

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Personal assistance services are defined as a range of services, provided by one or more persons, designed to assist an consumer with a disability to perform daily living activities on or off the job. These services are activities that the consumer would typically perform without assistance if the consumer did not have a disability. The 1992 and 1998 Amendment to the Rehabilitation act of 1973 require that such services be designed to increase the consumer's control in life and the ability to perform everyday activities on or off the job.

Personal assistance services include, but are not limited to, interpreter services for persons with hearing loss, personal care assistant services, services for the blind or visually impaired, tutorial services and education assistance, and personal support systems on and off the job. These services should be considered at each major phase of the rehabilitation process to determine which are necessary for a consumer to achieve his/her employment outcome.

Department procedures to provide personal assistance services are intended to maximize customer involvement and control of decisions about personal assistance services and enhance customer choices about services necessary to perform everyday activities on or off the job. Personal assistance services are made available statewide to consumers with disabilities on an individualized need basis, with services covered through an established fee-for-service arrangement.

Personal assistance services are excluded from economic needs test. Such services may be provided only while the consumer is receiving other vocational rehabilitation services. Counselors work with consumers to identify and plan for issues of long-term personal assistance needs through informed customer choice about employment goals and information about available community resources. Developing the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) and closure planning should include, as appropriate: referral to community resources including Benefits Plus for benefits counseling; assistance with Plans of Self Support (PASS); and thorough exploration and utilization of comparable benefits.