



University of Pennsylvania Research Council on Brain Injury Pilot Study Grant

The University of Pennsylvania undertook a feasibility study using the Fighting Back Scholarship Program's model to help veterans with life changing injuries and illnesses. The study looked at the level of need in the veteran population, the existing mechanisms for placement in post-rehabilitative care, and how to integrate the population into the current program. The University of Pennsylvania's research concluded that there was a need in the greater Philadelphia area's veterans' population for post rehabilitative services provided by the Fighting Back Scholarship Program. Many of these veterans sustained life-altering injuries and have chronic conditions that compromise their well being and quality of life.

Keith Robinson, MD is the Medical Director for ReMed and Chief of Rehabilitation at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center. Dr. Robinson estimates that there are more than 900 potential Fighting Back Scholarship participants in the Philadelphia VA with a combination of diagnoses including brain injury, chronic pain, spinal cord injuries and amputations. The University of Pennsylvania recommended conducting a pilot project to ensure outcomes in the veteran population.

The Council on Brain Injury learned of this recommendation and has awarded the Fighting Back Scholarship Program a \$5,000 grant to fund a pilot project that would serve veterans who are fighting back from life changing injuries or illnesses.

We are grateful to Larry Benz, Lisa Buksbaum, Chris Major and Jenn Marino for their tireless research in uncovering this need. We are also thankful to Joanne Finegan and the Council on Brain Injury board for making this pilot project possible.

Courage

Desire

Perseverance