

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources
Bureau for Behavioral Health
Specialized Funds Policy

Effective Date: July 1, 2019

Traumatic Brain Injury *Funds for YOU*

PURPOSE

WV Code §9-10-1, et seq. establishes the West Virginia Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Fund Board to pay for services that will increase opportunities for and enhance the achievement of functional independence for individuals who have experienced either a traumatic brain or spinal cord injury. WV Code §18-10k-1, et seq. transferred the *Funds for YOU* to WV DHHR Legislative Rule 197CSR1 establishes procedures and standards applicable to the implementation of the statute. The WV Bureau for Behavioral Health is responsible for funding and oversight of TBI *Funds for YOU*.

The *Funds for YOU* program was developed to carry out the direct service mandate of the statute. *Funds for YOU* funding comes from the Bureau for Behavioral Health and may be used to purchase a range of goods and services. The goal for utilizing these funds is to promote increased independence.

Individuals may request as little as \$50.00 and as much as \$2,300.00, depending on need.

Funds for YOU moneys are provided as a last resort, that is, after all other possible funding sources have been explored and/or exhausted.

ELIGIBILITY

The following eligibility criteria must be met to participate in this program.

- The individual must be a citizen of the State of West Virginia.
- The individual must have a medically confirmed diagnosis of traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury
- The individual's representative team verifies the request cannot be accommodated through any other resource.

ELIGIBLE GOODS AND SERVICES

Moneys in the fund shall be used to pay for services that will increase opportunities for and enhance the achievement of functional independence and a return to a productive lifestyle for individuals who have suffered a traumatic brain injury or a spinal cord injury, including but not limited to:

1. **Medical:** Services and supplies verified as necessary by professional assessment (e.g. nutritional supplement).
2. **Dental:** Services and supplies verified as necessary by professional assessment (e.g., anesthesia for dental procedures).
3. **Vision/Hearing:** Services and supplies verified as necessary by professional assessment.
4. **Adaptive Equipment/Occupational Therapy(OT)/Physical Therapy(PT):** Assistance of daily living needs using services and items to safeguard the consumer's health and safety, such as Durable Medical Equipment, Adaptive Equipment, Home Modifications, Therapies (Occupational Therapy Physical Therapy or other types of therapies deemed appropriate by physician/psychiatrist or rehabilitative specialists).
5. **Assistive Technology Assessment (AT)/Training** provided by WVU CED Assistive Technology (FY2020 Pilot): **Assessment** is an Individualized AT Assessment with the individual in their environment of need. (i.e., home, workplace etc.) Assessments generally require at least 2 hours of contact with individual. Service provider will evaluate the barriers the individual is encountering, taking into consideration the environment and individual's specific strengths and weaknesses. Individual will have the opportunity to try devices to meet their needs if available. A final report with assistive technology recommendations and justifications will be provided. Final report will include training hours recommendations. (max 6 hrs.) **Training** Customized training on identified assistive technology devices in appropriate setting (max 4hrs), travel time (max 4hrs)
6. **Start-up Funds:** Cost of essential items needed to start a home when a move is necessary. Examples of Eligible Start-up Expenses:
 - One month rent and set up fees or deposits for utilities (water, sewer, gas, electric)
 - Security deposit that is required to obtain a lease on an apartment or house.
 - Essential and basic household furnishings (indoor furniture) appliances, cooking supplies, dining supplies, linens, towels).
7. **Other:** All other items needed that do not fit into any other category. Examples are furniture and/or household requests not related to a move or start-up of home which if not made available would create a risk to health and safety of an individual, computers, and/or other electronic items that do not fit into another defined category.

FUNDING QUALIFICATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

1. **ONLY APPLICANTS WHO HAVE NEVER RECEIVED FUNDING (FIRST TIME APPLICANTS) THROUGH FUNDS FOR YOU WILL BE REVIEWED THE FIRST QUARTER OF EACH FISCAL YEAR. AFTER THIS TIME, ALL APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED. PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO FIRST TIME APPLICANTS WHEN PROCESSING APPROVALS.**
2. Funding approvals will not exceed a combined category limit of **\$2,300.00 per fiscal year**. (See individual category limits listed below.) Applications must include information as to how this request will assist with obtaining or maintaining community integration and independence.

Fund Usage/Caps:

Approved funds must be used for the individual for whom the funds were requested and for the items/services for which approval was given. Should the need for such approved funds change, Resource Coordinator must provide notification to the Bureau for Behavioral Health.

Category	Cap	Timeframe
Medical	\$2,000.00	Per Fiscal Year
Dental	\$2,000.00	Per Fiscal Year
Adaptive Equipment/Home Modifications *	\$2,000.00	Per Fiscal year
Assistive Technology Assessment/Training **	\$700.00	Per Fiscal Year
Vision	\$500.00	Per Fiscal Year
Start Up	\$2,000.00	1 time per 3 years
Case Management	\$300.00	Per Fiscal Year
Other	\$1,000.00	Per Fiscal Year

* a maximum of \$500.00 will be paid for electronic equipment such as IPADs/tablets/laptops, etc.

** Provided by WVU CED – Pilot FY 2020

3. Typically, the following costs will **not be eligible** under the Traumatic Brain Injury *Funds for YOU* criteria: entertainment items (e.g. televisions, iPod, stereo systems etc.), personal hygiene supplies, extended warranties on electronic items, outdoor

furniture/decorative items, pet care or pet expense items, UNLESS the item is needed to assure health and safety and is accompanied by medical documentation and physician order (for example, an air conditioner or service animal).

Costs for computer software **will not be included** as part of the cost for the computer/laptop/iPad, however the combined costs for the computer and the software shall not exceed \$700.00. This does not include specialized software consistent with cognitive retraining or considered to be adaptive in nature, as determined by a physician/psychiatrist or rehabilitative specialist. Items such as televisions, pool tables or other similar items will not be covered unless this has been documented by a physician/psychiatrist or rehabilitative specialist to indicate that this will provide the individual with the **most integrated** setting.

Assistive Technology Assessment/Training is a pilot program for FY 2020.

Assessment is an Individualized AT Assessment with the individual in their environment of need. (e.g., home, workplace etc.) Assessments generally require at least 2 hours of contact with individual(s). Service provider will evaluate the barriers the individual is encountering, taking consideration the environment and the individual's specific strengths and weaknesses. Individual(s) will have the opportunity to try devices to meet their needs if available. A final report with assistive technology recommendations and justifications will be provided. The final report will include training hours recommendations. (max 6 hrs.)

Training Customized training on identified assistive technology devices in appropriate setting (max 4hrs.)

** When purchasing electronic equipment such as computers or tablets, only ONE item will be purchased. For example: If an application is received for a computer and a tablet then the Fund will pay for only one item and not both of those items. Applicant must provide **documentation of denials** from resources that were contacted. Applicants must provide at least two **estimates** for the items they are requesting (*one estimate is required for Medical, dental, vision and Assistive Technology Assessment/Training*). All contractors who will be completing any modifications or repairs to the home must have a valid license to do so.

1. Funding approvals will not exceed a combined category limit of **\$2,300.00 per fiscal year per person.**
2. Items purchased with *Funds for YOU* will be deemed the property of the individual.
3. Recipients of funding agree to have the funding agency review or observe completed goods and services.
4. Checks will be made payable to the vendor, contractor or entity providing the goods and services requested in this application. Checks will not be made payable to the individual receiving the goods and services.
5. Maintenance and service of purchased goods is the sole responsibility of the individual.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. *Funds for YOU* brochures are made available to the person(s) requesting monetary assistance by contacting the Traumatic Brain Injury Services Program and through many service agencies.

After completing the information in the brochure, it is then mailed to:

FUNDS FOR YOU

Center for Excellence in Disabilities
959 Hartman Run Road
Morgantown, WV 26505

2. Center for Excellence in Disabilities (CED) staff will mail an application to the person who has completed the brochure information. Applications can also be requested by telephone (304-293-4692); toll free telephone (1-877-724-8244); fax (304-293-7294); by e-mail tbi@hsc.wvu.edu; and from the website <https://tbi.cedwvu.org/>.

If the application is not returned to CED within 30 days, follow-up by a Resource Coordinator or other staff will be provided, either by telephone or by written correspondence. There are several reasons why the application may not be returned, including, but not limited to:

- Client/guardian/conservator/payee needs assistance to complete the form.
 - Eligibility (by definition) is not established.
 - Another funding source has been identified to pay for requested services.
 - Other (e.g., lost application)
3. Upon receipt of the completed application at the *Funds for YOU* office in Morgantown, the application will be assigned to a Resource Coordinator. This assignment will be made based upon the geographical location of the client and the current distribution of cases among the Resource Coordinators. After assignment of a case, the Resource Coordinator will make contact with the *Funds for YOU* applicant by telephone or written correspondence. Coordination of the ongoing application process will be done by telephone, mail, and/or home visits, and field visits to vendors, and will include the following duties of the Resource Coordinator.

- Review of eligibility criteria, including receipt of documentation to verify diagnosis. This can be done by letter, medical records, confirmation by FAX, or confirmation by telephone.
- Obtaining release of information forms as designated by CED. A signature of client/guardian/conservator/payee will be necessary to request information in written form or by telephone contact with the service provider/agency from whom the information is requested.
- Review of request for *Funds for YOU* monies. Vendor choices and cost estimates can be obtained by the client/guardian, etc., a service coordinator, and/or the Resource Coordinator.
- Verify that *Funds for YOU* is payer of last resort via written confirmation or documentation of verbal confirmation in the case record.

4. The Resource Coordinator completes the Application Review Team (ART) Report. At designated times; the ART Report is presented to the Application Review Team for disposition.

5. The Resource Coordinator who presented the case officially notifies the applicant of the Application Review Team's decision. A letter outlining the services/equipment approved will be prepared by the Resource Coordinator and signed by a Team member. All letters conveying Team decisions of denial or partial approval shall be sent by return receipt requested. When applicable, information regarding alternative services and/or funding sources will be provided.

APPLICATION DETERMINATION

ART was established by the TBI Rehabilitation Fund Board to assure the *Funds for YOU* Program is administered in a fair and equitable manner and according to statute. The ART's responsibilities are to review applications for services and authorize funding of services for individuals based upon priorities established by the Board.

ART membership consists of one Board member and other members, one of whom is an individual who has experienced either a TBI or a family member and one member designated by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Behavioral Health.

The team meets to review applications for *Funds for YOU* moneys at least every two months, or on an as-needed basis, following a request from a Resource Coordinator. Upon review of the application, the ART may make one of the following decisions:

1. Approve the application as submitted.
2. Approve a portion of the application/request (amend the amount of award or category of award).
3. Request additional information – Application will be pended until information is received.

4. Deny the application

FUND DISBURSEMENT AND REVIEW

The Resource Coordinator submits approved applications for processing to: Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living (NWCIL).

Documentation required for payment:

- Completed application
- Completed invoiced, signed in blue ink

The funds must be used to purchase items listed on the application and any unused funds should be returned within 90 days of receipt. All funds should be returned using a **check or money order** to: Northern WV Centers for Independent Living, 601-603 East Brockway, Suite A & B, Morgantown, WV 26501

Original receipts for all services/items/equipment must be kept on file by the service coordination agency.

Reviews will be conducted on a random basis without notice by a representative of the Bureau for Behavioral Health per West Virginia Code §12-4-14. Original receipts as verification of expenditures in accordance with the approved application must be provided upon request and may be submitted to the State office once received. If receipts are not received within the time specified in the request, then notification will be sent to your agency requesting return of funds. Return of funds will be requested for all unapproved purchases.

APPEAL PROCEDURES

Any person denied services by the ART has the right to appeal that decision. The appeal must be submitted in writing in the form of a letter to the Traumatic Brain Injury Program Center for Excellence in Disabilities and must be received by WVU CED the within thirty (30) days of receipt of any adverse decision by the applicant. Appeals may be addressed to:

**Traumatic Brain Injury Program
Center for Excellence in Disabilities
959 Hartman Run Road
Morgantown, WV 26505**

The Appeals Panel is composed of three members to include: The Office of Consumer Affairs & Community Outreach, Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver Program Manager/Designee and a

Traumatic Brain Injury Survivor/Family Member. The appeals panel will select a chairperson, and a decision will be made by majority vote. The Appeals Panel shall issue a written decision within thirty (30) days after the hearing or within thirty (30) days of receipt of the appeal letter if a hearing on the matter is waived by both parties. The decision of the Appeals Panel is the final administrative decision. Either party may appeal the final administrative decision to the circuit court.

At the time of any adverse decision, the applicant will be advised of his or her rights to appeal the decision and where he or she may seek assistance for help in making an appeal. The applicant may have a representative of his or her choice present at an appeals hearing.

For additional information, contact West Virginia University Centers for Excellence in Disabilities Traumatic Brain Injury Program.

Phone: 304-293-4692
Fax: 304-293-7294
Toll-free: 877-724-8244
E-mail: TBI@hsc.wvu.edu