

Legislation and Funding: Table of Contents

State Statutes

Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE): Enable Savings Plan, created as the result of the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) passed by the Nebraska Legislature in 2015. The law allows Nebraskans with certain disabilities to create tax-advantaged ABLE savings accounts to pay for qualified disability-related expenses.

Brain Injury Registry Act: Nebraska maintains a central registry for traumatic brain injuries. Any hospital, rehabilitation center, psychologist or physician is required to report information about the person sustaining the injury to the department. Nebraska VR is responsible for the follow up to provide information.

Brain Injury Trust Fund: Funds and Brain Injury Oversight Committee established in 2020-2021 to be used for resource facilitation; collecting data and evaluating needs of individuals with brain injury; public awareness; training providers; and follow-up contact to provide information on brain injuries for individuals on the brain injury registry.

Concussion Awareness Act (Return to Play/Return to Learn): Established in 2011 to provide a consistent means to identify and manage concussions and to help ensure the safety of those involved in youth sports.

Developmental Disabilities Services Act: Provides funding and also administers the Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) developmental disabilities waiver services.

Medical Assistance Act (Medicaid): The parameters for the Nebraska Medical Assistance program, otherwise known as Medicaid. Medicaid is a joint-federal-state program health care program for certain individuals. The State Plan is the official document describing the nature and scope of the Nebraska Medicaid Program.

Nebraska Olmstead Plan: Plan to provide services to people with disabilities in the most integrated settings in keeping with the 1999 United States Supreme Court decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* that persons with disabilities have a right to have opportunities to live, work, and receive services in the greater community, just like individuals without disabilities.

Special Education and Related Services: Statutes that pertain to Nebraska's special education and related services, which must be consistent with the federal special education regulations.

Statewide Trauma System and Trauma Registry: These statutes establish a trauma system of care, including a trauma registry. The purpose of the Nebraska Statewide Trauma System is to provide a well-coordinated system that provides for appropriate and adequate trauma care and includes pre-hospital care, acute care, post-acute care, and injury prevention education.

Federal Statutes

NASHIA Chronology of Federal Legislation: A list by date of federal Legislation, funding and policies Impacting brain injury prevention, rehabilitation, and services.

Assistive Technology Act: Legislation passed to increase access to, availability of and funding for assistive technology through state efforts and national initiatives. Collaborates with the state Protection and Advocacy agencies to assist in the acquisition, utilization or maintenance of assistive technology devices or services for individual with disabilities.

Lifespan Respite Care Act: Passed in 2006 to build the capacity for respite services to all families who need them. The goal is to create a coordinated system of accessible, community-based respite care services for family caregivers of children and adults of all ages with special needs.

Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended: Landmark legislation that provided for a wide range of vocational rehabilitation services and prohibited discrimination on the basis of disability in programs conducted by federal agencies, in programs receiving federal financial assistance, in federal employment and in the employment practices of federal contractors.

Supporting Older Americans Act: Reauthorizing the programs authorized by the Older Americans Act. For the first time, the law acknowledged traumatic brain injury (TBI) due to falls among older adults, allowing federal funds to support screening for a TBI after a fall and to include TBI in the health promotion activities.

Title XIX of the Social Security Act (Medicaid): Joint federal-state health care program with the states receiving federal financial participation for a share of the costs for health and long-term services for low-income families and individuals, including children, parents, pregnant women, seniors, and people with disabilities. As an entitlement program, anyone who meets eligibility rules has a right to enroll in Medicaid coverage.

Traumatic Brain Injury Act: These statutes related to the Traumatic Brain Injury Program Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Pub. Law 115-377), which authorizes funding to conduct expanded studies and to establish innovative programs to assist individuals with TBI and their families seeking services and supports.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act: Enacted for purposes of coordinating workforce development and related programs of education and training services to help people, including dislocated workers, people with disabilities, veterans and youth, to become employed. Services include job search assistance, career counseling, occupational skill training, classroom training, or on-the-job training.