

Residential Services for People with Brain Injury in New Jersey

By René Carfi, MSW, LSW

Choosing a residential program for a person with a brain injury can be a difficult decision for families to make. One needs to understand the different types of residential programs and different funding sources. The information provided below is meant to be a starting point for learning about the different types of residential services available for people with brain injury in New Jersey, and the different funding sources for such programs. For further information, please contact the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey's Information & Resources Helpline at 1-800-669-4323, or info@bianj.org.

Choosing a program

In choosing any type of program for your family member, the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey always suggests contacting and visiting several programs to find the program that will best suit your loved one's needs. To assist you in selecting a program the Brain Injury Association of America developed A Guide to Selecting & Monitoring a Brain Injury Rehabilitation Services, available at: <http://www.bianj.org/Websites/bianj/Images/PDFs/Guide.to.Selecting.Monitoring.Brain.Injury.Rehabilit.pdf> or by contacting the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey.

Government Funding

Unfortunately, before one can begin learning about the programs that exist, it is important to understand the funding sources for residential programs for people with brain injury in New Jersey.

For those individuals in need of residential services who were injured after their 21st birthday, the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Medicaid Waiver might be an appropriate source of funding. The TBI Medicaid Waiver was established in 1993 in order to provide community-based services, including residential services, for people with brain injury as an alternative to long-term institutional care. Many families seek out residential services because their family member cannot live independently in the community without supports, and would be at risk of being placed in long-term institutional care if their family were not caring for them. The residential services funded by the TBI Medicaid Waiver are designed specifically for people with brain injury. To learn more about the TBI Medicaid Waiver or to find out if your family member qualifies for the Waiver contact the Division of Disability Services at 609-292-4800.

For those individuals in need of residential services who were injured before the age of 22, the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) might be an appropriate source of funding. The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) serves New Jersey residents who have a disability that manifested before age 22, and have lifelong limitations in certain areas of living. Some people with brain injury meet the criteria for services under the Division of Developmental Disabilities, and may be eligible for residential services through this agency. Residential services offered through DDD are typically utilized by individuals with different types and severity of disability. As with other programs it is good to contact and visit several to find the most appropriate program for your family member. If you are registered with DDD, contact your DDD case manager to learn more about residential services. Ask your DDD case manager if there is a brain injury specific residential program at which your family member might be able to live. Keep in mind that there is a waiting list for residential services through DDD. To learn more about whether or not your family is eligible for services through DDD contact the Division at 1-800-832-9173 or visit their website at http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/about_ddd.html.

Types of Residential Services

Residential services vary, ranging from apartments with minimal to 24 hour supervision, group home settings where an individual shares a home with other people with brain injury or other disabilities. Apartments can be in a location where only individuals in that program live and other services, such as outpatient and day programming, are also located. Apartments can also be in the community where residents live among those in their community. Group homes can also be located in a central location in a city where residents can easily access community services, or can be located in a more rural area. The program you decide on can vary according to what your family member's rehabilitation team recommends, what you are looking for in a residential program, and where your family member would prefer to live. It is important to visit several programs, talk to other residents, talk to other family members, talk to your rehabilitation team, and make an informed decision that you and your family member will be comfortable with. Where an individual lives is an important decision for all involved.

Brain Injury Residential Programs

The following are brain injury rehabilitation programs offering residential services. While most accept funding through the TBI Medicaid Waiver, not all currently receive funding through DDD. When contacting each program, be sure to ask about the funding sources they typically accept. An admissions coordinator or social worker should be able to assist you in understanding the funding they accept.

Atlantic County

PLUS NeuroRehab

235 White Horse Pike
Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215
Telephone: 856-824-0011 x213

MENTOR Brain Injury Services

617 Devon Avenue
Moorestown, NJ 08047
Telephone: 856-533-4100

Mercer County

Community Options

16 Farber Road
Princeton, NJ 08540
Telephone: 609-951-9900

Bergen County

Rehabilitation Specialists

18-01 Pollitt Drive, Suite 1A
Fair Lawn, NJ
Telephone: 800-441-7488

Camden County

Bancroft NeuroHealth

201 Kings Highway South
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
Telephone: 800-774-5516

MENTOR Brain Injury Services

9412 Town Court South
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
Telephone: 856-533-4100

Burlington County

PLUS NeuroRehab

131 Cropwell Drive
Maple Shade, NJ 08052
Telephone: 856-824-0011 x213

Essex County

Universal Institute

15-17 Microlab Road
Livingston, NJ 07039
Telephone: 973-992-8181

MENTOR Brain Injury Services

115 Laura Avenue
Hamilton, NJ 08618
Telephone: 856-533-4100

MENTOR Brain Injury Services

110 Gardenia Drive
Maple Shade, NJ 08052
Telephone: 856-533-4100

Gloucester County

Bancroft NeuroHealth

6 Commissioners Road
Mullica Hill, NJ 08062
Telephone: 800-774-5516

Middlesex County

Bancroft NeuroHealth

666 Plainsboro Rd, Ste 2000C
Plainsboro, NJ 08536
Telephone: 609-799-8400

PLUS NeuroRehab

8008 Route 130
Delran, NJ 08075
Telephone: 856-824-0011 x213

Drucker Brain Injury Center

135 South Broad Street
Woodbury, NJ 08096
Telephone: 800-225-5667

Monmouth County

Universal Institute

73 Dudley Street
Long Branch, NJ 07740
Telephone: 973-992-8181

Ocean County

Bancroft NeuroHealth

1200 Route 70, Brick, NJ 08723

Telephone: 800-774-5516

Sussex County

MENTOR Brain Injury Services

33 Lincoln Place

Newton, NJ 07860

Telephone: 856-533-4100

In Conclusion

Always remember that the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey's Helpline is there to assist you with any questions you might have about day programming or funding. Keep in mind that you know your family member best and it is important that you feel comfortable with the residential program you choose.

René Carfi is the Director of Community & Information Services at the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey.