

Eligibility

You may be eligible for SHIP if:

- You are a resident of Massachusetts, regardless of age
- You have a documented, externally caused traumatic brain injury
- You have related issues with cognitive, physical and/or behavioral areas
- You are able to participate in community-based services

How to Apply for SHIP services

Anyone can contact SHIP by phone or email and request an application. After an application is received, SHIP determines eligibility by reviewing all available records related to the individual's brain injury. Gathering the records can take time - if you already have records of the initial injury, it will help if you send us copies, but this is not required. You will get a letter telling you whether you are eligible.

SHIP staff can discuss the process with you and answer questions about services, and can help you fill out the application.

For more information, contact:

Statewide Head Injury Program
600 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
(617) 204-3852 (voice)
(800) 223-2559 (toll free)
(617) 204-3889 (fax)
(617) 204-3817 (TDD)
email: shipu@mrc.state.ma.us
<http://www.mass.gov/mrc/ship>



The Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, handicap or sexual orientation. Any person who has questions or concerns about agency practices may contact:

Mary Connelly, J.D.
Director of Diversity/ADA
Coordinator
Massachusetts Rehabilitation
Commission
600 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
(617) 204-3600

Massachusetts Rehabilitation
Commission

Statewide Head Injury Program

Charles D. Baker, *Governor*

Karyn E. Polito, *Lt. Governor*

Marylou Sudders, *Secretary
of Health and Human Services*

Nicky Osborne, *Commissioner
of Rehabilitation*

Sandy Biber, *Director
Community Based Services*

What is SHIP?

SHIP provides a broad range of community-based services that support individuals with traumatic brain injury and their families. SHIP is a part of the Community Services Division at the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, a state agency.

What is an externally caused traumatic brain injury?

An externally caused traumatic brain injury (TBI) is due to a blow or jolt to the head from an external physical force. Brain function can be disrupted by injury in a car crash, serious fall, gunshot or assault. Soldiers may sustain a TBI from an explosion or shockwave. These kinds of events may result in significant cognitive, behavioral or social challenges. Some examples of brain injury that are not externally caused and unfortunately would *not* meet SHIP criteria are stroke, lack of oxygen and brain tumors.

SHIP Services for Eligible Applicants

(subject to funding):

- Service coordination
- Regional Service Centers in Springfield, Raynham, Hyannis and Quincy
- Residential services
- Case management
- Individual skills training and support
- Companion services
- Consultation for families
- Detailed consultation for schools, agencies and programs
- Substance abuse services

Available SHIP Services Regardless of Eligibility

- Information and referral
- Social and recreation programs
- General consultation for schools, agencies and programs
- General guidance about local resources
- Outreach to homeless people with brain injury (Eastern Mass.)
- Time-limited outreach from Regional Service Centers

Living with Brain Injury

Every year 51,000 Mass. residents sustain a TBI, most often in crashes and falls. It can happen to anyone – and no two brain injuries are alike. If you or loved ones notice issues with memory, concentrating, finding words, or controlling your temper, you may have had a TBI and benefit from SHIP services.

Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA)

SHIP was created by the grassroots efforts of BIA-MA members. BIA-MA offers information and resources, support groups for survivors and family members; speaker's bureau; and educational and prevention workshops and activities.

Brain Injury Association of MA
30 Lyman Street
Westboro, MA 01581
Phone: (508) 475-0032
(800) 242-0030
www.biama.org
email: info@biama.org