A Doctor's Own Story of Head Injury from the Inside Looking Out*. Riverside, NJ: Andrews McMeel Publishing.

Rocchio, C. (2004). *Ketchup on the Baseboard*. Wake Forest, NC: Lash & Associates Publishing/Training, Inc.

Swanson, K. L. (1999). *I'll carry the Fork! Recovering a Life after Brain Injury*. Bend, CA: Rising Star Press.

Warrington, J. (2005). *A Caregiver's Triumph*. Lake Mary, FL: Creation House.

Warrington, J. (2006). *The Humpty Dumpty Syndrome*. Lake Mary, FL: Creation House.

SECTION II COMMONLY NEEDED SERVICES



ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS AND LEGAL SERVICES

Persons with TBI often need an advocate to help them get the services they need, beginning as soon as they are injured. As well as helping to obtain services, an advocate can assist with day-to-day issues (such as helping to correct a phone bill error). An advocate can be a family member, friend or neighbor, but occasionally the need for help from an organization that specializes in advocacy, or even a lawyer, may be necessary. Your social worker, case manager or minister may also be able to help with advocacy needs.

ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS

Advocacy organizations can help to determine what services persons with TBI qualify for. Many informal support groups focus on advocating for rights of people with TBI or other disabilities. There are also professional organizations who focus on enabling individuals with disabilities.

LEGAL SERVICES

Services of an attorney may be required to advocate for fair medical treatment, services, and compensation for persons with TBI and their families. To help you find the right lawyer, here are some helpful questions to ask:

- ◆ Do the circumstances surrounding the injury allow for compensation or benefits?
- ◆ How long does it take, on average, to settle a TBI case?
- ◆ Does this lawyer specialize in TBI cases, securing government benefits, workers' compensation, or discrimination?
- ◆ What fees does the lawyer charge and for which services? Is it possible to pay the lawyer only if the case is successful?

TIP

There might be community organizations serving specific cultural groups in your area. These groups may be able to provide information, support, advocacy, or assistance in interacting with service providers. Look in your local phone book for such organizations (for example social services organizations).

ADVOCACY AND LEGAL SERVICES AGENCIES AND RESOURCES

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN (BIAMI)

BIAMI provides information to families and individuals with a brain injury on how to select an attorney as well as a list of attorneys who have indicated that they serve persons with brain injury. In addition, BIAMI provides testimony on issues that impact persons on the state or national level.

Contact Information: See page 68

CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

These centers, located throughout Michigan, provide services designed to maximize self-sufficiency and independence of people with disabilities. Services offered may include resource and referral information pertaining to housing, transportation, and community services; peer counseling; independent living skills training; advocacy; support groups; and recreational events.

Contact Information: See page 69

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS (MDCR)

MDCR investigates discrimination complaints and enforces the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act and the Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act. MDCR also provides information to help the public understand their civil rights in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations (businesses serving the public), public services, and education. If you believe someone has discriminated against you in any of the areas protected by law, you or your representative may contact the nearest MDCR office for assistance. A civil rights representative will answer your questions and advise you regarding the filing of a complaint or offer you other alternatives, as appropriate, to address your concern.

Contact Information: See page 76

MICHIGAN DISABILITY RIGHTS COALITION (MDRC)

This organization has a statewide network that advocates on behalf of Michigan's disability community.

Contact Information: See page 77

MICHIGAN LEGAL AID

The website at www.MichiganLegalAid.org is a state-wide guide to free legal services for low income persons and seniors in civil (not criminal) cases. Eligibility and contact information for free legal aid programs is available. There are many links to other sites and documents that provide information about common legal problems.

Contact Information: See page 78

MICHIGAN PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SERVICE, INC. (MPAS)

This private, nonprofit organization provides information and advocacy for people with disabilities in Michigan. MPAS offers information and referral services to all Michigan residents.

Contact Information: See page 78

UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY (UCP) OF MICHIGAN

This nonprofit organization provides information about housing, special education, employment, technology and equipment, public benefits, and transportation. UCP Michigan has expertise in cerebral palsy, disability rights, and disability services. Anyone with a disability can call UCP for assistance.

Contact Information: See page 83

UNITED WAY

United Way organizations serve people in their community directly or in collaboration with other local nonprofit organizations. United Ways frequently offer a program called "First Call for Help." This is a local

telephone number that people in need may call and immediately be referred to the community service(s) that can help them.

Contact Information: See page 83

ASSESSMENT AND REHABILITATION

The goal of rehabilitation is to help people regain the most independent level of functioning possible. Rehabilitation focuses on the body's natural healing processes and the brain's relearning abilities for maximum recovery. Rehabilitation also involves learning new ways to make up for abilities that are permanently compromised by TBI. This may include changing the home and work areas to fit the needs of the individual with TBI (see sections on "Living and Care Arrangements," page 25 and "Assistive Technology," page 21 in this *Guide*).

TIP

Recreation is an important part of recovery. Contact your local or county recreation department for information about local programs.

All functions of the body (such as staying awake, breathing, vision, physical movement, speech, memory, behavior, and emotions) are controlled by the brain.

Damage from TBI may affect one or more of these functions. Rehabilitation programs should be designed to meet each person's unique needs. **It is very important that the therapists treating the person with TBI be trained specifically in TBI rehabilitation.**

TIP

There are numerous providers of brain injury rehabilitation services in Michigan. This *Guide* does not make recommendations regarding specific service providers. To obtain a list of rehabilitation service providers in Michigan and for advice on finding the best one for you, contact BIAMI.

Assessing the injury is an important part of the rehabilitation process. Physical problems that may result from TBI include impaired movements, weakness and reduced motor coordination, speech and swallowing difficulties, and possibly even paralysis. It may take several assessments

to evaluate the full impact of TBI on physical functioning. Because emergency hospital treatment may affect initial assessment, it may be important to assess the full impact of TBI on physical functioning in the weeks or months following the injury.⁸

Following the assessment, rehabilitation may be short-term (a few weeks or months) or long-term (several years). In general, most physical recovery occurs within the first 12-18 months of injury, although improvements may continue after that time.⁹ **Physical therapy** may include regaining strength and control of body movements and improving coordination of body movements. **Occupational therapy** involves relearning everyday tasks (for example dressing and bathing). **Speech therapy** focuses on language and swallowing.¹⁰ Rehabilitation therapies may also be extended to focus on independent living, working, and driving.

Cognitive functioning refers to brain behaviors such as thinking, problem solving, personality, intelligence, language, memory, and emotional regulation. A **neuropsychological evaluation** examines cognitive and emotional functioning and could take more than one session. A person with TBI may need evaluations by a psychologist more than once in a 1-2 year span. **Future care could depend on this evaluation.**

Cognitive rehabilitation is recommended as part of a rehabilitation program.¹¹ However, cognitive rehabilitation services are *not* always covered by insurance. If the rehabilitation therapists are trained and experienced in TBI rehabilitation, they will include cognitive rehabilitation goals with their physical rehabilitation goals.

⁸NIH Report of the Consensus Development Panel (1998). Mechanisms Underlying Functional Recovery Following Traumatic Brain Injury. Rehabilitation of Persons with Traumatic Brain. Web site: <http://consensus.nih.gov/1998/1998TraumaticBrainInjury109program.pdf>, p. 41.

⁹National Resource Center for Traumatic Brain Injury. (2000). The Brain Injury Source Book: Answers to Questions Most Often Asked. Richmond, Virginia: Virginia Commonwealth University, p. 130.

¹⁰National Resource Center for Traumatic Brain Injury. (2000). The Brain Injury Source Book: Answers to Questions Most Often Asked. Richmond, Virginia: Virginia Commonwealth University, p. 112.

¹¹Cicerone, K., Dahlberg, C., Malec, J., Langenbahn, D., Felicetti, T., Kneipp, S. (2005). Evidence-Based Cognitive Rehabilitation: Updated Review of the Literature From 1998 Through 2002. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil*, 86.

REHABILITATION AGENCIES AND PUBLIC RESOURCES

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN (BIAMI)

BIAMI works to improve the lives of those affected by brain injury through education, advocacy, research, and local support groups. They also seek to reduce the number of brain injuries through prevention. The *Brain Injury Association National Directory of Brain Injury Rehabilitation Services Resource Guide* is available through the national website - www.biausa.org. The *Michigan Brain Facility & Services Directory* is available through BIAMI.

Contact Information: See page 68

MEDICAID TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING PROGRAM

Medicaid will cover limited post-acute, comprehensive, intensive, goal-directed, inpatient or outpatient rehabilitation services for individuals eighteen (18) years or older with TBI. Services must be authorized by MDCH Medical Services Administration. Services are provided by agencies who contract with MDCH.

To be eligible: Beneficiaries must meet financial and medical eligibility criteria. For information regarding specific criteria contact the Medicaid Traumatic Brain Injury Memorandum of Understanding Program. The hospital acute care case manager and Department of Human Services case worker will need to submit medical records and other documents for determining eligibility.

Contact Information: See page 74

PUBLIC SCHOOLS - SPECIAL EDUCATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

Michigan law requires each public school system to make available certain aids and services for infants, toddlers, children, or youth who have disabilities. If a child has a disability, including brain injury, the law requires the public school system to obtain consent from the parent/

guardian and determine if the child is eligible for, and needs, certain special education or early intervention services. For each child/student who is determined to be eligible, the public school system then develops an Individualized Education Program (IEP). This plan is based on federal law and state standards. It lists the services, including therapies, the school will provide for that child. Michigan's special education and early intervention services are described in more detail in the Public Education section on page 35 of this *Guide*.

To be eligible: Special education in Michigan is available for individuals up through age 25. A school-based multidisciplinary evaluation team is formed that includes the school professionals and parent(s). The team gathers information and then determines whether the individual has a disability that will make learning difficult without accommodations or special services. Persons with TBI who require special education or early intervention services most often qualify for those services through one of 13 categories, including Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Physical Impairment (PI), Other Health Impairments (OHI), Learning Disabilities (LD), or Speech and Language Impairments (SLI).

Contact Information: See page 81

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY



Assistive technologies (also known as adaptive technologies or adaptive equipment) are any item, piece of equipment, or product that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional abilities of individuals with disabilities. Assistive technologies may aid persons with TBI with day-to-day tasks or with work, school, and household chores. Assistive technologies may be bought at stores, through catalogs, or on the Internet. Some of these technologies can be changed or customized, or may require special training. A word of caution; some of these products are quite expensive and may not be covered by insurance. Also, many health plans require prior approval, so check with your insurer before purchasing assistive technologies.¹²

¹²Gerald, C. W. (1995). *Use of assistive technology in vocational rehabilitation of persons with traumatic brain injury*. In M. Ashley and D. Krych (Eds.), *Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation*, p. 129-160. Boca Raton: CRC Press.

The resources listed below include some organizations and programs that provide funding specifically for assistive technology. In addition, some types of assistive technology may be provided or covered through other programs. These programs are discussed elsewhere in the *Guide* and include:

- ◆ Children’s Waiver Program (see page 29)
- ◆ Community Mental Health Services Programs (see page 44)
- ◆ Medicaid (see page 55)
- ◆ Michigan Rehabilitation Services (see page 48)
- ◆ MI Choice Program (see page 32)
- ◆ MDCH Crime Victim Compensation Program (see page 52)
- ◆ No-fault automobile insurance (see page 51)
- ◆ Special Education Services through local public schools (see page 35)

Also, some automobile companies have “Mobility Programs” that provide assistance and cash reimbursement to help cover the cost of installing adaptive driver or passenger equipment in a newly purchased vehicle. To find out more about such programs contact the vehicle manufacturer directly through their website or ask at a local dealership.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AGENCIES AND RESOURCES

ABLEDATA

ABLEDATA provides a searchable list of information on assistive technology products (including reviews from users). It is maintained for the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research of the U.S. Department of Education by Macro International Incorporated. Publications are also available by calling ABLEDATA.

Contact Information: See page 67

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (BIAA)

The BIAA produces the online *Catalog of Portable Electronic Devices for Memory and Organization*. The *Catalog* provides product information on portable electronic devices that are being used to help with memory and organization. Products included are divided into 6 categories:

Voice organizers - reminder devices using voice input and output

Medication reminders - medicine beepers, time pieces

Smartphones - cell phones with PDA functions built-in

Watches - time pieces for reminders

General - other helpful devices

PDA devices - handheld computers

Contact Information: See page 68

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS FUND

This fund was created through individual donations and is administered through the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). It pays for things that cannot be obtained through state or federal programs. The amount of funding and services available can vary from year to year. Partial or full funding may be provided for the following: wheelchair ramps into homes, van lifts and tie downs, therapeutic tricycles, air conditioners, adaptive recreational equipment, and electrical service upgrades necessitated by the eligible child's equipment. Additional requests may be considered.

To be eligible: A child must be a Michigan resident to receive benefits from this fund. Families with a child enrolled in, *or who is medically eligible to enroll in*, the Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Program may apply to the Children with Special Needs Fund. (The CSHCS Program is described on page 60 of this *Guide*.) Families with a child with a severe disability or illness should contact the Fund to learn about eligibility and services.

Contact Information: See page 69

MICHIGAN'S ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROJECT

Michigan Disability Rights Coalition houses the state's Assistive Technology Project, a federal initiative that funds systems-level training, device demonstrations, online equipment reuse, and policy change efforts.

Contact Information: See page 80

MICHIGAN'S INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT (MITS)

The overall purpose of MITS is to provide information services, support materials, technical assistance, and training to local and intermediate school districts in Michigan to increase their capacity to address the needs of students with disabilities for assistive technology.

Contact Information: See page 80

PHYSICAL DISABILITY SERVICES (PDS)

The goal of these services is to help adults with physical disabilities become as independent as possible. A limited amount of money may be available to pay for assistive technologies and home and vehicle modifications that are not covered by Medicaid. To learn more, contact your local Department of Human Services office and ask for Adult Services.

To be eligible: Individuals must be eligible for Medicaid, be medically stable, and have disabilities that are primarily physical (rather than mental or behavioral).

Contact Information: See page 80

UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY (UCP) OF MICHIGAN

UCP Michigan runs two loan funds to help individuals with disabilities purchase assistive technology. The **Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund** supports the purchase of needed technology through low interest loans. The **Michigan TeleWork Loan Fund** provides low interest loans that enable people with disabilities to purchase the computer technology and/or equipment that they need to work from home for an employer, or to establish their own home-based businesses. In addition, employers may obtain loans to purchase such equipment on behalf of employees with disabilities who work from home. Loans are credit-based and must be paid back.

To be eligible: Michigan residents with disabilities may apply. Having cerebral palsy is not a requirement. Family members may apply on behalf of the individual with a disability. In the case of the TeleWork Loan

Fund, employers may apply on behalf of the individual with a disability.
Contact Information: See page 83

The **Upper Peninsula Assistive Technology Center** assesses individuals with disabilities to determine what assistive technology will work for them, and helps them look for funding and set-up and use the devices and/or software. The Center provides ongoing support to ensure success with AT devices and/or software.

To be eligible: Upper Peninsula residents are eligible for Center services. Having cerebral palsy is not a requirement.
Contact Information: See page 82

LIVING AND CARE ARRANGEMENTS (INCLUDING HOUSING AND LONG TERM CARE)

Living and care needs may change because of the physical, emotional, and/or cognitive problems caused by TBI. For instance, persons with TBI may not be able to remember things, may get confused or be unable to focus or make decisions. As a result, it may be necessary to oversee their safety while cooking, using electrical appliances, and answering the door or the telephone.



There are several questions to ask when planning living and care arrangements.

- ◆ Does the individual want to live and function independently?
- ◆ Could the individual live independently with support services?
- ◆ What type and how much help is needed to meet physical and safety needs?
- ◆ Should there be limitations on access to car keys, weapons, or alcohol?
- ◆ What type of living situation would meet social, intellectual, and cognitive needs?
- ◆ How much energy and assistance can family and friends provide?

The Olmstead Decision: In 1999, the United States Supreme Court held in *Olmstead v. L.C.* that the unnecessary segregation of individuals with disabilities in institutions constitutes discrimination based on disability. The court ruled that the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) may require states to provide community-based services rather than institutional placements for individuals with disabilities. This ruling provides an important foundation for housing rights for family members and individuals with TBI.

Fair Housing Act: Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, or the Fair Housing Act, prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other housing-related transactions, based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, and handicap (disability).

If you or someone associated with you:

- ◆ Have a physical or mental disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities
- ◆ Have a record of such a disability or
- ◆ Are regarded as having such a disability

Your landlord **must**:

- ◆ Let you make reasonable modifications to your dwelling or common use areas, at your expense, if necessary for the disabled person to use the housing. (Where reasonable, the landlord may permit changes only if you agree to restore the property to its original condition when you move.)
- ◆ Make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices, or services if necessary for the disabled person to use the housing.

In Michigan, persons with TBI have the following options to meet their living and care needs:

Changes to the home: When an individual with TBI is ready to return home, family members might need to adapt the home in order to enable the person to move about and safely accomplish daily tasks. For example, adding a ramp, widening doorways or making modifications to a bathroom might be required. Many contractors have the knowledge and experience needed to make these changes. When hiring a contractor, be sure to check references,

credentials, and license by the State of Michigan, Consumer and Industry Services. Also make sure the contractor is insured.

Some apartment complexes have apartments designed to meet the needs of individuals who have a physical disability. The Centers for Independent Living (CILs) maintain lists of housing units for persons with disabilities for most areas of the state.

TIP

Consult your occupational therapist for help deciding what changes to the home might be helpful for a person with TBI. A local service organization or high school may offer assistance with the building of wheelchair ramps or other needed changes to the home.

Financial aid to support independent living: Housing aid, including low interest loans, may be available through federal and state housing programs to support living independently. Home renovation funding sources may also be available if eligibility requirements are met. Rental assistance programs, such as the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8), may be available through your local public housing authority (see page 32) or Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) representative (see page 34).

Home health care: People with more severe TBI may continue to need help after returning home from the hospital. There are private agencies that provide in-home nursing services. Funding may be available from the State of Michigan for those eligible. The hospital social work department or discharge planners may be good referral sources for in-home nursing services.

Home Help: Home Help Services assist functionally limited individuals to remain independent for as long as possible by providing assistance in areas such as eating, grooming, toileting, bathing, dressing, transferring, moving about the home, taking medication, preparing meals, housework, laundry, and shopping/errands.

Assisted living: Assisted living is a general term for a range of housing facilities in which residents maintain varying degrees of independence. Residents may live independently and cook and eat on their own or they may have the

option of joining other residents for meals in a cafeteria within the facility. Facility staff members are available to provide assistance to residents with things such as reminding residents about medications, organizing activities, and periodically checking on them. Ask the facility if they are licensed by the state.

TIP

There are a variety of settings in which someone with TBI can receive supportive services, including their own home, someone else's home, adult foster care, home for the aged, assisted living, or a nursing facility. If you need help finding your own home or apartment, consider contacting the local CIL for assistance. If you are interested in supportive living, consider visiting different types of settings in your community before choosing.

Adult foster care: "Foster care" means the provision of supervision, personal care, and protection, in addition to room and board, for 24 hours a day, five or more days a week. These types of facilities can range in size and may serve only specific age or gender groups. Adult foster care homes in Michigan must be licensed by the Michigan Department of Human Services.

Nursing facilities: Sometimes a more restrictive and structured environment is necessary, regardless of the age of the person with TBI. These facilities are licensed by the State of Michigan to provide 24-hour nursing and medical care for people who do not require hospitalization, but need round-the-clock monitoring or care. Some facilities may also provide rehabilitation and/or recreational services.

TIP

Adult foster care and nursing facilities must be licensed by the state. To determine if a facility is licensed or to find a licensed facility in your area call (517) 334-8408 or visit www.michigan.gov/bhs.

LIVING AND CARE AGENCIES AND RESOURCES

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN (BIAMI)

BIAMI provides articles including issues to consider when selecting living and care arrangements, as well as lists of organizations to assist families in determining care options.

Contact Information: See page 68

CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

Located throughout Michigan, CILs provide services designed to maximize self-sufficiency and independence of people with disabilities. Services offered may include resource and referral information about housing, transportation, and community services; peer counseling; independent living skills training; advocacy; support groups; and recreational events.

Contact Information: See page 69

CHILDREN'S WAIVER PROGRAM (CWP)

The CWP is a federal entitlement program that provides Medicaid funded home and community-based services to children (under age 18) who are eligible for, and at risk of, placement into an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR).

Children with developmental disabilities who have challenging behaviors and/or complex medical needs are served through this program.

The CWP enables children to remain in their parents' home or return to their parents' home from out-of-home placements, while receiving regular Medicaid State Plan services (for instance, case management, private duty nursing) and waiver services, regardless of their parents' income.

The waiver services include the following:

- ◆ Family training
- ◆ Non-family training
- ◆ Specialty services (for example music, recreation, art, and massage therapy)
- ◆ Community living supports
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Respite care
- ◆ Environmental accessibility adaptations
- ◆ Specialty medical equipment

The program has capacity to serve 435 children statewide. Although the program is at capacity, a waiting list is maintained, using a priority rating system to add new children to the program when openings occur.

To request more information about eligibility or to submit a prescreen application for the program, contact your local Community Mental Health Services Program.

Contact Information: See page 70

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAMS (CMHSP)

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) contracts with CMHSPs to provide a range of mental health services to eligible individuals. CMHSPs are located throughout Michigan. CMHSPs can assist qualifying individuals with residential services ranging from independent living, supported independent living, and more structured situations for people with severe mental disorders and diseases.

To be eligible: Persons with TBI who have a serious mental illness (such as depression, mood disorder due to head trauma, or others), or who have experienced their TBI before age 22, should contact their CMHSP for an assessment or intake. Individuals must be either Medicaid-eligible or meet specified severity criteria.

Contact Information: See page 70

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) - ADULT SERVICES

DHS - Adult Services provides protection, advocacy and Independent Living Services including personal care services. The Home Help Services program provides money to those on Medicaid to hire providers to assist with activities of daily living (eating, toileting, bathing, grooming, dressing, transferring, mobility) and instrumental activities of daily living (medication, meal preparation, shopping, laundry, housework). Medical equipment, home modifications, and vehicle modifications which are needed but not covered by personal insurance or Medicaid may be provided through Physical Disability Services (PDS). Adult Services also includes Adult Community Placement Services, which provides pre-placement services for adults who can no longer live independently because of health or mental conditions, and who are in need of a more structured environment. Post-placement and follow-up services are paid for through the State of Michigan for people on Medicaid and SSI who are in out-of-home care settings. Adult Protective Services (APS) provides protection to vulnerable adults (age 18 and older) who are or are believed to be at risk of harm from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. APS is available 24 hours a day.

To be eligible: Information and referral services are available to everyone. Medicaid eligibility is required for direct services. DHS - Adult Services staff may assist customers in applying for Medicaid.

Contact Information: See page 71

HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN (HCAM)

HCAM is a nonprofit association representing more than 300 nursing homes and other long term care organizations operating within the State of Michigan. Information on adult foster care and nursing facilities is available through this association.

Contact Information: See page 73

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

HUD is a federal agency that provides money for housing programs. There are programs to help finance adaptations to the home to accommodate people with disabilities. There are also programs to provide rental assistance for people with low incomes or disabilities. You may contact HUD for more information about these programs, but your first contact in this regard should be the local public housing authority (see contact information section). The HUD website provides contact information for local public housing authorities throughout the country. There are several HUD offices in Michigan.

Contact Information: See page 73

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES

Local public housing authorities are responsible for providing affordable housing for persons with low income and/or disabilities in their area. Funding comes from mostly federal sources.

Contact Information: See page 80

MI CHOICE PROGRAM

The MI Choice Program provides services and support to allow an individual who needs nursing home level of care to remain at home as long as possible. Services covered include homemaker and chore services, home-delivered meals, personal care supervision, adult day care, modifications to the home, transportation, specialized equipment or medical supplies, a personal emergency response system, training, counseling and respite care.

To be eligible: Beneficiaries must meet the criteria for nursing home care, certain financial criteria, and they must be in need of one or more of the waiver services.

Contact Information: See page 75

MICHIGAN ASSISTED LIVING ASSOCIATION

The Michigan Assisted Living Association is a non-profit organization that represents over 4,200 assisted living, residential care, and vocational programs. Because not all living facilities in Michigan are licensed, this Association can provide information about options and how to choose a facility.

Contact Information: See page 75

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF HOMES AND SERVICES FOR THE AGING (MAHSA)

MAHSA represents nonprofit facilities and organizations that provide care and services to seniors. The spectrum of providers includes subsidized and market rate housing, unlicensed assisted living, adult foster care, homes for the aged, nursing homes, and home and community-based services.

Contact Information: See page 76

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH - BUREAU OF HEALTH SYSTEMS (MDCH - BHS)

MDCH - BHS deals with licensing of health care facilities in Michigan, including nursing homes, home health agencies, and substance abuse programs. BHS operates a license verification system that can be accessed via mail or over the phone for a small fee. This information can also be obtained for free on its website. The MDCH - BHS website contains a facility locator service and has links to nursing home information, including inspection results.

Contact Information: See page 76

MICHIGAN LONG TERM CARE CONNECTIONS (MLTCCs)

There are four MLTCCs across the state. These offices provide long term care information, referrals, and options counseling for persons and families in need of long term care. The MLTCCs are located in Detroit/Wayne

County, Southwest Michigan, West Michigan, and the Upper Peninsula.
Contact Information: See page 78

MICHIGAN QUALITY COMMUNITY CARE COUNCIL (QC3)

The QC3 is a public body that offers Home Help consumers a tool for finding, choosing, and hiring a personal care provider. This “registry,” or list, will have names of providers and their special traits such as the language they speak and the services they are willing to provide. The QC3 offers resources to assist consumers in their role as employer of their in-home provider. They also offer a variety of job-related trainings and support to Home Help providers, in an effort to improve skills and job retention.

To be eligible: Eligibility for Home Help services also requires Medicaid eligibility and is determined by the Department of Human Services (DHS). If eligible, DHS will approve the services you need and the hours of care needed.

Contact Information: See page 79

MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MSHDA)

MSHDA administers several federally-funded housing programs, including Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) rental subsidies, grants to small communities and nonprofit organizations, and assistance to homeless service providers. Additionally, the MSHDA website has a housing locator system and a directory of subsidized housing.

Contact Information: See page 79

SHELTER PLUS CARE

This program links rental assistance and supportive services to individuals and their families. The program serves hard-to-serve homeless persons with disabilities over the age of 18. Services are provided by private agencies under contract with the State of Michigan.

Contact Information: See page 81

PUBLIC EDUCATION



People with TBI who have not graduated from high school and are 25 years old or younger may be eligible for special education services in Michigan. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law that requires school districts to provide, at no cost, special education services to eligible persons with disabilities, including brain injuries.

Michigan law requires each public school system to develop an educational plan for each eligible infant, toddler, child, and youth. These programs are called the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and the Individualized Education Program (IEP). The school is required to organize necessary accommodations and services, which may include rehabilitation services from other agencies, to meet a student's individual needs. In addition, most schools provide counseling services to those students not qualifying through IDEA, but who may need emotional, cognitive, or other assistance, accommodations, or supports.

INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY SERVICE PLAN (IFSP)

The IFSP is an intervening plan that covers infants and toddlers (from birth through two years of age) who are experiencing developmental delays *or* who have a diagnosed physical or mental disability that may result in developmental delay. When possible and appropriate, services must be provided in natural environments, including the home, community settings, and settings that are normal for children of the same age without disabilities. Family participation is an integral part of early intervening services that result in positive outcomes for the child.

The infant or toddler's progress is evaluated annually or as needed. Evaluations are done by professionals who interact with the child. The results of the evaluations, along with any other available information from the ongoing assessment with the child and family, are used to determine which services are needed. Reviews of the IFSP can be conducted more often if necessary or if requested by the family.

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP)

For eligible children and students, a plan for appropriate services is written in an Individualized Education Program (IEP). In Michigan, the IEP is meant for all students from pre-school (at least three years of age) through high school graduation or age 25. The aim is to make sure all the requirements for the child's education are fulfilled. The IEP is intended to respond to the individual needs of the child and family. The services offered to each child will vary depending on the type, level, and severity of the disability. The IEP determines the types of educational services, therapies and assistance the child is eligible to receive. IEPs *are* transferable between school districts.

Because all children and students are in general education first, development of the IEP will be carried out by a group of people who know the child best. This group is called the IEP team, and consists of school personnel (such as general and special education

teachers and an administrative representative from the school district), family members (the parent and the student when appropriate), and other professionals who have knowledge or expertise regarding the child. The student's eligibility and need for specific accommodations and/or services is reviewed every three years or as needed, depending on the child. The type of re-evaluation is determined by the IEP team.

TIP

If a parent or guardian requests that their child be tested, the school has 30 school days to complete an evaluation and hold an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting to assess and determine the child's needs.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Early childhood means those weeks, months, and years in the life of a child from birth through eight years of age. Programs may be available through your school district or other local agencies with a focus on:

- ◆ Assessment and services for disabilities and/or developmental delays
- ◆ Reading
- ◆ School readiness
- ◆ Parenting

Refer to resources below under the Michigan Department of Education, Early On, and Project Find.

TRANSITION PLANNING

The federal law, IDEA, requires transition and/or career planning for students who are eligible for special education. A transition plan arranges an appropriate course of study as students move from adolescence to adulthood. Students agree to learn academic, vocational, and life skills necessary for independent or semi-independent living, including plans for college and employment.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND SUPPORTS

Students who do not qualify for special education services through IDEA may still benefit from accommodations under the rules of the Americans with Disabilities Act. **Accommodations** are defined as techniques and materials that allow students with disabilities to complete school or work tasks with greater ease by reducing the effects of the disability. An accommodation is any change in how a student accesses and demonstrates learning that does not substantially change the instructional content.

In addition, most schools provide counseling or other services to students who do not qualify through IDEA, but who may need other assistance, accommodations, or supports.

COLLEGE/POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

If a student goes on to college and requires accommodations because of a disability, the student must “self-identify” that they need accommodations. Their needs can be verified by a former IEP, Section 504 plan, or a letter from a doctor, clinical rehabilitation worker, licensed social worker, or psychologist. If the college will not make the accommodations, the student or their guardian will need to follow the rules under the Americans with Disabilities Act for requesting accommodations or to file a complaint.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 applies to any college or university that receives federal funding and states that “no otherwise qualified individual with a disability ... shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefit of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

EDUCATION AGENCIES AND RESOURCES

BRIDGES4KIDS

Bridges4Kids is a privately funded non-profit organization that provides information and referral services for parents and professionals looking for help for a child. Their extensive website provides information and links to organizations on topics like child development, education issues, disability, gifted children, at-risk children, parenting, and teaching. Bridges4Kids answers a toll-free help line.

Contact Information: See page 68

CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL NETWORKING (CEN)

CEN is funded by the Michigan Department of Education to enhance the educational performance of students who are receiving special education or early intervention services by providing information about special education issues and resources. CEN produces the *Directory of Resources for Infants and Toddlers and Students with Disabilities*. The *Directory* contains state and local contact information about resources for young children with special needs and students with disabilities. In addition, the CEN website features a glossary, events calendar, news items, and links to many other websites.

Contact Information: See page 69

CITIZENS ALLIANCE TO UPHOLD SPECIAL EDUCATION (CAUSE)

CAUSE is partially funded by the Michigan Department of Education to provide free information, referral, support, advocacy, and workshops to parents and professionals working with children with disabilities and special needs in Michigan.

Contact Information: See page 70

EARLY ON ®

Early On® Michigan is the system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers, from birth to three years of age, with disabilities or delays, and their families. For eligible children, services may include the following:

- ◆ Assistive technology
- ◆ Physical therapy
- ◆ Audiology
- ◆ Psychological services
- ◆ Family training and home visits
- ◆ Service coordination
 - Health services
 - Social work
 - Medical services (diagnostic or evaluation purposes)
 - Special instruction
 - Nursing services
 - Speech-language
 - Nutrition services
 - Transportation
 - Occupational therapy
 - Vision

The website of *Early On*® contains numerous links to additional information and resources for children in Michigan.

Contact Information: See page 72

PUBLIC SCHOOL, SCHOOL DISTRICT, OR INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Parents may request an evaluation from the special education office at their local school to see if their child is eligible for the IEP or IFSP programs described in the beginning of this section.

To be eligible: Special education in Michigan is available for individuals through age 25. A school-based multidisciplinary evaluation team, which includes input from the parent(s), determines whether the individual has a disability that will make learning difficult without special services. Persons with TBI who require special education services most often qualify for those services through one of the following categories: Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Physical Impairments (PI), Other Health Impairments (OHI), Learning Disabilities (LD), or Speech and Language Impairments (SLI).

Contact Information: See page 74, 81

MICHIGAN ALLIANCE FOR FAMILIES

Michigan Alliance for Families is a grantee for family training and technical assistance with funds from the Michigan Department of Education. The five year grant (2006-11) is housed at the ARC Michigan and the staff will provide information, educational workshops, and parent mentoring for families of children who have disabilities or other special needs, birth through 25 years of age.

Contact Information: See page 75

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (MDE)

Within MDE, there are two areas that oversee programs important for children with TBI. Programs of the Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services include early childhood programs and services for all children from birth through age eight; parenting programs; and out-of-school-time programs for school-age children. The Office of Special

Education and Early Intervention Services oversees the funding of education and early intervention programs and services for young children and students with disabilities. The MDE website contains useful summaries and links to these and other programs.

Contact Information: See page 77

PROJECT FIND

Project Find refers individuals for a free evaluation to help identify specific characteristics or disabilities that may prevent a young person from learning. The evaluation is the first step in getting the help he or she needs. A free evaluation is available for individuals from birth through age 25.

For those who qualify after the evaluation, the public school system helps families find special programs and educational services to meet the individual's needs so he or she can receive the best possible education.

Contact Information: See page 80

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVOCATE

This is a law-related website that lists other websites and library resources pertaining to special education rights of children with disabilities.

Contact Information: See page 82

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

This office distributes free copies of *A Guide to the Individualized Education Program*. Their website provides links to a wide variety of educational resources.

Contact Information: See page 83

TRANSPORTATION



TBI may affect an individual's driving skills. A person with TBI should consult with a physician before starting to drive again. A driving evaluation may be necessary. The Secretary of State can conduct evaluations for a fee. In addition, modifications to vehicles may be needed to accommodate the physical changes resulting from an injury.

Please note: If you have acquired your injury since the last time you got your driver's license, reapply up to 90 days before your birthday (the day your license expires) in order to have time to appeal a possible denial of license.

TIP

The local Secretary of State's office can provide handicap parking permits. The local transit office may have information about public transportation or volunteer transportation services for people with disabilities.

TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES AND RESOURCES

AMERICAN RED CROSS

The American Red Cross is an organization led by volunteers. They provide relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. The American Red Cross also provides community services, such as transportation, helping the homeless, and food and nutrition education.

Contact Information: See page 67

LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSIT AGENCIES

Michigan provides some transportation in all 83 counties. There are several urbanized public transit agencies across the state and several non-urbanized transit agencies. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) administers funding programs to these agencies. Specific information about local public transit services can be obtained by contacting MDOT's Passenger Transportation Division.

Contact Information: See page 81

MEDICAID

Medicaid reimburses some transportation expenses of Medicaid beneficiaries for travel to medically necessary health services. If you are enrolled in a Medicaid HMO, contact your HMO. If you are enrolled in a Medicaid Fee for Service plan, contact your local Department of Human Services caseworker.

To be eligible: Expenses reimbursed are those paid to a third party (bus or taxi fare for example) rather than for the individual's gasoline costs. The person with TBI must already be on Medicaid.

Contact Information: See page 74

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

TBI can be associated with alcohol and drug abuse problems. Abuse of alcohol and drugs may become a problem and interfere with recovery during treatment and rehabilitation. Alcohol or drug abuse may cause or increase depression and loneliness, and may further impair judgment and memory. If alcohol or drug abuse was a problem prior to TBI, tolerance of alcohol may be drastically lowered and the risk for acquiring another TBI is increased.¹³

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE AGENCIES AND RESOURCES

COORDINATING AGENCIES (CA)

MDCH contracts with regional CAs for access and referral to substance abuse services. Each CA has an Access Management System (AMS) that ensures appropriate screening of individuals to arrange for referrals to appropriate substance abuse treatment services. These screenings can be done in person. Some CAs will conduct the screening by phone, depending on the needs of the person seeking services.

¹³National Resource Center for Traumatic Brain Injury. (2000). The Brain Injury Source Book: Answers to Questions Most Often Asked. Richmond, Virginia: Virginia Commonwealth University, p. 82-84.

To be eligible: Individuals who receive public funding must be screened through the AMS system to be authorized for the available substance abuse benefits. Eligibility is based on the need for alcohol or drug abuse treatment.

Contact Information: See page 70

MENTAL HEALTH

Mood swings, anxiety, depression, and disruptive behaviors are some of the emotional results of TBI that some people may experience. Psychological impairments may appear for numerous reasons: (1) due to neurological damage from TBI, (2) as a result of the traumatic event, and (3) due to dramatic changes in lifestyle following TBI (loss of housing, employment, and peers). Primary care physicians can help decide if assistance for psychological difficulties is needed.¹⁴

MENTAL HEALTH AGENCIES AND RESOURCES

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAMS (CMHSP)

CMHSPs are under contract with the State of Michigan Department of Community Health to provide a full array of community-based support services for eligible individuals and their families. While some CMHSPs may directly operate treatment programs, most CMHSPs establish a network of agencies and providers to provide treatment and services. Services provided by the CMHSP may vary but are required to include emergency services, inpatient psychiatric services, discharge planning, case management, supports coordination, respite care, and personal care services including Home Help and specialized mental health personal care.

To be eligible: Persons, including children, with TBI who have a serious mental illness (for instance major depression or mood disorder due to

¹⁴National Resource Center for Traumatic Brain Injury. (2000). *The Brain Injury Source Book: Answers to Questions Most Often Asked*. Richmond, Virginia: Virginia Commonwealth University, p. 126-127.

head trauma) or who experienced their TBI before age 22, may be eligible and should contact their CMHSP for an assessment or intake. Individuals must be either Medicaid eligible or meet specified severity criteria.

Contact Information: See page 70

CAREGIVER SUPPORT AND RESPITE RELIEF



Research and experience have shown that family involvement is very valuable throughout a person's rehabilitation and can even improve a person's level of recovery. However, caring for a family member who has a TBI may be overwhelming.

Caregivers may have questions, and may need support to "stay healthy" in the caregiver role.

Support groups for individuals with TBI and their caregivers exist statewide. The availability of support groups may vary according to the region. Some groups will focus more on advocacy and problem solving, while others may focus on personal support.

Time off - respite relief - becomes a necessity to prevent "burn-out" and stress between family members as the family meets these new challenges and responsibilities. Respite relief offers caregivers some time for themselves and is generally short-term care - spanning from a few hours to an entire weekend. Emergency or telephone crisis services and/or access to an advocate (social worker, case manager) can also assist a family caregiver during stressful times.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT AGENCIES AND RESOURCES

ARCH NATIONAL RESPITE NETWORK

This organization runs an online National Respite Locator Service. The service helps parents, caregivers, and professionals find respite services in their state and local area to match their specific needs.

Contact Information: See page 67

AREA AGENCIES ON AGING (AAA)

AAAs are regional planning, advocacy, and administrative agencies. The Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) contracts with AAAs to plan and provide needed services to qualified individuals in specified geographic regions of the state. Many of these services (including respite care) are available to adults of any age. AAAs contract for in-home and community support services for older adults. Through designated state or federal programs, services may be available to younger persons with disabilities.

Contact Information: See page 68

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN (BIAMI)

BIAMI has local chapters and support groups throughout the state to provide support and encouragement to families and individuals with brain injury. Most groups meet monthly and provide information and assistance, as well as some recreational activities. Additional statewide activities include the "Spring Fling" in May and the "LAPS" walk in August.

Contact Information: See page 68

BRIDGES4KIDS

Bridges4Kids is a non-profit organization that provides information and referral services for parents and professionals looking for help for a child. This organization produces *A Family Guide to Respite for Children in Michigan*, available online at: <http://www.bridges4kids.org/fswg/FamilyGuideToRespite.pdf>.

Contact Information: See page 68

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAMS (CMHSP)

CMHSPs provide respite care for eligible families. The amount of respite that your family receives will vary depending on your family's needs. Respite may be the only support need identified by your family. Treatment from the CMHSP is not required to receive respite. (See page 44.)

To be eligible: Your local CMHSP can determine whether your family is eligible for Community Mental Health Services including respite care services. Eligibility for services is determined based on several factors including the nature and severity of your child's disability. Priority is generally given to families with the greatest need for this service. If your family is found to be eligible for respite, the cost of respite services will be decided based on your family's ability to pay as determined by CMHSP guidelines.

Contact Information: See page 70

FAMILY CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS (CYSHCN)

CYSHCN is a program that provides emotional and informational support to families of children with disabilities or special medical needs. CYSHCN provides families with connections to other parents and also offers information regarding community resources. There are several regional support groups throughout the state.

Contact Information: See page 72

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT



Individuals may lose certain work skills and abilities after TBI. Learning or relearning skills and abilities is often necessary to resume employment. Some questions to consider before returning to work include:

- ◆ If the individual chooses, is he/she healthy enough to consider returning to work?
- ◆ Would the individual be able to achieve his/her goal of returning to work if the hours were reduced from what they were previously?
- ◆ Would the individual be able to achieve his/her goal of returning to work if special equipment or supervision were provided?
- ◆ Would a redesign of duties and responsibilities enable the individual to return to work?

Individuals with TBI may not only need help finding a job, but keeping it. A variety of job supports may be necessary, such as assistive technology, mentoring, coaching, job site adaptations, and scheduling accommodations.

TIP

It is possible to work and maintain Social Security and Medicaid benefits. Refer to the programs "Freedom to Work" and "Ticket to Work," described on pages 48 and 50.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES AND RESOURCES

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC GROWTH - MICHIGAN REHABILITATION SERVICES (MRS)

This is a government program that helps persons with any disability, except legal blindness, to prepare for, enter into, retain, or regain employment. MRS also includes the Disability Management Program. The purpose of this program is to maximize productivity and minimize costs associated with disabilities resulting from work-related injuries that could prevent people from returning to work.

To be eligible: Applicants with TBI may be eligible for services based on medical, psychiatric, or psychological reports from their physician. Medical reports should identify the diagnosis, type of impairment, functional limitations, and recommendations for treatment. Individuals with TBI should be prepared to show a Social Security card or resident alien work visa.

Contact Information: See page 72

FREEDOM TO WORK MEDICAID

Michigan residents with disabilities may now work, earn more money, and save more of their earnings without losing their Medicaid coverage.

The new Freedom to Work (FTW) Medicaid program under Michigan Public Act 32 of 2003 removes limits that may have kept some individuals with disabilities from working or returning to work.

To be eligible: Applications for Freedom to Work Medicaid are made through county Department of Human Services (DHS) offices by asking for “Freedom to Work Medicaid” or “PEM 174.” People on Medicaid or eligible for Medicaid, with qualifying disabilities, aged 16 through 64 years old may be eligible. There are additional income and asset limitations. Some individuals with disabilities that access Medicaid through what is known as a “spend-down” or “deductible” are not eligible.

Contact Information: See DHS, page 71

MICHIGAN COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND (MCB)

MCB provides training and other services to individuals who are blind or visually impaired to achieve employment and/or independence. MCB is a state government agency, funded by state and federal funds, with services provided in all 83 counties of the state. MCB provides counseling and training in skills for daily living without vision. Depending on an individual’s needs and eligibility for specific services, MCB may also provide some types of adaptive equipment, computer software, and postsecondary education.

To be eligible: Applicants must live in Michigan and must meet specific criteria for legal blindness.

Contact Information: See page 76

MICHIGAN WORKS!

Michigan Works! agencies oversee a variety of programs to help employers find skilled workers and to help job seekers find satisfying careers. There are programs to help people who face serious barriers to employment to obtain help to get and keep a job.

Contact Information: See page 79

TICKET TO WORK

Ticket to Work is a voluntary program that offers Social Security beneficiaries with disabilities a variety of choices in obtaining the support and services they need to help them go to work and achieve their employment goals. If you receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits based on disability or blindness, and would like to work or increase your current earnings, this program can help you get vocational rehabilitation, training, job referrals, and other ongoing support and services to do so.

To be eligible: Applications for this program should be made directly to the program administrator Maximus.

Contact Information: See page 82

UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY (UCP) OF MICHIGAN – MICHIGAN TELEWORK LOAN FUND (MTLF)

The MTLF provides low interest loans that enable people with disabilities to purchase computer technology and/or equipment they need to work from home for an employer or to establish their own home-based businesses. In addition, employers may obtain loans to purchase such equipment on behalf of employees with disabilities who work from home.

To be eligible: Michigan residents with disabilities and their employers are eligible to apply. Having cerebral palsy is not a requirement.

Contact Information: See page 79

SECTION III

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR HEALTH CARE AND LOST INCOME



INTRODUCTION

This section reviews sources of financial coverage for both health care and lost income for the individual and family members. The first three sources of financial assistance listed below (Michigan No-Fault Automobile Insurance, Crime Victim Compensation Program, and Workers' Compensation) are available to certain individuals based on the events that led to the brain injury.

Traditional health care coverage should cover most medical expenses related to brain injuries. Depending on the type of insurance policy, expenses related to rehabilitation and durable medical equipment, such as wheelchairs and walkers, may be covered.

TIP

Most insurance programs have specific time limits for filing claims or reimbursement. Be sure to keep all records and written documentation.

Many employers offer private long term care insurance as part of an overall benefits package. Disability benefits are also offered by many employers to cover those who become disabled due to an accident or illness not related to their job. Check with your employer to see if you are covered under special long term care or disability benefits plans.

Many individuals lack long term care and disability insurance. Individuals who do have private health care coverage could lose it if they are not able to work after a brain injury. Therefore this section includes an overview of the types of public assistance for which individuals living with brain injury may qualify.

NO-FAULT AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Michigan has the most comprehensive no-fault auto insurance system in the nation. If the vehicle you were injured in was insured in Michigan, you/your injured family member will be provided with medical care and rehabilitation related to the injury for as long as these services are necessary. You will also be eligible for wage loss benefits and \$20 per day for replacement services

for up to three years. Moreover, a pedestrian or bicyclist in an accident involving a motor vehicle will also be covered. Note: There may be a time limit for filing claims. Individuals covered by this program may not be eligible for other public programs mentioned in this *Guide*.

Contact Information: See page 80

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH'S CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Crime Victim Compensation Program provides financial help to physically injured victims of a crime. Assistance is available for unpaid medical bills, loss of earnings or support, burial payments, rehabilitation assistance, and counseling. This program is a last resort funding resource with a limited reimbursement available to each eligible victim or victim's family.

To be eligible: The person must be the victim of a crime that occurred in Michigan, and as a result of that crime, must have sustained physical injury. The crime must be reported to law enforcement within 48 hours of its occurrence, and the victim must cooperate with police investigation and prosecution of the offender(s). The claim must be filed within one (1) year of the date of the crime. (More information is available from the agency.)

Contact Information: See page 77

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Workers' Compensation is a mandate under the Workers' Disability Compensation Act. It pays for all reasonable and necessary medical care for a work-related injury. If TBI occurs while performing job-related duties, the employer must be informed as soon as possible. A worker has up to 2 years to file a claim with his or her employer. If the employer does not report the injury, the worker can contact the Workers' Compensation Agency directly. In most circumstances, workers can be reimbursed for out-of-pocket payments to treat a

covered work injury. Loss of wages caused by the work-related injury may also be paid.

Contact Information: See page 85

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

In addition to providing retirement benefits, the Social Security Administration of the United States government provides benefits to persons with disabilities through the two programs described below.

Contact Information: See page 82

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) protects workers and families against loss of income due to disability. The amount of payment depends on how much the number holder has worked and paid into the Social Security system via taxes. Some Michigan government agencies may refer to this category of benefits as "Retirement, Survivor and Disability Insurance" or "RSDI."

TIP

There are federal and state sources of cash assistance and coverage of health care costs for people with disabilities. In addition to applying for social security disability benefits, you should contact your local DHS to see if you qualify for other resources.

To be eligible: In order to qualify, a person must have a disability that is expected to keep them from working for at least one year, or have a condition that will result in death. The condition must qualify as a disability as determined by Social Security law. Beneficiaries must be below the age of 65 years. Certain family members of workers with disabilities are also entitled to benefits (such as spouses and unmarried children under the age of 18 years). There are also survivor benefits when the family financial provider dies.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) provides financial assistance to people with disabilities who have limited income and resources even if they have not worked. Payments are not based on previous earnings and are meant to supplement current earnings or other income. Both children and adults can qualify for SSI. Those who qualify for SSI, also qualify for Medicaid, and possibly for food stamps and other forms of assistance.

To be eligible: In order to qualify, a person must have a disability that is expected to keep them from working for at least one year, or have a condition that will result in death. Also, the person must be below the age of 65 years and meet the income/resources criteria for the program. Social Security law determines if a disability qualifies a person for benefits.

MEDICARE

Medicare is health insurance for people age 65 or older, under age 65 with certain disabilities, and any age with end-stage renal disease (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant).

Most people get their Medicare health care coverage in one of two ways. Your costs vary depending on your plan, coverage, and the services you use.

| Original Medicare Plan | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Part A (Hospital) | Part B (Medical) |
| Medicare provides this coverage. Part B is optional. You have your choice of doctors. Your costs may be higher than in Medicare Advantage Plans. | |

+

| Part D (Prescription Drug Coverage) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| You can choose this coverage. Private companies approved by Medicare run these plans. Plans cover different drugs. Medically necessary drugs must be covered. |

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| Medigap (Medicare Supplement Insurance) Policy |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| You can choose to buy this private coverage (or an employer/union may offer similar coverage) to fill in gaps in Part A and Part B coverage. Costs vary by policy and company. |

OR

| Medicare Advantage Plans like HMOs and PPOs |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Called "Part C," this option combines your Part A (Hospital) and Part B (Medical) |
| Private insurance companies approved by Medicare provide this coverage. Generally, you must see doctors in the plan. Your costs may be lower than in the Original Medicare Plan, and you may get extra benefits. |

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| Part D (Prescription Drug Coverage) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Most Part C plans cover prescription drugs. If they don't, you may be able to choose this coverage. Plans cover different drugs. Medically necessary drugs must be covered. |

Contact Information: See page 74

MEDICAID

Medicaid is a public program for eligible persons with limited income and assets who may also be disabled. Examples of services that may be covered by Medicaid are inpatient and outpatient hospital services, routine physical exams, mental health services, home health care, pharmacy, dental care, and transportation. Accessing Medicaid services begins with contacting the local Department of Human Services (DHS) office. Persons with disabilities who are already on Medicare may still be eligible for Medicaid coverage.

To be eligible: Medicaid has certain income and asset requirements. A person's eligibility for Medicaid is determined by DHS. Those who qualify for SSI also qualify for Medicaid.

Contact Information: See page 74

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS)

DHS is a state department that determines whether or not individuals may be eligible for Medicaid programs. DHS also runs programs to provide financial and food assistance to low income families and individuals. (Medicaid was described above. Services provided by DHS-Adult Services are described on pages 11 and 31). Other programs available through DHS are described below. It is best to ask for the program you are interested in by name.

Contact Information: See page 71

Adult Medical Program (AMP), also known as the Adult Benefit Waiver, provides health insurance coverage to persons between the ages of 18 and 65, including basic medical, mental health, and substance abuse benefits. This program is only available during open-enrollment periods. Please contact your local DHS office to inquire when an open enrollment period will be in effect.

To be eligible: The individual must be a single childless adult, not able to qualify for Medicaid, not have comprehensive insurance, and have income at or below 35% of the federal poverty level.

Family Independence Program (FIP) provides cash assistance to families with children and pregnant women to help them pay for living expenses such as rent, heat, utilities, clothing, food, and personal care items. Help with transportation, childcare and other needs related to employment and training may be provided.

To be eligible: Children in the family must be under age 18, or age 18 or 19 and attending high school full-time and expected to graduate before age 20. A person must be a Michigan resident and intend to remain in Michigan. In addition, you cannot be receiving cash assistance from another state. There are additional eligibility requirements not included here.

Food Assistance Program (FAP), formerly known as Food Stamps, provides financial assistance to low-income persons to purchase food. Benefits are issued using electronic technology and a debit card known as the Bridge Card.

To be eligible: Generally, eligibility for food assistance depends on the financial situation of all members of the household group. All persons who live together and purchase and prepare food together are considered to be members of the same food assistance group.

State Disability Assistance (SDA) offers temporary cash assistance for living expenses while individuals with a disability are waiting for approval of SSI benefits, or if the disability is likely to last between 90 days to 1 year only. SDA may also be provided to the caretaker of a person with a disability.

To be eligible: To receive SDA, a person must be disabled, caring for a disabled person, or age 65 or older. It is necessary for a DHS specialist to certify that you are disabled. A person must be a Michigan resident and intend to remain in Michigan and not be receiving cash assistance from another state. There are additional eligibility requirements not included here.

DENTAL SERVICES - MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH (MDCH)

The Division of Family and Community Health in MDCH offers the two dental

assistance programs described below.

Contact Information: See page 71

Dental Treatment Fund for Persons with Developmental Disabilities: Dental services are provided by a private dentist or community dental clinic who is reimbursed for services. Dental providers have to be part of the Delta Dental Plan network and submit treatment plans to Delta for approval.

To be eligible: Individuals must have a developmental disability and be referred by a Community Mental Health Services Program (CMHSP). (See page 30 for eligibility for CMHSP services.)

Donated Dental Services: This program provides extensive dental treatment (not just cleaning and check-up). Patients are linked to volunteer private dental offices through a referral network. Extensive treatments, such as orthodontics, must be medically necessary. Sometimes there is a waiting list for services.

To be eligible: Persons must be permanently disabled, chronically ill, or elderly and meet income criteria.

BENEFITS AND SERVICES FOR MILITARY VETERANS

TBI is being called the “hallmark injury” faced by veterans in Iraq and Afghanistan. TBI may be caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs), mortars, vehicle accidents, grenades, bullets, mines, and falls. The extent of damage from brain injury is not always realized until the soldier comes home to his or her community; and even then it might not be recognized as a brain injury.

Veterans and Family Members

Michigan is proud of you and grateful for your sacrifices. For more information about services that may be available to you, you are encouraged to contact the Joint Veterans Council of Michigan at (800) 455-5228, or www.michigan.gov/vetbenefits.

If you were exposed to a blast injury and are experiencing symptoms of brain injury (see page 6), further screening and/or evaluation may be right for you.

RESOURCES FOR VETERANS IN MICHIGAN

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN (BIAMI)

BIAMI works to improve the lives of those affected by brain injury through education, advocacy, research, and local support groups. In 2007, BIAMI created a Veteran's Program specifically to help combatants returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with TBI.

Contact Information: See page 68

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)

Veterans of the United States Armed Forces may be eligible for a broad range of programs and services provided by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), including:

- ◆ Disability benefits
- ◆ Education and training
- ◆ Health care
- ◆ Dependent and survivor benefits
- ◆ Home loan guarantee

To be eligible: Eligibility for most VA benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions. Active service means full-time service, other than active duty for training, as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, Environmental Science Services Administration, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or its predecessor, the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Those seeking a VA benefit for the first time must submit a copy of their service discharge form (DD-214, DD-215, or for WWII veterans, a WD form), which documents service dates and type of discharge. The

veteran's service discharge form should be kept in a safe location accessible to the veteran and next of kin or designated representative. Or, they must give their full name, military service number, and branch and dates of service.

Contact Information: See page 83

DEFENSE AND VETERANS BRAIN INJURY CENTER (DVBIC)

The DVBIC is a collaboration between the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs. It serves active duty military, their dependents, and veterans with TBI. It develops and provides TBI-specific evaluation, treatment, and follow-up care. The DVBIC produces a number of materials that are helpful for understanding TBI and how to best treat and manage the long-term effects of TBI. Research conducted by the DVBIC has helped define optimal care for survivors of TBI.

Contact Information: See page 71

MICHIGAN VETERANS COUNTY COUNSELORS AND VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS (VSOs)

The Michigan Veterans County Counselors and the VSOs are valuable resources to assist our veterans in understanding and obtaining deserved benefits. A list of key VSOs in Michigan is in Section V of this *Guide* (see page 85).

Contact Information: See pages 83-85

MICHIGAN VETERANS TRUST FUND

This trust fund provides *temporary* grants for emergencies or hardships to eligible wartime veterans, and their families, residing in the state. The trust fund cannot provide assistance for long-term problems or chronic financial difficulties. The assistance must be essential and not for the relief of an inconvenience, or the purchase of a want or desire.

Contact Information: See page 84

JOINT VETERANS COUNCIL OF MICHIGAN

The Joint Veterans Council of Michigan was formed in 2005 to help coordinate the resources available to returning veterans. The Council's mission is to coordinate, collaborate, leverage, and integrate available resources to assist all past, present, and future veterans in Michigan, as well as their families.

Contact Information: See page 84

PROGRAMS SPECIFICALLY FOR CHILDREN

MI CHILD AND HEALTHY KIDS PROGRAMS

MI Child is for uninsured children under 19 years of age. It is a state-wide program that provides health care coverage to children who have not had comprehensive health coverage in the last 6 months. MI Child covers inpatient and outpatient care, regular checkups, immunizations, emergency care, dental, mental health, and substance abuse services. There is a small monthly premium for MI Child coverage.

Healthy Kids is free Medicaid coverage for children.

To be eligible: There is one application process for MI Child and Healthy Kids. Eligibility is determined through the MI Child application. Each program has its own financial eligibility criteria.

Contact Information: See page 75

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES (CSHCS)

This program provides payment for specialized medical care and treatment for individuals with certain conditions. This service is available to children from birth to 21 years of age (or longer under certain conditions).

To be eligible: Medical eligibility is determined by submitting a medical report to the CSHCS state office. The CSHCS office at the local health department can help parents or individuals obtain a medical report that determines eligibility.

Contact Information: See page 69

CHILDREN'S WAIVER PROGRAM (CWP)

The CWP is a federal entitlement program that provides Medicaid funded home and community-based services to children (under age 18) who are eligible for, and at risk of, placement into an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR).

Children with developmental disabilities and who have challenging behaviors and/or complex medical needs are served through this program.

The CWP enables children to remain in their parents' home or return to their parents' home from out-of-home placements, while receiving regular Medicaid State Plan services (case management, private duty nursing) and waiver services, regardless of their parents' income.

The waiver services include:

- ◆ Family training
- ◆ Non-family training
- ◆ Specialty services (such as music, recreation, art, and massage therapy)
- ◆ Community living supports
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Respite care
- ◆ Environmental accessibility adaptations
- ◆ Specialty medical equipment

The program has a capacity to serve 435 children statewide. Although the program is at capacity, a waiting list is maintained, using a priority rating system to add new children to the program when openings occur.

To request more information regarding eligibility or to submit a prescreen application for the program contact your local Community Mental Health Services Program.

Contact Information: See page 70

SECTION IV
SUMMARY OF SERVICES OFFERED BY SELECTED
GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE AGENCIES



TABLE 1: SOURCES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT¹ FOR SERVICES

| Agency Name | General Income Support | Assessment & Rehabilitation | Assistive Technology | Living & Care | Transportation | Mental Health | Alcohol and Drug Abuse | Caregiver Support |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Children's Special Health Care Services | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| Children's Waiver | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Community Mental Health Services Programs | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Department of Human Services | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Housing and Urban Development (through MSHDA and/or Local Public Housing Authority) | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| MDCH - Crime Victim Compensation Program | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| Medicaid | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Medicaid TBI Memorandum of Understanding | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Medicare | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| MI Child & Healthy Kids | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | |
| MI Choice Program | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| No-Fault Automobile Insurance | ✓ (for 3 years) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Social Security Benefits | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| Workers' Compensation ² | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |

¹ The term "financial support" does not imply a cash benefit in all instances.

² Workers' Compensation is for work related injuries.

TABLE 2: SELECTED MICHIGAN SERVICE PROVIDERS

| Agency Name | Advocacy and/or Legal Assistance | Assessment and Rehabilitation | Assistive Technology | Living & Care | Public Education | Transportation | Alcohol & Drug Abuse | Mental Health | Caregiver Support & Respite | Vocational Assistance |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Coordinating Agencies | I/R; D | | | | | | I/R; D | | | |
| Area Agencies on Aging | | I/R | I/R | I/R | | D | I/R | I/R | I/R; D | I/R |
| Brain Injury Association of MI | I/R; D | I/R | | I/R | I/R | | | | I/R; D | |
| Centers for Independent Living | D | D | I/R | I/R | | I/R; D | | | I/R; D | I/R |
| Community Mental Health Services Programs | | I/R; D | I/R; D | I/R; D | | I/R; D | I/R; D | D | I/R; D | I/R; D |
| Department of Human Services - Adult Services | I/R; D ¹ | | I/R; D ² | I/R; D | | I/R | I/R | I/R | I/R | |
| DLEG - MI Rehabilitation Services | I/R | D | D | I/R | I/R | I/R | I/R | I/R | I/R | D |
| Epilepsy Foundation of MI | I/R | I/R | I/R | I/R | I/R | | | D | I/R | I/R |
| Medicaid TBI Memorandum of Understanding | I/R; D | D | | I/R | | | | | | |
| MI Department of Education | | I/R | | | I/R | I/R | | | | |
| MI Disability Rights Coalition | I/R | I/R | I/R | I/R | I/R | | | | | |
| MI Legal Aid Services | I/R | | | | | | | | | |

¹ Direct Services for Advocacy Only² Sometimes available through Physical Disability Services Program³ Services available to veterans only**LEGEND**

I/R = Information and Referral Services

D = Direct Services (actual provider of service such as counseling, etc.)

TABLE 2: SELECTED MICHIGAN SERVICE PROVIDERS *(continued)*

| Agency Name | Advocacy and/or Legal Assistance | Assessment and Rehabilitation | Assistive Technology | Living & Care | Public Education | Transportation | Alcohol & Drug Abuse | Mental Health | Caregiver Support & Respite | Vocational Assistance |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| MI Long Term Care Connections | I/R | I/R | I/R | I/R | | I/R | I/R | I/R | I/R | I/R |
| MI Protection and Advocacy Service | I/R; D | I/R | I/R | I/R | | I/R | I/R | I/R | I/R | I/R |
| MI Quality Community Care Council | | | | I/R; D | | | | | I/R; D | |
| MI State Housing Development Authority | | | | I/R; D | | | | | | |
| Public Housing Authority | | | | I/R; D | | | | | | |
| Public Transit Agencies | | | | | | I/R; D | | | | |
| School District | | D | D | | D | D | I/R | I/R | I/R | I/R;D |
| United Cerebral Palsy (UCP Michigan) | | | I/R; D | | I/R | | | | | I/R |
| United Way | I/R | I/R | I/R | | | I/R | I/R | I/R | I/R | I/R |
| Veterans Affairs, Dept. of ³ | | D | D | D | | I/R | D | D | D | D |

¹ Direct Services for Advocacy Only

² Sometimes available through Physical Disability Services Program

³ Services available to veterans only

LEGEND

I/R = Information and Referral Services

D = Direct Services (actual provider of service such as counseling, etc.)

SECTION V
CONTACT INFORMATION FOR AGENCIES,
RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS



ORGANIZATIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

ABLEDATA 22

8630 Fenton Street, Suite 930
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(800) 227-0216
E-mail: abledata@orcmacro.com
Website: www.abledata.com

Adult Medical Program (AMP) 55

See Department of Human Services on page 71. When calling, ask for information regarding the Adult Medical Program.

American Red Cross 42

Contact information for your local chapter is available in the phone book.
Website: www.redcross.org/where/where.html
Local chapter number: _____

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information Line 8

U.S. Department of Justice
(800) 514-0301
(800) 514-0383 (TTY)
Website: www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm

ARCH National Respite Network 45

Chapel Hill Training-Outreach Project, Inc.
800 Eastowne Dr. Suite 105
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(919) 490-5577
(919) 490-5577 (TDD)
Website: www.archrespite.org

Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) 46

To find the AAA in your area, go to the website: www.michigan.gov/miseniors. (Click, "Search for Agencies", "Area Agency on Aging.") You can also call the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) and ask for the contact information for the AAA in your area, (517) 373-8230.

Local AAA: _____

Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) 10, 22

8201 Greensboro Dr., Suite 611

McLean, VA 22102

(703) 761-0750

Family Helpline: (800) 444-6443

Website: www.biausa.org

The online *Catalog of Portable Electronic Devices for Memory and Organization* is available at: www.biausa.org/Pages/AT/index.php

Brain Injury Association of Michigan (BIAMI) 10, 16, 20, 29, 46, 58

8619 West Grand River, Suite I

Brighton, MI 48116

(800) 772-4323

E-mail: info@biami.org

Website: www.biami.org

Local chapter or support group: _____

Brain Injury Chat 11

Website: www.braininjurychat.org

Bridges4Kids 38, 46

Information and referral specialists can be found by calling the Bridges4Kids toll-free help line at (877)-HELP 4 KIDS (435-7454).

2465 Woodlake Circle, Suite 140

Okemos, MI 48864

(877) 553-KIDS

Website: www.bridges4kids.org

E-mail: info@bridges4kids.org

Center for Educational Networking (CEN) 38

Eaton ISD
224 S. Cochran
Charlotte, MI 48813
(800) 593-9146
(517) 541-1318
(517) 321-6101
Website: www.cenmi.org

Centers for Independent Living (CIL) 11, 16, 29

Look in your phone book or contact the Disability Network/Michigan.
(888) 255-2457
Website: www.dnmichigan.org (See Member Locator for local office contact information)
Local CIL: _____

Children with Special Needs Fund 23

You may contact the Fund directly at: (517) 241-7420; or call the CSHCS Family Phone Line at (800) 359-3722.
You may also call and ask to speak to the Children with Special Health Care Services Program at your local health department (listed in the phone book under "County Government").
Website: www.Michigan.gov (Search for "Children with Special Needs Fund.")

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) 60

Contact your local health department listed in the phone book under "County Government."
MDCH-CSHCS
P.O. Box 30734
Lansing, MI 48909-8234
(800) 359-3722
Website: www.Michigan.gov/cshcs
Local contact for CSHCS: _____

Children’s Waiver Program (CWP) 29, 61

This program is provided by the Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSP). See Community Mental Health Services Programs.

Citizens Alliance to Uphold Special Education (CAUSE) 39

6412 Centurion Dr., Suite 130
Lansing, MI 48917
(800) 221-9105 (Michigan only)
E-mail: info@causeonline.org
Website: www.causeonline.org

Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSP) 30, 44, 46

The phone number for your local CMHSP is available in the phone book. Look under “County Government” or possibly under “Mental Health Services” in the yellow pages.

Or, you may contact:

Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards (MACMHB)
426 South Walnut
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 374-6848
Website: www.macmhb.org
Local CMHSP: _____

Coordinating Agencies (CA) 43

There are several regional Coordinating Agencies in Michigan. Call the substance abuse referral line at (888) 736-0253. You may also call the MDCH Office of Drug Control Policy at (517) 373-4700.

Website: www.michigan.gov/odcp
Local CA: _____

Crime Victim Compensation Program 52

See Michigan Department of Community Health - Crime Victim Compensation Program on page 77.

Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC) 59

Building 1, Room B209
Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20307-5001
(800) 870-9244
Website: www.dvbic.org

Dental Services - Michigan Department of Community Health 56

Dental Treatment Fund for Persons with Developmental Disabilities
MDCH Oral Health Program
(517) 335-8388
Website: www.michigan.gov/oralhealth

Donated Dental Services
(800) 850-5913 (Note: Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne
Counties only)
(866) 263-4067 (all other Michigan counties)

Department of Human Services (DHS) 55

Every county in the state has a local DHS office and contact information is available in the phone book under "State Government" or "County Government." You may also call the Lansing office and ask for the phone number for the county in which you live, (517) 373-2035.
Website: <http://www.michigan.gov/dhs>
Local DHS office: _____

Department of Human Services (DHS) - Adult Services 11, 31

Contact your local Department of Human Services office (see Department of Human Services). When calling, ask to speak with an adult services worker.

Adult Protective Services can be contacted by calling the local Department of Human Services office or by contacting the 24 hour Vulnerable Adult Helpline at (800) 996-6228.

Department of Labor and Economic Growth - Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) 48

For the address and phone number of the local office nearest your county of residence, call the Customer Service Desk:

(800) 605-7277 (voice)

(888) 605-6722 (TTY)

Website: www.michigan.gov/mrs

Local contact: _____

DisabilityInfo.Gov 12

Website: www.disabilityinfo.gov

Early On ® 39

(800) 327-5966

(517) 668-2505 (TTY)

Website: www.michigan.gov/earlyon

Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan 12

20300 Civic Center Drive, Suite 250

Southfield, MI 48076

(800) 377-6226

Website: www.epilepsymichigan.org

Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) 47

MDCH-CSHCS-CYSHCN

Cadillac Place

3056 W. Grand Boulevard, Suite 3-350

Detroit, MI 48207-6056

(800) 359-3722

Website: www.michigan.gov/cshcs

Family Independence Agency (FIA) 55

FIA is the former name of the Department of Human Services (DHS). See page 71.

Family Independence Program (FIP) 56

See Department of Human Services on page 71. When calling, ask for information regarding the Family Independence Program.

Food Assistance Program (FAP) 56

See Department of Human Services on page 71. When calling, ask for information regarding the Food Assistance Program.

Freedom to Work Medicaid 48

Contact the Department of Human Services (Page 71)

Health Care Association of Michigan (HCAM) 31

P.O. Box 80050
Lansing, MI 48908
(517) 627-1561
Website: www.hcam.org

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 32

Federal contact information:

451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20410
(202) 708-1112
(202) 708-1455 (TTY)
Website: www.hud.gov

Michigan offices:

McNamara Federal Building
477 Michigan Ave., Suite 1700
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 226-7900

Trade Center Building
50 Louis NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 456-2100

Phoenix Building
801 S. Saginaw, 4th Floor
Flint, MI 48502
(810) 766-5112

Intermediate School Districts (ISD) 40

Look in the yellow pages of the telephone book under “schools” to locate your local ISD. You may also look up local schools and intermediate school districts on the web at:

<https://cepi.state.mi.us/SCM/main.asp>

Local ISD: _____

Medicaid 43, 55

For questions about **eligibility** contact the Department of Human Services (see Department of Human Services on page 71).

Or, contact a Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) Counselor at (800) 803-7174.

Website: www.mymmap.org

For questions about **coverage** of specific services you will need to contact the Michigan Department of Community Health at (517) 373-3500.

For any problems after you have applied and are approved for Medicaid, you may contact the State Helpline for Medicaid Clients at (800) 642-3195.

Medicaid Traumatic Brain Injury Memorandum of Understanding Program 20

Capitol Commons Center
400 S. Pine
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 373-9764

Medicare 54

To enroll in Medicare, contact your local Social Security office (see Social Security Administration on page 82).

If you are on Medicare and have **questions**, contact Medicare directly at (800) 633-4227.

Or, older adults, persons with disabilities and their caregivers who receive Medicare or Medicaid may contact a Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) Counselor at (800) 803-7174.
Website: www.mymmap.org

MI Child and Healthy Kids 60

You can apply for MI Child and Healthy Kids through the website or by calling a toll-free telephone number to request an application. The applications are also available at local health departments and DHS offices.

(888) 988-6300

Website: www.michigan.gov/michild

Or, contact your local Department of Human Services (DHS) office (see DHS on page 71). When calling, ask for information regarding MI Child and Healthy Kids.

MI Choice Program 32

Program agents are located throughout the state. To find a local agent, visit the following website or contact the Michigan Department of Community Health at (517) 241-8265.

Website: www.michigan.gov/mdch (Search for "MI Choice Program.")

Local program agency: _____

Michigan Alliance for Families 40

(800) 292-7851

(517) 487-5426

Website: www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org

E-mail: sherri@arcmi.org

Michigan Assisted Living Association 33

15441 Middlebelt Road

Livonia, MI 48154

(800) 482-0118

Website: www.miassistedliving.org

Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Funds 24

For information or to apply on-line visit www.michiganloanfunds.org. Or, information can be obtained from United Cerebral Palsy Michigan (see United Cerebral Palsy Michigan on page 83).

Michigan Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (MAHSA) ... 33

6512 Centurion Dr., Suite 380
Lansing, MI 48917
(517) 323-3687
Website: www.mahsahome.org

Michigan Commission for the Blind (MCB) 49

MCB's central office is located in Lansing. There are also eight field offices throughout Michigan and the MCB Training Center in Kalamazoo. Call the toll-free numbers below from anywhere in Michigan to be connected to your local office.

Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth
201 N. Washington Square, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 30652
Lansing, MI 48909
(800) 292-4200
(800) 664-1212 (TTY)
Website: www.michigan.gov/mcb
Local MCB office: _____

Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) 16

(800) 482-3604
(877) 878-8464 (TTY)
Website: www.michigan.gov/mdcr
Local MDCR office: _____

Michigan Department of Community Health - Bureau of Health Systems (MDCH - BHS) 33

P.O. Box 30004
Lansing, MI 48909
or

611 W. Ottawa, 1st Floor
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 241-2626
Website: www.michigan.gov/bhs

**Michigan Department of Community Health - Crime Victim
Compensation Program 52**

Lewis Cass Building
320 S. Walnut Street
Lansing, MI 48913
(517) 373-7373
Website: www.michigan.gov/crimevictim

**Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) - Traumatic Brain
Injury (TBI) Project 12**

TBI Project Director, John Jokisch: (517) 335-0244
Website: www.michigan.gov/tbi
Free online training about TBI is available at: www.mitbitraining.org
E-mail: info@mitbitraining.org

Michigan Department of Education (MDE) 40

Michigan Department of Education
608 W. Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-3324
E-mail: MDEweb@michigan.gov
Website: www.michigan.gov/mde

Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC) 17

780 West Lake Lansing Road, Suite 200
East Lansing, MI 48823
(800) 760-4600
(517) 333-2477
Website: www.copower.org

Michigan Legal Aid 17

Look in the phone book under “Legal Aid” to find the number for local services or visit www.MichiganLegalAid.org.

Michigan Long Term Care Connections (MLTCCs) 13, 33

You may obtain information from a MLTCC in your area by calling (866) MICH-LTC (642-4582). The call will be routed to the office in your area, or if there are no offices in your area, the call will be routed to the Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program.

Areas covered by the MLTCCs are as follows:

Detroit/Wayne County - Cities of Detroit, Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Shores, Grosse Pointe Woods, Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Highland Park, and Western Wayne County.

Southwest Michigan - Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties.

Upper Peninsula - Alger, Baraga, Chippewa, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, Menominee, Ontonagon, and Schoolcraft Counties.

West Michigan - Allegan, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, and Ottawa Counties.

Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Inc. (MPAS) 17

4095 Legacy Parkway
Suite 500
Lansing, MI 48911
(800) 288-5923 (voice or TTY)
Website: www.mpas.org

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) 48

See Department of Labor and Economic Growth - MRS on page 72.

Michigan Quality Community Care Council (QC3) 34

1115 South Pennsylvania, Suite 203
Lansing, MI 48912
(800) 979-4662
Website: www.mqccc.org/index.html

Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) 34

735 East Michigan Avenue
Lansing, MI 48909
or
P.O. Box 30044
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-8370
(800) 382-4568 (TTY)

To find the **Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8)** office nearest you:
(517) 373-9344
E-mail: mshdaWebMaster@michigan.gov
(Note: this address is case sensitive; it needs to be typed as shown.)

To find information about a variety of MSHDA programs:
Website: www.michigan.gov/mshda
Local Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) office: _____

Michigan TeleWork Loan Fund (MTLF) 24, 50

For information or to apply on-line visit www.michiganloanfunds.org. Or, information can be obtained from United Cerebral Palsy Michigan (see United Cerebral Palsy Michigan on page 83).

Michigan Works! 49

(800) 285-9675
(800) 649-3777 (TTY)
Website: www.michiganworks.org

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Michigan’s Assistive Technology Project | 23 |
| Project website: www.copower.org/AT/index.htm | |
| Assistive technology reuse website: www.atxchange.org | |
| Michigan’s Integrated Technology Support (MITS) | 24 |
| 1037 South U.S. 27 | |
| St. Johns, MI 48879-2424 | |
| (800) 274-7426 | |
| (989) 224-0246 (TTY) | |
| Website: www.cenmi.org/mits | |
| National Resource Center for Traumatic Brain Injury (NRC for TBI) ... | 13 |
| Box 980542 | |
| Richmond, VA 23298-0542 | |
| (804) 828-9055 | |
| Website: www.neuro.pmr.vcu.edu | |
| No-Fault Automobile Insurance | 51 |
| Contact your insurance claims manager, or | |
| Consumer Services | |
| Division of Insurance | |
| P.O. Box 30220 | |
| Lansing, MI 48090-7720 | |
| (877) 999-6442 | |
| Physical Disability Services (PDS) | 24 |
| See Department of Human Services on page 71. | |
| Project Find | 41 |
| (800) 252-0052 | |
| (517) 668-2505 (TTY) | |
| Website: www.projectfindmichigan.org | |
| Public Housing Authorities | 32 |
| Check the phone book under “City Government” or “County Government” | |

for the housing commission in your area. The HUD website, www.hud.gov, provides a link to listings of local public housing authorities. Your local Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) should also be able to provide contact information.

Local public housing authority: _____

Public Schools - Special Education and Early Intervention Services 20, 40

For special education services, parents should contact the local school district administrative office and ask to speak with the administrator responsible for special education services. MDE can help locate the appropriate local official to be contacted. Parents may also contact their Intermediate School District (ISD). Michigan’s ISDs are responsible for overseeing the delivery of special education services. Look in the yellow pages of the phone book under “Schools.”

Additional information can be obtained from:

Michigan Department of Education

P.O. Box 30008

Lansing, MI 48909

(517) 335-4865 (For children with disabilities ages 0-3 years)

(517) 373-0923 (For children over 3 years with disabilities)

Website: www.michigan.gov/mde (Search for “Special Education.”)

Local administrator for special education: _____

Public Transit Agencies..... 42

For information regarding local public transit service in your area contact the Michigan Department of Transportation at:

State Transportation Building

425 W. Ottawa Street

P.O. Box 30050

Lansing, MI 48909

(517) 373-0471

Website: www.michigan.gov/mdot (Search for “public transit providers.”)

Shelter Plus Care 34

(313) 456-4360

Website: www.michigan.gov/mdch (Search for “Shelter Plus Care.”)

Social Security Administration 53

Find your local Social Security office in the phone book under “Federal Government.” Or, call Social Security’s toll free telephone number to get the number for your local office:

(800) 772-1213

(800) 325-0778 (TTY)

Website: www.ssa.gov

Local Social Security office: _____

For eligibility questions while your disability claim is pending, call the Michigan Disability Determination Service Hotline, (800) 753-9157.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) 53

See Social Security Administration on this page.

Special Education Advocate 41

Website: www.wrightslaw.com/advoc/articles/subscribe_nltr.htm

State Disability Assistance (SDA) 56

See Department of Human Services on page 71. When calling, ask for information regarding the State Disability Assistance program.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) 53

See Social Security Administration on this page.

Ticket to Work 50

Toll-free line: (866) 968-7842

Toll-free TDD line: (866) TDD-2WORK, (866) 833-2967.

United Cerebral Palsy Assistive Technology Center in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula 25

UCP Michigan, Assistive Technology Center

321 E. Ohio St.

Marquette, MI 49855

(906) 226-9903

Website: www.ucpatcenter.org

United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Michigan 13, 17, 24, 50

3401 E. Saginaw, Suite 216
Lansing, MI 48912
(800) 828-2714 or
(517) 203-1200
Website: www.ucpmichigan.org

United Way 13, 17

Locate your local United Way office in the business pages of the phone book. For a list of local offices:
(517) 371-4360
Website: www.uwmich.org
Local contact: _____

U.S. Department of Education 41

ED Pubs
P.O. Box 1398
Jessup, MD 20794-1398
(877) 4-ED-PUBS
(877) 576-7734 (TTY/TDD)
Website: www.ed.gov/parents/needs/speced/edpicks.jhtml?src=In

Veterans Affairs, Department of 58

VA Benefits: (800) 827-1000
Health Care Benefits: (877) 222-8387
Website: www.va.gov

VA Regional Office

McNamara Federal Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226

Veterans Integrated Service Network 11: Veterans in Partnership

(Serves Lower Michigan and portions of Illinois and Indiana)
P.O. Box 134002
Ann Arbor, MI 48113-4002
(734) 222-4300

Veterans Integrated Service Network 12: VA Great Lakes Health Care System

(Serves Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Northwest Indiana)

P.O. Box 5000, Building 18
Hines, IL 60141-5000
(708) 202-8400

Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Lansing, MI 48906
517-335-6523
Website: www.michigan.gov/dmva

To contact a **Veterans County Counselor** (county level points of contact for veterans information), call the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (listed above) or go to the website, www.michigan.gov/veterans, and click on “County Contacts for Veterans” on the left-hand margin of the window.

Local contact: _____

For more information about the **Michigan Veterans Trust Fund**, contact your County Counselor or:

3423 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Lansing, MI 48905
(517) 373-3130

For more information about services available in Michigan, also try contacting the **Joint Veterans Council of Michigan**.

(800) 455-5228
Website: www.Michigan.gov/vetbenefits

Veterans Service Organizations 59

The VA produces a Directory of VSOs that may be accessed on its website, www1.va.gov/vso/. Contact information for many VSOs active in Michigan are listed on the following page.

The American Legion

John Nelson
477 Michigan Avenue, Room 1210
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 964-6640
john.nelson@vba.va.gov

American Red Cross

(202) 303-5834
www.redcross.org

AMVETS

Darrell Kozma
477 Michigan Avenue, Room 1227
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 964-6920

Catholic War Veterans

Leondas Galinskas
477 Michigan Avenue, Room 1225
Detroit, MI 48226

Disabled American Veterans

David Van Hill
477 Michigan Avenue, Room 1200
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 964-6595
david.vanhill@vba.va.gov

Jewish War Veterans

Jack Weiss
477 Michigan Avenue, Room 1225
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 471-3897

Marine Corps League

James Tuohy
477 Michigan Avenue, Room 1232
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 964-6830
james.tuohy@vba.va.gov

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Cynthia Cranford
477 Michigan Avenue, Room 1226
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 964-6888
cynthia.cranford@vba.va.gov

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Charles Henning
477 Michigan Avenue, Room 1233
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 471-3996
charlesh@pva.org

Polish Legion of American Veterans

Joe Liwak
8256 E. Twelve Mile Road
Warren, MI 48903
(586) 582-9125
plavdeptmi@juno.com

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Dan Crocker
477 Michigan Avenue, Room 1215
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 964-6510
daniel.crocker@vba.va.gov

Vietnam Veterans of America

Phil Smith
477 Michigan Avenue, Room 1231
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 961-9568
phil.smith@vba.va.gov

Workers' Compensation Agency 52

To **report an injury or apply for benefits**, contact:
Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth
Workers' Compensation Agency
P.O. Box 30016
Lansing, MI 48909
888-396-5041
TDD: (517) 322-5987
Website: www.michigan.gov/wca

If a **Notice of Dispute** is received from the workers' compensation insurance company, obtain an Application for Mediation by contacting:

SECTION VI

GLOSSARY OF TERMS



GLOSSARY

A

Acquired brain injury (ABI) - an injury to the brain that has occurred after birth and includes: TBI, stroke, near suffocation, infections in the brain, and others. The term does not apply to brain injuries that are congenital (present since birth) or degenerative (progressive deterioration of brain tissue), or brain injuries caused by birth trauma.

Advocacy - the act of pleading or arguing in favor of something such as a cause, idea or policy; active support.

Advocate - to argue for a cause, or plead on another's behalf for education, legal or vocational rights; or a person who argues for their own, or another person's rights.

Assistive Technology - any technology that enables someone to do something that they normally cannot do. A special device which assists in the performance of self care, work or play/leisure activities or physical exercise.

Attorney (specializing in TBI cases) - advocates for fair medical treatment, services and compensation for persons with TBI and their families.

B

Beneficiary - the person named to receive benefits.

C

Case manager - a person who assesses, plans, implements, coordinates, monitors and evaluates the options and services required to meet an individual's health needs to promote quality, cost-effective outcomes.

Chronic - marked by long duration or frequent recurrence.

Clinical psychiatrist - provides psychotherapy, counseling and consultation to persons with TBI and their family members; can prescribe medication.

Cognitive - refers to functions of the brain and how one thinks or reasons.

Concussion - another term for mild TBI. (See definition of mild TBI on page 88.)

Criteria - standard on which a judgement or decision may be based.

I

IDEA - "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act." Authorized in 1991 it includes "traumatic brain injury" as a disability category for those students requiring special education services.

L

Long term care - the medical, social, personal care, and supportive services needed by people who are unable to care for themselves due to a chronic illness or condition. It's different from acute health care because assistance is required for an indefinite period of time, and because recovery of function may be incomplete.

M

Medicaid - a jointly funded, federal-state health coverage program for certain low-income people.

Medicare - a federal health insurance program for people age 65 and over, those who have permanent kidney failure, and certain people with disabilities.

Mild traumatic brain injury - disruption of the normal function of the brain caused by a blow or jolt to the head. Mild TBI is the same thing as a concussion. After a mild TBI, some people lose consciousness or are "knocked out,"

but you can have a mild TBI without losing consciousness. Some people are simply dazed or confused. Sometimes whiplash can cause a mild TBI. Although mild TBI is not usually life threatening, in some cases the effects can be serious.¹⁵

N

Neurologist - physician who diagnoses and treats disorders of the nervous system.

Neuropsychiatrist - physician who specializes in treating disorders of the brain, nerves and muscles; can prescribe medication.

Neuropsychologist - evaluates the relationship between brain and behavior; conducts extensive testing and counseling; does not prescribe medication.

Neurosurgeon - physician who may perform brain surgery; often coordinates patient care in acute hospitalization.

O

Occupational therapy (OT) - the use of self-care, work, and play activities to increase independent function, enhance development, and prevent disability. OT may include the adaptation of a task or the environment to achieve maximum independence. An **occupational therapist** is a professional who helps a person to regain skills in activities of daily living (such as dressing, eating, and bathing) and routine "occupations" (such as cooking, shopping, scheduling, and driving).

P

Physiatrist (PMR) - physician who specializes in physical medicine and rehabilitation; an expert in neurologic and physical rehabilitation, trained to diagnose and treat disabling conditions.

¹⁵Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2007). Facts about Concussion and Brain Injury: Where to get help. Web site: <http://0-www.cdc.gov.mill1.sjlibrary.org/ncipc/tbi/default.htm#PDF>.

Physical therapy (PT) - treatment that uses physical agents such as exercise and massage to restore or facilitate recovery of physical abilities. A **physical therapist** is a professional who treats injury or physical dysfunction with exercises and other physical treatments to restore or facilitate recovery of physical abilities.

Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) - used to describe the local entity that the Michigan Department of Community Health contracts with to provide Medicaid managed mental health services and supports.

Psychiatrist - a physician who specializes in the treatment of behavioral disorders and mental disease; can prescribe medication.

Psychologist - a person who studies the science of mental process and behavior and conducts extensive testing and counseling; cannot prescribe medications.

R

Recreation therapy (RT) - treatment to help persons with TBI learn new leisure and recreational skills or adapt old ones to improve quality of life. A **recreation therapist** is a professional who helps persons with TBI learn new recreational skills to improve quality of life.

Referral - to send or direct for treatment, aid, information or decision.

Rehabilitation - the return of function after injury or illness, often with the assistance of a variety of medical professionals.

Rehabilitation services- services that help a person recover and improve from TBI.

Reimburse - to pay back.

Resource - a source of supply, support or information.

Respite care - a means for taking over the care of a person temporarily (a few hours to a few days) to provide a period of relief for the primary caregiver.

S

Social worker - advocates and arranges post-hospital or post-rehabilitation services and programs for persons with TBI and their families. Also provides counseling for persons with TBI and family members.

Speech/language therapist - evaluates and treats communication skills, including writing, speaking and understanding written and spoken language.

T

TBI nurse specialist - organizes and oversees day to day care.

To be eligible - requirements that need to be met in order to be eligible for, or to enroll in a program.

V

Vocational - related to, or being in training for a skill or trade to be pursued as a career.

Vocational specialist - facilitates development of employment skills and locating a job or returning to work.

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