

Marathon victims' advocates praise new One Fund criteria

By [Travis Andersen](#) | GLOBE STAFF JUNE 28, 2014

The charity set up for victims of the Boston Marathon bombings is now explicitly stating that people who suffered less visible injuries are eligible for payouts, a move that was hailed by advocates on Friday.

In a statement, One Fund Boston said that injuries eligible for compensation include “post-concussive syndrome, and traumatic brain injury.”

CONTINUE READING BELOW ▼

Dot Joyce, a One Fund spokeswoman, said the criteria for the first round of payouts did not specifically include such injuries.

“It was absolutely the intention that it was included in the first protocol,” said Joyce. “It was not specifically stated, and we could have been more clear.”

During a [news conference](#) last week, the Massachusetts Bar Association, which has been representing victims pro bono, urged the One Fund to review the medical records of those with invisible wounds, just as officials said they would review records for those who lost limbs or suffered other major physical injuries.

Not doing so, the lawyers said, would mean those who say they have brain injuries will receive substantially less aid than they need to pay medical bills and cover the costs of future treatment.

The bar association praised the new criteria released by the charity. “The One Fund’s Final Protocol for the second distribution of charitable funds is a welcome advancement for survivors of the Boston Marathon bombings who suffered traumatic brain injury, hearing loss, and other invisible injuries,” Douglas K. Sheff, the association’s president, said in a statement.

Sheff added, “We are grateful that the One Fund appears to have listened to our concerns and crafted its protocol to be more inclusive of all survivors, including those with invisible injuries who are now more expressly eligible for cash gifts in addition to programmatic support.”

The One Fund has already paid out roughly \$61 million to victims and their families. The next round will include about \$19 million.

The devastating blasts on April 15, 2013, killed three people including an 8-year-old Dorchester boy, and wounded more than 260. The alleged bombers, one of whom died in a confrontation with police, are also accused of killing a Massachusetts Institute of Technology police officer.

David Abel of the Globe Staff contributed to this report. Travis Andersen can be reached at travis.andersen@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@TAGlobe](https://twitter.com/TAGlobe).