

# Impaired Drivers Trust Fund

2003 Annual Report  
October 1, 2002 - September 30, 2003

*working today to create a better tomorrow for Alabamians  
with traumatic brain and/or spinal cord injury*

**In 1992 the Alabama State Legislature established the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund in the state treasury and the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund Advisory Board (Act 92-586). Since that time, the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund has evolved into a major advocacy and service-delivery system for Alabamians who have spinal cord injury or traumatic brain injury.**

*Dear Legislator,*

*For the thousands of Alabamians who sustain permanent and life-changing spinal cord injury (SCI) or traumatic brain injury (TBI), the services made possible through the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund (IDTF) are a significant element in providing, maintaining and improving their quality of life. With its funding support and through continued collaboration with other agencies and organizations, the IDTF links Alabamians with TBI and/or SCI to much-needed services and resources. The IDTF remains committed to closing gaps in services and to developing a continuum of care and service options for the individuals and families who are its consumers.*

*One key to the IDTF's continued success is the IDTF Advisory Board, which provides professional leadership to the state agencies involved in IDTF services as well as private and community-based organizations. IDTF collaborative efforts ensure that the people served by its programs receive optimal benefits.*

*This report highlights the successes of that ongoing collaboration and is a tribute to the dedication of the IDTF Board and staff statewide who work together to improve the lives of all Alabamians with traumatic brain and/or spinal cord injury.*

*Steve Shivers, Commissioner  
Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services*

*Ralph R. Norman III, Chairman  
Alabama Impaired Drivers Trust Fund*



## ***IDTF Background***

When the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund in the state treasury and the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund Advisory Board (Act 92-586) were established in 1992, the Alabama Legislature charged the IDTF Advisory Board with the responsibility of facilitating a comprehensive system of services for Alabamians with head and spinal cord injury. The mission of the advisory board was to:

- investigate the needs of survivors with SCI or TBI
- identify gaps in services to these survivors
- establish guidelines for disbursing IDTF monies
- assure maximum benefits from the IDTF

In 1993 the Legislature passed ACT 93-323 imposing an additional fine of \$100 on persons convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs with proceeds from the fines allocated to the Impaired Drivers Trust Fund. These proceeds are used as payer of last resort for the costs of care provided to Alabamians who have survived neurotrauma with head or spinal cord injury.

The Legislature also designated the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services as the agency to disperse monies from the IDTF in accordance with the priorities and criteria established by the board.

Thus, the advisory board, IDTF committees and the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services staff implemented systems and procedures to deliver services.

**Service Linkage System**  
**Toll-Free Number:**  
**1-888-879-4706**

## ***IDTF partners with the Alabama Head and Spinal Cord Injury Registry and Service Linkage System***

The Alabama Head and Spinal Cord Injury Registry (AHSCIR), established by Act 98-611, requires that all hospitals in Alabama report the names of individuals treated for traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury to the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), thus allowing the ADPH to:

- learn more about brain injury and spinal cord injury
- develop programs aimed at preventing these disabling conditions
- make recommendations regarding improvement in current prevention and treatment methods

The AHSCIR allows the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) to contact individuals whose names have been submitted to the registry about the availability of information and resources.

Development of the AHSCIR and Service Linkage System exemplifies how effective collaboration and coordination of resources among state agencies, private and public organizations and partners can improve the system of care in Alabama for people who have experienced head and/or spinal cord injury. The Impaired Drivers Trust Fund supports this process as a collaborative partner and with funding.

The Alabama Trauma Registry (ATR) database has received data on 31,446 cases that satisfy the criteria for admission to the ATR — 9,723 cases were classified as head, neck, and spinal cord injuries. The high concentration of individuals with TBI and/or SCI within the 15- to 24- year-old age group is expected and, more often than not, results in many years of lost productivity and increased cost of care.

### ***The ADRS Service Linkage System: Linking people to resources and services***

Often people with head and spinal cord injuries and their families cannot find solutions to the many difficulties they are experiencing. ADRS, in partnership with ADPH, has implemented the AHSCIR Service Linkage System to link survivors of TBI and SCI and their families to much-needed community-based services. The system facilitates this process as soon as possible after individuals leave the hospital.

Survivors who sustain moderate and severe head or spinal cord injuries are contacted by mail and given information about the Service Linkage System. They may call a toll-free number and speak with the service system coordinator who can provide assistance in accessing a variety of services and information. Individuals are linked to resources based on their specific needs. The service system coordinator is also available to provide TBI-and SCI-related information and resources to professionals and service providers.

## Service Components

Through funds provided by the IDTF, specific programs were created and implemented in order to address the needs of people with TBI and SCI. These programs resulted in the following services:

<p><b><u>Helpline</u></b></p> <p>The Alabama Head Injury Foundation's toll-free Helpline, 1-800-433-8002, provided immediate information to 667 callers.</p>	<p>Callers ----- 667            Information requests -- 1,230            Referrals ----- 833</p>
<p><b><u>Resource Coordination</u></b></p> <p>This service coordination program helped 1,492 consumers and their families find and implement the coordinated, community-based assistance they needed.</p>	<p>Consumers/families served: 1,492            TBI ----- 989            SCI ----- 455            TBI/SCI ----- 48</p>
<p><b><u>Interactive Community-Based Model (ICBM)</u></b></p> <p>One hundred and eighty-one (181) consumers transitioned from the hospital to home and to the community through the efforts of this five-phased rehabilitation program.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">181</p> <p>Transitioned from the hospital to the community</p>
<p><b><u>State of Alabama Independent Living (SAIL) Service</u></b></p> <p>SAIL Service provided personal assistance and support services to 277 consumers and their families enabling them to maintain as independent a lifestyle as possible.</p>	<p>Consumers served: 277            Birmingham ----- 31            Dothan ----- 26            Montgomery ----- 42            Decatur ----- 33            Anniston ----- 68            Mobile ----- 42            Tuscaloosa ----- 35</p>
<p><b><u>Extended Support</u></b></p> <p>Through job-related support services, 18 consumers were given needed assistance to help them maintain their jobs.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p>Received job-support assistance</p>
<p><b><u>Respite Care</u></b></p> <p>Services were provided to 62 families, relieving them of round-the-clock responsibilities of caring for a consumer.</p>	<p>Families served: 62            TBI ----- 41            SCI ----- 18            TBI/SCI ----- 3</p>
<p><b><u>Housing Assistance</u></b></p> <p>This program helped 11 consumers in processing applications for housing assistance and in implementing approved accessibility modification or structural repairs to their homes.</p>	<p>Consumers served: 11            TBI ----- 5            SCI ----- 5            TBI/SCI ----- 1</p>
<p><b><u>Recreation</u></b></p> <p>Opportunities to enjoy recreation through attending camp were provided to 219 persons with TBI or SCI and volunteers.</p>	<p>Camp: 219            Spring session ----- 69            Summer session ----- 150</p>

STATE OF ALABAMA  
**IMPAIRED DRIVERS TRUST FUND**

*- serving people with brain or spinal cord injury -*

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