

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

In partnership with persons with disabilities and their families, the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services collaborates with the public and private sector to provide and advocate for the highest quality services that empower individuals with disabilities to maximize employment, independence, and full inclusion in society. DARS and community-based rehabilitation providers offer comprehensive vocational rehabilitation programs and services such as employment counseling, job training, job placement, assistive technology, and other specialized services tailored to individual needs, abilities and interests.

CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are non-profit organizations that are funded by state, federal, local, and private dollars. Centers for Independent Living provide services that promote the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of persons with significant disabilities. Services include advocacy, peer counseling, independent living skills training, information and referral, and services coordination.

***FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT:***

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For more information:
<http://www.vaDARS.org/cbs/pas.htm>

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

A program

Of the

Virginia Department for Aging and
Rehabilitative Services

Personal Assistance Services (PAS),

sometimes called attendant care, are a range of non-medical services provided by one or more persons, to assist an individual that has severe physical or sensory disabilities with *activities of daily living*. PAS Services can include transferring, bathing, grooming, toileting, meal preparation/feeding/eating, dressing, help with ambulation. Individuals with severe physical or sensory disabilities sometimes require these supports in order to live independently with dignity. PAS makes it possible for many individuals to work and be active in their community.

The DARS PAS Program began in 1990 as a grant project funded by the Virginia Board for Persons with Disabilities. The collaborative efforts of the Department of Rehabilitative Services (DARS) and the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) made it possible to launch this program. The DARS PAS Program is currently funded with state and federal dollars.

The DARS PAS Program has been successful in preventing nursing home placement. Individuals with severe disabilities are enabled to remain in their own homes and can often work.

The consumer-directed model empowers individuals to recruit, hire, schedule, and self-manage personal care as the employers of personal assistants.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- An Individual must have a significant physical disability or brain injury with functional limitations in performing activities of daily living (ADLs).
- A PAS application must be submitted to the DARS PAS Program.
- An annual assessment of each participant is also required

PROGRAM SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY

State PAS

- Must meet General Eligibility Criteria
- Individual must be willing and able to self-direct PAS Services.
- Financial eligibility is based on income and resources. The resource limit is \$50,000.00. Income is evaluated on a sliding scale and is not limited to \$50,000.00.
- An Individual must be screened and found ineligible for comparable services through Medicaid Waivers or other comparable programs prior to DARS PAS screening. A PAS application must be submitted to the DARS PAS Program.
- If an individual becomes eligible for the Medicaid Waivers or other personal assistance programs at any time, PAS must end.

Brain Injury PAS

- Must meet General Eligibility Criteria **and** State PAS Criteria, with the exception that: The individual must have a personal representative to co-manage the PAS services.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

- Applicant must meet General Eligibility Criteria
- Applicant must apply for and receive *Vocational Rehabilitation Services* through either **DARS** or the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (**DBVI**).
- A PAS application must be submitted to the DARS PAS Program *through a Rehabilitation counselor*.
- PAS must be one of the necessary components needed in order to achieve an employment outcome and must be in the Plan.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are available from the DARS PAS office, DARS Field Offices, **online**, or from a CIL

- Applications are submitted to the DARS PAS office
- Applicant is interviewed in their home and the Uniform Assessment Instrument and PAS UAI Addendum are administered. Documentation of income and resources is also required. A written report of the interview including the required documentation is used to determine the following: eligibility, ability to self-direct PAS Services, number of PAS hours authorized per week, and co-payment if required.
- Applicants offered PAS Services are provided *orientation training*.
- *State PAS and BI PAS have waiting lists.*