

**Personal Assistance/Home Health Aide Services  
for Postsecondary Students****Out of State Students****Transportation:**

The Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) may provide transportation to and from school for students who live off-campus. The 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 Aides using the Connecticut/Department of Social Services Medicaid program.

- ❖ 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).
- ❖ If the student finds that s/he cannot work out an arrangement with a Home Health agency, 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.**

**STUDENTS ATTENDING SCHOOL OUT OF STATE CANNOT USE THE  
MEDICAID PCA WAIVER**

- ❖ Individuals can use Home Health aides through CT Medicaid for assistance needed in the dormitory. Some examples of activities a Home Health aide can provide are: showering, toileting, dressing, assisting with eating, light cleaning of dorm room, and laundry when associated with hands-on care.
- ❖ Home Health aides **cannot** provide services outside of the student's residence.
- ❖ The student must use a Home Health agency that is willing to become a CT Medicaid provider for that student to receive State of CT Medicaid funding.
  - Contracts need to be done for each provider, but more than one student can use the same provider without a new contract.
  - If the Home Health agency is not already a contractor with CT Medicaid, they can become a CT provider by enrolling with HP, Provider Enrollment Unit (the company that enrolls Medicaid providers for the state) on the Provider Enrollment/Reenrollment wizard at <https://www.ctdssmap.com/CTPortal/Provider/Provider%20Enrollment/tabId/47/Default.aspx>
- ❖ Since the student is using this service out-of-state, s/he must have prior approval from CT Medicaid/DSS even if using 14 hours a week or less.
  - The student will need a referral prescription to the Home Health agency from his/her doctor.
  - Some Home Health agencies require a prescription from a doctor in their state. If this is required by the out-of-state Home Health agency, the student's own doctor should be asked for referral to a doctor in the state where the student is attending school.
- ❖ The out-of-state Home Health agency will refer a plan of care to the Medicaid/DSS contactor Community Health Network of Connecticut, at 1-800-859-9889. These referrals do not go through the local DSS office.
- ❖ To find out if there are any out-of-state Home Health agencies that have contracts with CT Medicaid/DSS in the state where the student is attending school, the student should also contact Community Health Network of Connecticut, at 1-800-859-9889. It is also important to find out if the Home Health agency is willing to provide care in two hour blocks (many health-care agencies will not do less than four hour blocks so would not be appropriate for most students).

**How students can find Home Health agencies and/or Personal Assistants out-of-state:**

- ❖ Students should check with the office responsible for disability related services at the school they are attending to find out what Home Health agencies are available in the area.
  - The school may already know what agencies students are using.
  - Students will need to contact these agencies to see if they would be willing to become a CT Medicaid/DSS provider by enrolling through HP, Provider Enrollment Unit (see above) to provide the services needed in the dorm.
  
- ❖ Students may also be able to get help with finding Personal Assistants (for the education related/on-campus BRS funded hours) through their schools.
  - The school should be able to provide information on resources available for finding Personal Assistants such as contacts for Independent Living Centers and local Personal Assistance registries.
  - Information on Independent Living Centers can also be found at [www.virtualcil.net/cils/](http://www.virtualcil.net/cils/)

**BASED ON THE INFORMATION ABOVE, IF THE STUDENT IS GOING TO SCHOOL OUT OF STATE, S/HE SHOULD NOT BE ON THE PCA WAIVER**

**Assistance when students are at home for holidays and school breaks:**

- ❖ Students may also have issues with availability of Home Health Aide coverage in CT 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 CT Medicaid/CHNCT for prior approval when changing agencies for school breaks and summer vacations, especially if they require more than 14 hours of service.

**The Medicaid eligibility in other states:**

Students who are going to school out-of-state can also explore Medicaid eligibility in the state where they are going to school. Be sure to consider the following:

- ❖ If the student has changed their address with Social Security to their school address, Medicaid **may** automatically change to that state.
  - This depends upon the state. Some states require a separate application for Medicaid even when the student has changed their address with Social Security.

- ❖ Some states include a State Supplement payment in the SSI payment. In CT, State Supplement is calculated and paid by the State Department of Social Services. Even if a student has not been eligible for State Supplement in CT (or has never applied) s/he may be eligible for State Supplement in another state and have a slightly higher combined benefit than in CT.
- ❖ Some states provide Medicaid funded Home Health aide/Personal Assistants in a different way than CT. There may be fewer restrictions in another state and some states allow a person to have more hours of coverage than CT.
- ❖ Students can contact Medicaid in the state where they are going to school for more information. Each state has a web site (like Connecticut has CT.gov, Florida has FL.gov, etc.) that has all of the agencies in the state. The student can use the web site to find a telephone number to contact the local Medicaid agency.

**Assistance when students are at home for holidays and school breaks:**

- ❖ Students may also have issues with Home Health Aide/Personal Assistance coverage in CT for school breaks and summer vacations if they are receiving Medicaid from another state. They would likely need to find an agency in CT who would be willing to be a provider in the other state. Students should consider how often they would be returning to CT if they decide to change Medicaid eligibility to the state where they are going to school.