



## Working towards self-sufficiency

Helping an individual with traumatic brain injury (TBI) to achieve independence is challenging. And one of the greatest challenges you face is helping that individual to find and maintain meaningful work.

In Arizona, Traumatic Brain Injury Specialists can assist your clients with TBI to develop the skills they need to succeed at work.

And succeeding at work is a tremendous step towards self-sufficiency, community integration and happier, healthier lives.

For more information, please talk to your counselor, who may then assist you in contacting the TBI Specialist in your area:

Flagstaff:	Michael Lawson	(928) 779-4147
Phoenix:	Kathleen Cady Paul Howell	(602) 266-9579 (602) 266-9579
Prescott:	Brandon Arturbury	(928) 445-6432
Scottsdale:	Julia Zeller	(480) 948-3819
Tucson:	Tom Prescott	(520) 629-0225
Show Low:	Joe Edmondson	(928) 532-4300 x 4333



### Arizona Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries

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Telephone (602) 863-0484  
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FAX (602) 863-0521  
[www.azheadspine.org](http://www.azheadspine.org)

*This material is available in alternative format.  
Call (602) 863-0484 (voice) or the Arizona Relay Service.*



Quality Service, Organizational Pride, Client Self-Sufficiency

## Achieving Employment

How a Traumatic Brain Injury Specialist Can Help Your Client Succeed at Work

A Guide for RSA Staff and Service Providers



Arizona Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries

MARCH 2004

## What a TBI Specialist Can Do

The TBI Specialist program is a joint effort of the Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and the Arizona Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries. These specially trained Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counselors provide employment services for individuals with TBI throughout the state.

Arizona's TBI Specialists program provides goods and services that are directly related to a client's employment goals. Services that TBI Specialists may provide include:

- Assessment
- Counseling and guidance
- Advocacy
- Job skills training
- Employment search and preparation
- Liaison with employers



## What a TBI Specialist Can't Do

The TBI Specialist program is a vocational rehabilitation program, not a medical rehabilitation program. The program:

- does not provide medical care
- does not pay for emergency medical care
- does not pay insurance claims of any kind
- does not pay for daily living expenses
- does not pay for services that are available through other programs
- does not currently provide funding for supervised/supported employment

## Who Qualifies?

An individual may be eligible for the program if he or she...

- has a traumatic brain injury
- is able to work and wants to work
- is eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation services
- needs the special attention of someone trained in TBI to manage the case
- does not have other disabilities that would be more appropriately addressed by specialists in other areas, such as developmental disabilities, significant vision or hearing impairment, mental illness or other pre-existing conditions
- is not eligible to participate in a school-to-work or youth transition program

Some services provided by the TBI Specialist are based on income.

## Making a Referral

To refer a client to the TBI Specialist program...

- Contact a TBI Specialist at the RSA office nearest you. See the back of this brochure for contact information.
- Request a staffing.
  - The TBI Specialist will send you a Project Referral Checklist.
  - Complete the Project Referral Checklist and return it to the TBI Specialist.
- Attend the staffing.

As a result of the staffing, a client may be:

- referred to a TBI Specialist,
- referred to another specialist, if other disabilities are present, or
- maintained by the VR counselor, with consultation from a TBI Specialist.

Factors considered at the staffing may include client choice, living and transportation circumstances, the severity of the injury, the impact of secondary disabilities and the range and type of services that are likely to be needed.

