

Here, you will find our 2022 legislative priorities as well as our phone call scripts and email templates. Once you have looked through, decide what priority you'd like to talk to your legislators about, choose the template or script you would like to use and download the word document [here](#). You will be able to edit the document to fill out the information in the yellow highlight.

1. [Legislative Priority #1 – Case Management Services](#)
2. [Legislative Priority #2 – Housing Specialist](#)
3. [Phone Scripts](#)
 - a. Housing Specialist
 - i. [Housing Specialist #1](#)
 - ii. [Housing Specialist #2](#)
 - iii. [Housing Specialist #3](#)
 - b. Case Management Services
 - i. [Case Management #1](#)
 - ii. [Case Management #2](#)
 - iii. [Case Management #3](#)
4. Email Templates
 - a. Housing Specialist
 - i. [Housing Specialist #1](#)
 - ii. [Housing Specialist #2](#)
 - iii. [Housing Specialist #3](#)
 - b. Case Management Services
 - i. [Case Management #1](#)
 - ii. [Case Management #2](#)
 - iii. [Case Management #3](#)
5. [Tweets](#)

Legislative Priority #1 – Case Management Services

- WHAT: \$570,000 to expand specialized community based brain injury case management services into unserved areas
- PATRONS AND ITEM NUMBERS:
 - Del Emily Brewer
 - Sen Monty Mason
- WHY:
 - According to estimates from the Brain Injury Association of Virginia, more than 302,000 Virginians are disabled as a result of brain injury. This funding would facilitate the hiring of 4 adult case managers and 2 pediatric case managers to serve Virginians with moderate to severe brain injury, who are disabled as a result of the injury and who reside in unserved regions of the state.
 - Adult brain injury case management services are currently available in 82% of cities and counties (115/139); pediatric brain injury case managers are available in 42% cities and counties (59/139).
 - A program providing pediatric case management services in the Shenandoah Valley has ended due to a loss of grant funding. The program was grounded in best practices, effective and in demand, and has been a big loss to the 40 families who depended on that service to ensure their children received the appropriate supports and services in school and in the community.
 - This appropriation would fund services to 100 children and families in the Shenandoah Valley and in South Hampton Roads that need an important source of support.
 - This appropriation would also fund adult case managers in Rappahannock County and the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck regions of the state.
- HOW: Through a DARS Appropriation and existing contract processes, community based adult and pediatric brain injury case management services would be established in areas of Virginia as outlined in the brief.

Legislative Priority #2 – Housing Specialist

- WHAT: \$1,125,000 to create a “Housing Specialist” position at each state funded community based BI program
- PATRONS AND ITEM NUMBERS:
 - Del Matt Fariss
 - Sen Frank Ruff
- WHY:
 - Despite facing the same needs as those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, people with brain injury have little to no residential service options available to them within the Commonwealth due to a lack of waiver supports.
 - The shortage in housing and support options for individuals with disabilities has reached crisis proportions; 41% of the people who called the Brain Injury Association of Virginia (BIAV) last year told us housing was one of their top 3 needs.
 - The BIAV has seen a 60% increase in the number of calls we receive for housing related assistance; 66% of state funded brain injury programs report an increase in the calls they receive; 25% said it is a significant increase, 41% report a small increase, 33% report about the same.
 - Housing is known to be one of the primary social determinants of health, and affordable, accessible, and appropriate housing can be life-saving.
 - Staff are needed at community based-brain injury programs to liaise with local housing entities, represent the needs of the brain injury community in housing related conversations, and work with their clients to obtain the necessary housing supports and/or develop independent living skills to maintain clients safely and stably in the community.
 - As the brain injury community is just beginning to develop housing capacity in the area of housing, and as we will be starting behind several other advocacy organizations in terms of our tenure and experience in this service area, we feel these positions will be critical to our ability to make effective and efficient use of the High Needs Support Waiver many of those we serve may require.
- HOW: Through a DARS Appropriation and existing contract processes, 9 existing community based brain injury programs would receive funding for and be directed to establish a staff position to facilitate housing placement and/or the development of independent living skills for their clients.

Phone Templates

Housing Specialist #1 - Phone

Hello, my name is (Your Name) and I am a constituent of **Senator/Delegate (Last Name)**. May I speak with them or a legislative aid about the importance of addressing the shortage of services for individuals with brain injury?

Once you are connected with the LA or legislator

Hello, my name is (Your Name) and I am a constituent of **Senator/Delegate (Last Name)**.

Nearly 300,000 Virginians are disabled as a result of brain injury; current levels of state supported funding to provide community based brain injury services is \$6.7 million or \$6.02 per person.

The reason I care about this is because... **(this is where you tell your story...tell them why you care. Describe a program you attend or a service you get and how it helps you. If you are writing from an area where programs have wait lists, or where there are no services available, explain how those services could make a difference in your life).**

This year, we are asking for \$1,125,000 to create a "Housing Specialist" position at each state funded community based brain injury program. Despite facing the same needs as those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, people with brain injury have little to no residential service options available to them within the Commonwealth due to a lack of waiver supports. Staff are needed at community based-brain injury programs to liaise with local housing entities, represent the needs of the brain injury community in housing related conversations, and work with their clients to obtain the necessary housing supports and/or develop independent living skills to maintain clients safely and stably in the community.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider my comments. If you have any questions or would like more information about the points I have raised, feel free to contact the Brain Injury Association of Virginia at info@biav.net.

Housing Specialist #2 - Phone

Hello, my name is (Your Name) and I am a constituent of **Senator/Delegate (Last Name)**. May I speak with them or a legislative aid about the importance of addressing the shortage of services for individuals with brain injury?

Once you are connected with the LA or legislator

Hello, my name is (Your Name) and I am a constituent of **Senator/Delegate (Last Name)**.

Nearly 300,000 Virginians are disabled as a result of brain injury; current levels of state supported funding to provide community based brain injury services is \$6.7 million or \$6.02 per person.

The reason I care about this is because... **(this is where you tell your story...tell them why you care. Describe a program you attend or a service you get and how it helps you. If you are writing from an area where programs have wait lists, or where there are no services available, explain how those services could make a difference in your life).**

This year, we are asking for \$1,125,000 to create a "Housing Specialist" position at each state funded community based brain injury program. The shortage in housing and support options for individuals with disabilities has reached crisis proportions; 41% of the people who called the Brain Injury Association of Virginia (BIAV) last year told us housing was one of their top 3 needs. The BIAV has seen a 60% increase in the number of calls we receive for housing related assistance; 66% of state funded brain injury programs report an increase in the calls they receive; 25% said it is a significant increase, 41% report a small increase, 33% report about the same.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider my comments. If you have any questions or would like more information about the points I have raised, feel free to contact the Brain Injury Association of Virginia at info@biav.net.

Housing Specialist #3 – Phone

Hello, my name is (Your Name) and I am a constituent of **Senator/Delegate (Last Name)**. May I speak with them or a legislative aid about the importance of addressing the shortage of services for individuals with brain injury?

Once you are connected with the LA or legislator

Hello, my name is (Your Name) and I am a constituent of **Senator/Delegate (Last Name)**.

Nearly 300,000 Virginians are disabled as a result of brain injury; current levels of state supported funding to provide community based brain injury services is \$6.7 million or \$6.02 per person.

The reason I care about this is because... **(this is where you tell your story...tell them why you care. Describe a program you attend or a service you get and how it helps you. If you are writing from an area where programs have wait lists, or where there are no services available, explain how those services could make a difference in your life).**

This year, we are asking for \$1,125,000 to create a “Housing Specialist” position at each state funded community based brain injury program. Housing is known to be one of the primary social determinants of health, and affordable, accessible, and appropriate housing can be life-saving. Through a DARS Appropriation and existing contract processes, 9 existing community based brain injury programs would receive funding for and be directed to establish a staff position to facilitate housing placement and/or the development of independent living skills for their clients.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider my comments. If you have any questions or would like more information about the points I have raised, feel free to contact the Brain Injury Association of Virginia at info@biav.net.

Case Management #1 – Phone

Hello, my name is (Your Name) and I am a constituent of **Senator/Delegate (Last Name)**. May I speak with them or a legislative aid about the importance of addressing the shortage of services for individuals with brain injury?

Once you are connected with the LA or legislator

Hello, my name is (Your Name) and I am a constituent of **Senator/Delegate (Last Name)**.

Nearly 300,000 Virginians are disabled as a result of brain injury; current levels of state supported funding to provide community based brain injury services is \$6.7 million or \$6.02 per person.

The reason I care about this is because... **(this is where you tell your story...tell them why you care. Describe a program you attend or a service you get and how it helps you. If you are writing from an area where programs have wait lists, or where there are no services available, explain how those services could make a difference in your life).**

This year, we are asking for \$570,000 to expand specialized community based brain injury case management services into unserved areas. According to estimates from the Brain Injury Association of Virginia, more than 302,000 Virginians are disabled as a result of brain injury. This funding would facilitate the hiring of 4 adult case managers and 2 pediatric case managers to serve Virginians with moderate to severe brain injury, who are disabled as a result of the injury and who reside in unserved regions of the state.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider my comments. If you have any questions or would like more information about the points I have raised, feel free to contact the Brain Injury Association of Virginia at info@biav.net.

Case Management #2 – Phone

Hello, my name is (Your Name) and I am a constituent of **Senator/Delegate (Last Name)**. May I speak with them or a legislative aid about the importance of addressing the shortage of services for individuals with brain injury?

Once you are connected with the LA or legislator

Hello, my name is (Your Name) and I am a constituent of **Senator/Delegate (Last Name)**.

Nearly 300,000 Virginians are disabled as a result of brain injury; current levels of state supported funding to provide community based brain injury services is \$6.7 million or \$6.02 per person.

The reason I care about this is because... **(this is where you tell your story...tell them why you care. Describe a program you attend or a service you get and how it helps you. If you are writing from an area where programs have wait lists, or where there are no services available, explain how those services could make a difference in your life).**

This year, we are asking for \$570,000 to expand specialized community based brain injury case management services into unserved areas. This appropriation would fund services to 100 children and families in the Shenandoah Valley and in South Hampton Roads that need an important source of support. This appropriation would also fund adult case managers in Rappahannock County and the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck regions of the state.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider my comments. If you have any questions or would like more information about the points I have raised, feel free to contact the Brain Injury Association of Virginia at info@biav.net.

Case Management #3 – Phone

Hello, my name is (Your Name) and I am a constituent of **Senator/Delegate (Last Name)**. May I speak with them or a legislative aid about the importance of addressing the shortage of services for individuals with brain injury?

Once you are connected with the LA or legislator

Hello, my name is (Your Name) and I am a constituent of **Senator/Delegate (Last Name)**.

Nearly 300,000 Virginians are disabled as a result of brain injury; current levels of state supported funding to provide community based brain injury services is \$6.7 million or \$6.02 per person.

The reason I care about this is because... **(this is where you tell your story...tell them why you care. Describe a program you attend or a service you get and how it helps you. If you are writing from an area where programs have wait lists, or where there are no services available, explain how those services could make a difference in your life).**

This year, we are asking for \$570,000 to expand specialized community based brain injury case management services into unserved areas. Adult brain injury case management services are currently available in 82% of cities and counties (115/139); pediatric brain injury case managers are available in 42% cities and counties (59/139). A program providing pediatric case management services in the Shenandoah Valley has ended due to a loss of grant funding. The program was grounded in best practices, effective and in demand, and has been a big loss to the 40 families who depended on that service to ensure their children received the appropriate supports and services in school and in the community.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider my comments. If you have any questions or would like more information about the points I have raised, feel free to contact the Brain Injury Association of Virginia at info@biav.net.

Email Templates

Housing Specialist #1 - Email

Dear **Senator/Delegate (Last Name)**:

I am writing to you because I am convinced it is time for the General Assembly to address the shortage of services for individuals with brain injury.

Nearly 300,000 Virginians are disabled as a result of brain injury; current levels of state supported funding to provide community based brain injury services is \$6.7 million or \$6.02 per person.

The reason I care about this is because... **(this is where you tell your story...tell them why you care. Describe a program you attend or a service you get and how it helps you. If you are writing from an area where programs have wait lists, or where there are no services available, explain how those services could make a difference in your life).**

This year, we are asking for \$1,125,000 to create a "Housing Specialist" position at each state funded community based brain injury program. Despite facing the same needs as those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, people with brain injury have little to no residential service options available to them within the Commonwealth due to a lack of waiver supports. Staff are needed at community based-brain injury programs to liaise with local housing entities, represent the needs of the brain injury community in housing related conversations, and work with their clients to obtain the necessary housing supports and/or develop independent living skills to maintain clients safely and stably in the community.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider my comments. If you have any questions or would like more information about the points I have raised, feel free to contact the Brain Injury Association of Virginia at info@biav.net.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Housing Specialist #2 - Email

Dear **Senator/Delegate (Last Name)**:

I am writing to you because I am convinced it is time for the General Assembly to address the shortage of services for individuals with brain injury.

Nearly 300,000 Virginians are disabled as a result of brain injury; current levels of state supported funding to provide community based brain injury services is \$6.7 million or \$6.02 per person.

The reason I care about this is because... (this is where you tell your story...tell them why you care. Describe a program you attend or a service you get and how it helps you. If you are writing from an area where programs have wait lists, or where there are no services available, explain how those services could make a difference in your life).

This year, we are asking for \$1,125,000 to create a "Housing Specialist" position at each state funded community based brain injury program. The shortage in housing and support options for individuals with disabilities has reached crisis proportions; 41% of the people who called the Brain Injury Association of Virginia (BIAV) last year told us housing was one of their top 3 needs. The BIAV has seen a 60% increase in the number of calls we receive for housing related assistance; 66% of state funded brain injury programs report an increase in the calls they receive; 25% said it is a significant increase, 41% report a small increase, 33% report about the same.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider my comments. If you have any questions or would like more information about the points I have raised, feel free to contact the Brain Injury Association of Virginia at info@biav.net.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Housing Specialist #3 - Email

Dear **Senator/Delegate (Last Name)**:

I am writing to you because I am convinced it is time for the General Assembly to address the shortage of services for individuals with brain injury.

Nearly 300,000 Virginians are disabled as a result of brain injury; current levels of state supported funding to provide community based brain injury services is \$6.7 million or \$6.02 per person.

The reason I care about this is because... (this is where you tell your story...tell them why you care. Describe a program you attend or a service you get and how it helps you. If you are writing from an area where programs have wait lists, or where there are no services available, explain how those services could make a difference in your life).

This year, we are asking for \$1,125,000 to create a "Housing Specialist" position at each state funded community based brain injury program. Housing is known to be one of the primary social determinants of health, and affordable, accessible, and appropriate housing can be life-saving. Through a DARS Appropriation and existing contract processes, 9 existing community based brain injury programs would receive funding for and be directed to establish a staff position to facilitate housing placement and/or the development of independent living skills for their clients.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider my comments. If you have any questions or would like more information about the points I have raised, feel free to contact the Brain Injury Association of Virginia at info@biav.net.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Case Management #1 – Email

Dear **Senator/Delegate (Last Name)**:

I am writing to you because I am convinced it is time for the General Assembly to address the shortage of services for individuals with brain injury.

Nearly 300,000 Virginians are disabled as a result of brain injury; current levels of state supported funding to provide community based brain injury services is \$6.7 million or \$6.02 per person.

The reason I care about this is because... (this is where you tell your story...tell them why you care. Describe a program you attend or a service you get and how it helps you. If you are writing from an area where programs have wait lists, or where there are no services available, explain how those services could make a difference in your life).

This year, we are asking for \$570,000 to expand specialized community based brain injury case management services into unserved areas. According to estimates from the Brain Injury Association of Virginia, more than 302,000 Virginians are disabled as a result of brain injury. This funding would facilitate the hiring of 4 adult case managers and 2 pediatric case managers to serve Virginians with moderate to severe brain injury, who are disabled as a result of the injury and who reside in unserved regions of the state.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider my comments. If you have any questions or would like more information about the points I have raised, feel free to contact the Brain Injury Association of Virginia at info@biav.net.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Case Management #2 – Email

Dear **Senator/Delegate (Last Name)**:

I am writing to you because I am convinced it is time for the General Assembly to address the shortage of services for individuals with brain injury.

Nearly 300,000 Virginians are disabled as a result of brain injury; current levels of state supported funding to provide community based brain injury services is \$6.7 million or \$6.02 per person.

The reason I care about this is because... (this is where you tell your story...tell them why you care. Describe a program you attend or a service you get and how it helps you. If you are writing from an area where programs have wait lists, or where there are no services available, explain how those services could make a difference in your life).

This year, we are asking for \$570,000 to expand specialized community based brain injury case management services into unserved areas. This appropriation would fund services to 100 children and families in the Shenandoah Valley and in South Hampton Roads that need an important source of support. This appropriation would also fund adult case managers in Rappahannock County and the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck regions of the state.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider my comments. If you have any questions or would like more information about the points I have raised, feel free to contact the Brain Injury Association of Virginia at info@biav.net.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Case Management #3 – Email

Dear **Senator/Delegate (Last Name)**:

I am writing to you because I am convinced it is time for the General Assembly to address the shortage of services for individuals with brain injury.

Nearly 300,000 Virginians are disabled as a result of brain injury; current levels of state supported funding to provide community based brain injury services is \$6.7 million or \$6.02 per person.

The reason I care about this is because... (this is where you tell your story...tell them why you care. Describe a program you attend or a service you get and how it helps you. If you are writing from an area where programs have wait lists, or where there are no services available, explain how those services could make a difference in your life).

This year, we are asking for \$570,000 to expand specialized community based brain injury case management services into unserved areas. Adult brain injury case management services are currently available in 82% of cities and counties (115/139); pediatric brain injury case managers are available in 42% cities and counties (59/139). A program providing pediatric case management services in the Shenandoah Valley has ended due to a loss of grant funding. The program was grounded in best practices, effective and in demand, and has been a big loss to the 40 families who depended on that service to ensure their children received the appropriate supports and services in school and in the community.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider my comments. If you have any questions or would like more information about the points I have raised, feel free to contact the Brain Injury Association of Virginia at info@biav.net.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Tweets

- Thank you Delegate Matt Fariss and Senator @RuffForSenate for your support of our Housing Specialist position budget amendment. Learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/25bbhabc>. @BIAVirginia
- Thank you Delegate @BrewerForVa and Senator @SenMMason for your support of our expansion of specialized community based BI Case management budget amendment. Learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/25bbhabc>. @BIAVirginia
- Today, I'm phoning my friend (Senator/Delegate X) at the #VAGeneralAssembly to ask for their support for brain injury funding. Learn more about BIAV's Awareness Day at <https://tinyurl.com/25bbhabc>. @BIAVirginia