

The Brain Injury of Michigan Partners on Two New Concussion Grants

The Association is proud to announce that we are working with partners on two new concussion-related grants.

Thanks to a grant from Toyota Motor North America's Way Forward Fund, we will be partnering with (National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA), the University of Michigan (U-M) Concussion Center and Injury Prevention Center, Brain Injury Educational Consulting, LLC, and EdTechables to develop the Concussion Navigator App.

Key features of the proposed Concussion Navigator App include:

1. **Comprehensive Education:** The app will incorporate evidence-based practices to deliver comprehensive and plain language education about concussion. It will provide step-by-step guidance for youth and parents/guardians to successfully navigate the concussion and return to school/learn and return to play processes through REAP.
2. **Interactive Geo Map:** The app will feature an interactive geographic map displaying healthcare clinics providing concussion care across the state of Michigan. This will include information about the catastrophic & concussion insurance provided by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) to ensure accessibility to resources for underserved communities.

Expected outcomes of the Concussion Navigator App:

- **Improved Recognition and Early Care Seeking:** Enhancing recognition and early care seeking for pediatric children/youth with concussion.
- **Increased Confidence:** Boosting the confidence of parents/guardians and youth to facilitate concussion management and empowering them to seek specialty care as needed.
- **Enhanced Resource Locating:** Improving individuals' ability to locate current state wide resources, specialty concussion facilities, and self-identified concussion providers if specialty care is needed.

This digital platform will be developed with the capacity to scale nationally, allowing each state to provide specific information and resources tailored to its unique needs.

We are also partnering with the University of Michigan Concussion Center on a grant from the Michigan Institute for Clinical & Health Research (MICHHR) at the University of Michigan. "Empowering Communities through Knowledge: Debunking Myths of Concussions in Michigan."

The goal of this grant is to enhance understanding of concussion prevention, identification, and management using evidence-based knowledge and educational materials. Innovative tools like the translational science benefits model developed by Washington University in St. Louis will be used to support community-based participatory research efforts. Innovative and multidisciplinary educational materials, such as comic-based infographics, a mobile application with real-time symptom tracking tools, extended reality (XR) modules, and artistic creations will be used as we identify current knowledge gaps, explore the effectiveness of our proposed educational campaign, and continue identifying relevant health outcome measures informing future research directions.