



# Behavioral Health and Brain Injury

## August 2023 to July 2024

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators offers the Leading Practices Academy on Behavioral Health and Brain Injury (LPA BH). We will provide strategic and customized technical assistance to States to explore, develop, or continue to develop and implement protocols and practices to improve outcomes for individuals with co-occurring brain injury and behavioral health needs.

## Who Can Apply?

States interested in improving outcomes for individuals with co-occurring brain injury and behavioral health (BH) needs. The technical assistance (TA) provided is customized; you can be at any point along the continuum of your State's infrastructure development for this population. Whether your State is in the exploration stage, you've begun planning and engaging BH partners, or you are developing a sustainability plan for BH work in which you are already engaged -- NASHIA's LPA BH can support your goals. New and returning States are welcome to join.

## What is Provided?

- Direct state TA/consultation which includes the following: ongoing, intensive TA; assessment; creation of work plan/goals focused on outcomes and sustainability; resource sharing; and support to achieve work plan goals
- Quarterly state lead, peer to peer sessions
- Kickoff meeting and four academy sessions focused on training and peer-to-peer support
- A set of online, centralized resources
- Academy Members Annual Summit (July 2024)

## What is Your Role?

- Designate lead staff to manage and serve as primary contact (applicants are required to involve or, at a minimum, keep State BI agency informed of project progress)
- Recruit participation of BH stakeholders
- Engage in TA work plan development w/ LPA staff
- Engage with LPA staff routinely
- Ensure work plan activities are accomplished
- Participate in LPA activities
- Access online resources
- Disseminate information about LPA activities

One-third of individuals with brain injury experience mental health problems 6 months to 1 year post injury.  
*Fazel et al., 2014*

People with brain injury of any severity have **2 to 4** times the risk of attempting or having a death by suicide.  
*Dreer et. al. 2018*

Having one or more brain injuries with loss of consciousness is associated with **greater risk for BH problems**, including problematic substance use beginning in adolescents and more psychiatric symptoms and a significantly elevated risk of suicide.  
*TBI and Substance Use Disorders, 2021, attcnetwork.org*

## Cost?

Annual Membership Cost: \$10,000

## Interested?

If you have questions, please reach out to  
Haleigh Cushen: [hcushen@nashia.org](mailto:hcushen@nashia.org)

An informational session will be held on April 12th at 2pm ET. [Register here.](#)

States interested in the LPA are asked to indicate interest through completion of this [online questionnaire](#) no later than July 7th to provide known details on potential goals, prospective target population, partners, etc.

*States will be notified of acceptance by July 14th*

