



Personal Assistance/Home Health Aide Services for Postsecondary Students

In State Students

Transportation:

The Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) may provide transportation to and from school for students who live off-campus. The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counselor and student should determine the method and amount of transportation needed. If the student cannot provide this transportation himself or herself, BRS may pay for this service.

Personal Assistance Needs on Campus:

Assistance related to education (i.e. classroom and class related activities):

The VR counselor and student will work together to determine if the student needs assistance outside of the dormitory (apartment or home). They can then determine the number of hours the student is in class, is in transit between classes, and/or requires assistance with studying and using other facilities (i.e. library, computer lab). BRS may fund this assistance (through Personal Assistance Package on System 7).

Assistance in the dormitory or community:

The Bureau of Rehabilitation Services requires students to make reasonable efforts to obtain Home Health Aide and/or Personal Assistance Services using the Connecticut Department of Social Services Medicaid program.

Please note: All personal care assistance (PCA) waiver slots are currently full and there is a significant waiting list. Any student who is not already eligible for the PCA waiver should apply for Medicaid AND the PCA waiver so their name can be placed on the waiting list. In the meantime, while students are waiting to become eligible for the PCA waiver, they should make reasonable efforts to obtain home health aide services in their dormitory or home.

- ❖ Students will need to provide information on their eligibility for Medicaid.



- ❖ If the student is eligible for Medicaid, BRS expects students to use Medicaid for payment of services for Home Health Aides (used in dorms and/or homes) or Personal Assistance services (if the student is already on the PCA waiver).
- ❖ If the student finds that s/he cannot work out an arrangement with a Home Health agency (again, if they are not already on the PCA waiver), s/he will need to provide BRS with documentation on the efforts made to obtain Medicaid funded services including why those services will not be available.
- ❖ If the services available through the Home Health agency are inconvenient but do not interfere with the student attending the school program, s/he will be expected to adjust his or her schedule to use the Medicaid funded services.
 - For example, if the student's first class is at 11:00 AM but the Home Health Aide can only come at 8:00 AM, it is expected that the Medicaid funded service will be used. **If the student chooses not to make these adjustments, BRS will not fund the part of the Home Health Aide services that would be covered by Medicaid.**

Home Health Agency Information

- ❖ Individuals living in dorms usually can use up to 14 hours a week of Home Health Aide services without any prior approval from Medicaid/DSS.
- ❖ The student will need a doctor's prescription referring her/him to the Home Health agency for services.
- ❖ If more than 14 hours a week is needed, the Home Health agency needs to get prior approval from Community Health Network of Connecticut, Inc. (CHNCT) (800-440-5071). They are familiar with doing this.
- ❖ Home Health aides can also be used for overnight services if the student requires hands-on services from the aide at least every 15 minutes during the night.
 - If the student requires overnight assistance at less frequent intervals, BRS will have to negotiate with the student how this will be funded. Examples: BRS pays a roommate or someone nearby a nightly fee (i.e. \$25); school or BRS will pay room fee for the roommate as compensation.
- ❖ A Home Health Aide may assist you with the following: showering, toileting, dressing, eating, and doing laundry when associated with hands-on care.



How students can find Home Health agencies and/or Personal Assistants

- ❖ Students should check with the office responsible for disability-related services at the school they are attending to ask for Home Health agencies available in the area. (Remember this is for students who are already eligible for Medicaid but who may not be on the Medicaid PCA waiver)
 - The school may already know what agencies students are using. If not, an Internet search (i.e. Google) of home health agencies in the towns surrounding the school should provide this information. Typical keywords would be home health, HHA, home health aide.
 - Students will need to contact these agencies to see if they would be willing to work with them AND if they are a Medicaid provider.
 - Students can also search for Home Health agencies that are Medicaid providers at:
<https://www.ctdssmap.com/CTPortal/Provider/Provider%20Search/tabId/50/Default.aspx>
 - Students will also need a prescription from their physician and must work with the Home Health agency to develop a plan of care.

- ❖ Students may also be able to get help with finding Personal Assistants through their schools.
 - If the student is using Home Health aides in the dorm, the school may be able to help them identify **personal assistants for the BRS funded educationally-related assistance.**
 - The school should be able to provide information on resources available for finding Personal Assistants such as contacts for the Independent Living Center in its area or any school work-study lists or job banks. Information on Independent Living Centers can also be found at www.virtualcil.net/cils/
 - Students may also find information about hiring and managing personal assistants on the BRS website at:
<http://www.ct.gov/brs/cwp/view.asp?a=3955&q=465114&brsNav=|>
 - An additional resource for learning how to hire and manage personal assistants can be found on the Connect-Ability website in the e-Learning tab <https://elearning.connect-ability.com/catalog.cfm>
The Counselor can ask the student to complete this module and e-mail, fax or mail you a copy of the certificate provided at the end of the module.



Assistance when students are at home for holidays and school breaks

Students may also have issues with availability of Home Health Aide coverage for school breaks and summer vacations so they need to contact Home Health agencies in their home areas well in advance of coming home. The student and the Home Health agency should also contact CHNCT for prior approval when changing agencies for school breaks and summer vacations, especially if they require more than 14 hours of service.