

From: Center on Personal Assistance Services*
To: International Ventilator Users Network
Re: Personal Assistance Services Q & A
Date: May 2013

1) What is the PAS Center and what does it do? How can it help me?

The PAS Center is a research and training center funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research in the US Department of Education. It is based at the University of California San Francisco. The Center is summarized in our About the Center page of our website:

<http://www.pascenter.org/about/index.php>

Please note we do not provide direct services, personal assistants, or funding.

2) Is there a national policy that supports/directs attendant care? Where do I find what is available for me in my state relating to PAS?

The PAS Center has a tremendous resource of state information, including Agencies Related to PAS, which can be found at

http://www.pascenter.org/state_based_stats/index.php

3) Funding: Who pays for it?

There is contact information on the PAS Center website on Medicaid PAS on the state page listed above under the link "Medicaid PAS". Also at that link are data on participants and expenditures for Medicaid waivers and Medicaid HCBS (Home and Community Based Services).

4) How do I find attendants? What are the advantages/disadvantages to agencies vs acting as the employer (consumer-directed)?

There is information related to this in the following section of our website:

http://www.pascenter.org/pas_users/guide_to_using_pas.php

5) Roles: What can attendants do when they come to my house? (I need a pair of hands to direct.)

There is information related to this in that same section of our website:

http://www.pascenter.org/pas_users/guide_to_using_pas.php

6) Roles: What about family members? Can they get paid?

In some cases they can be paid, but it depends on the state. We have a webpage specifically about this question at:

http://www.pascenter.org/pas_users/ask_mike/generic_ask_mike.php?faq=Paid%20family%20care

7) *Who trains the attendants?*

There are many answers to this. The state can train, agencies can train, and individuals hiring can train. There are a couple of resources available for this on the website:

Training Requirements by State:

http://www.pascenter.org/publications/publication_home.php?id=1366&focus=PAS%20Library

The Center's own training materials can be found at:

http://www.pascenter.org/pas_workforce/training.php

8) *Many of the above issues have been issues for years. What has the Center's work shown in its research that can be considered moving in a positive direction? Are there any new and/or innovative ideas in the works that can help solve these problems? What are the alternatives to living at home with attendant care?*

The Center has recently conducted a State of the Science conference with reports pointing to future directions. These can be found at:

http://www.pascenter.org/sos_conference/index.php

Other resources you can share are the Ask Mike column where people can ask Mike Oxford, the executive director of an independent living center, questions about PAS (http://www.pascenter.org/pas_users/ask_mike/index.php), our archived webcasts (<http://www.pascenter.org/webcast/index.php>), and the Guide to the Center information (http://www.pascenter.org/target_audiences/index.php).

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