

Don't miss your chance!

2026 Annual Conference Online Registration Closes
Monday at Noon!



 BRAIN INJURY
ASSOCIATION
O F I O W A

**34th Annual Best Practices
in Brain Injury Services Conference**

“The Playbook for Change: From Challenge to Triumph”

**DATE
CHANGE!** **March 3 - 4, 2026**
West Des Moines, Iowa

Scan QR code to register or use this link:
<https://biai.memberclicks.net/2026conference>



Online registration closes Monday, February 23, 2026 (12NOON CST)!
Secure your spot now!

If you have any questions or need support with registration, please don't hesitate to connect with us — we're here to help. We're excited to see you March 3rd & 4th and look forward to another meaningful gathering.

REGISTER NOW!

CONFERENCE EVENT HUB

Brain Injury Advocacy Day 2026



BRAIN INJURY ADVOCACY DAY

February 24, 2026
State Capitol, Des Moines



www.biaia.org

info@biaia.org

1-855-444-6443



Join Brain Injury Association of Iowa's [Brain Injury Advocacy Day](#) on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at the State Capitol, Des Moines.

Agenda Overview

11:00–11:45am – Staff & Volunteers will be Arriving and Setting-Up: BIAIA and partner tables will be set up with program and service information.

11:45am–12:30pm – Registration & Networking: Attendees may check in, collect materials, meet fellow advocates, and prepare for the day. *Please note - while we may have a few additional shirts, shirts will be reserved for the first 100 registrants.*

12:30–1:00pm – Welcome Program: We will kick off the day with a welcome and overview of the agenda. Legislators, including Rep. Ann Meyer and Rep. Timi Brown-Powers, will join us as they are able.

1:00–1:15pm – Group Photo: We will gather on the staircase for a commemorative photo.

1:15–3:00pm – Legislator Call-Outs & Meetings: This is when you will meet with your legislators to share your story and discuss our legislative priorities. Please consider contacting your legislators before February 24th to schedule time to visit with them.

3:00–3:30pm – Clean-Up & Wrap-Up

Lunch is on your own. The Capitol cafeteria is located on the ground floor.

Our 2026 Legislative Priorities

This year, we are focused on strengthening services and protecting access for lowans with brain injury and disabilities. Our key priorities include:

- Increase the HHS appropriation by \$172,200 for the Brain Injury Services Program to support Brain Injury Resource Facilitation and Brain Injury Education & Training.
- Appropriately fund Medicaid and related support services
- Support employment for lowans after brain injury, including the Work Without Worry campaign and accessible reporting procedures for work

- requirements.
- Protect access to Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and avoid new barriers to coverage.
- Support providers serving rural and high-acuity lowans.
- Safeguard food and basic needs supports such as SNAP for individuals with disabilities.

Stable coverage, strong services, and policies that promote work and independence are critical for brain injury survivors and their families.

What to Expect When Meeting with Legislators

We will be using a “call-out” process at the Capitol. You will:

1. Locate your legislator’s name and seat number.
2. Slips for each legislator will be ready at check in. If your legislator has already been picked up, you may choose another official or complete a paper slip including your name/organization and note “brain injury.” Our goal is to meet with each elected official!
3. Wait to be called back for a brief meeting.

Here are some friendly tips for you to prepare meeting with your legislator:

- Be respectful and thank them for their time.
- Share your story and keep it simple (3–5 minutes).
- Explain how brain injury has impacted your life or community.
- Highlight how the Brain Injury Services Program helps.
- Clearly make the ask (increase funding and protect services).
- Offer to be a resource going forward.

Keep it personal and specific. Policy change takes time — relationship-building matters.

You will not be there alone. BIAIA staff and volunteers will be available throughout the day to support you.

Important Logistics

- Parking can be difficult — please allow extra time.
- Entrances and security are on the ground floor (South and East sides).
- Bathrooms, lactation room, and cafeteria are on the ground floor.
- Consider dressing in layers for comfort.

~~• The Capitol is a historic building and not fully ADA accessible. If you have questions about accessibility, please contact info@biaia.org in advance. Please note, BIAIA may not be able to honor requests, but can support you to communicate needs with the Capitol.~~

~~This statewide event will focus on the Employment 1st Initiative while sharing practical training, tools, and resources for employment agencies, providers and members. Sharing your lived experience is powerful and essential to ensuring Iowa policymakers understand the impact of their decisions. You are invited to the **ADVOCACY** event on **February 25th, 2:30-3:30 pm** from 2:30-3:30 PM CST. <https://hhs.iowa.gov/events/medicaid-employment-town-hall-february-25-2026>~~

~~Register at: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/events/medicaid-employment-town-hall-february-25-2026>~~

~~Please contact us at info@biaia.org or 855-444-6443 if you have any questions.~~

Medicaid 101

Join UpLift and Disability Rights Iowa for Medicaid 101 on **Tuesday, February 24, 2026 (11:30am-1pm) via Zoom** for a Lunch and Learn webinar focused on the basics of Iowa Medicaid. Expert-Certified Benefits Counselors and a Litigation Attorney will give an overview of Iowa's Medicaid program and walk attendees through the various ways people qualify, the roles and responsibilities of the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), where Iowans can find assistance, and Medicaid appeal rights. [REGISTER HERE](#)

PLEASE NOTE: This webinar is a high-level overview of Medicaid. Presenters will not discuss upcoming changes related to H.R. 1, including work requirements and Iowa Medicaid waivers.

Level Funding Secured for Federal Brain Injury Programs!

Earlier this week, President Trump signed a bill that includes level funding for the below critical programs:

- The **TBI State Partnership Program** administered by ACL
- The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's brain injury programs**
- **TBI Model Systems at the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)**

Level funding is now provided until September 30, 2026. This is very positive, particularly in the current fiscal and political climate. Thank you for your continued commitment to advancing policies and funding that improve the lives of individuals with brain injury and their families. It is because of you that this funding is in place!!

UNI Hearst Lecture Series

The UNI Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is excited to announce that former U.S. Congresswoman Gabby Giffords and her longtime speech-language pathologist, Dr. Fabi Hirsch Kruse, will speak at the 2026 Hearst Lecture. Through a Q&A-style presentation, the pair will reflect on Giffords' recovery from a traumatic brain injury, highlighting the role of speech-language therapy – and resilience – in reclaiming communication.

The event will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. April 8, 2026, in the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center on campus. The event is FREE - use this link to register: <https://unitix.eventue.net/events/GBD0826>

Webinars

FREE CEU opportunities available for the webinars!

Visit our [webinar page](#) to learn more and register.



MASTER THE 5 KEY PILLARS FOR BRAIN INJURY RECOVERY

Kelly Tuttle, Brain Injury Survivor and Author of
“After the Crash: How to Keep Your Job, Stay in
School, and Live Life After Brain Injury”

Support Groups



Our support groups are where individuals can connect, share experiences, and find encouragement. Together, we provide understanding, resources, and community to help one another navigate challenges and celebrate successes. Visit our [Support Group page](#) for more information.



Educational Topics Survey

What topics related to brain injury would you like to see in upcoming webinars hosted by the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa? Your feedback is valued and appreciated! [Participate in the survey.](#)



Call for Webinar Proposals

The Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa is looking for presenters to deliver webinars on topics related to brain injury treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and support. Presentations can target professionals or survivors and their loved ones. [Submit proposal](#)

Brain Injury Resource Facilitation



Brain Injury Resource Facilitators are available to serve lowans; to answer questions and connect those with a brain injury to resources and information. [Learn more about this program.](#) BIAIA is one call away.

[BIAIA Satisfaction Survey](#)



Our mission at the Brain Injury Association of Iowa is to create a better future through brain injury prevention, advocacy, education, research and support. Join us on our platforms to obtain the latest and most relevant information pertaining to brain injury.