

**A Catalogue of Supports and Services for Persons with Disabilities:
A Resource for Advocates, Service Providers, and Policy Makers**

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Prepared by the Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania

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This guidebook can be obtained in alternate formats for persons with visual impairments by calling: 215 238-8070 (voice) and 215 789-2498(TDD)

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User's Guide

This catalogue was prepared under a grant awarded by the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council. The Developmental Disabilities Council is a 20-member body appointed by the Governor pursuant to the federal Developmental Disabilities Act. 60% of its members are people with disabilities or their family members. The Council is empowered to engage in advocacy, systems change and capacity building activities to further the independence, productivity, integration, inclusion and self-determination of people with disabilities. The Council provides grants to a number of bodies to engage in work that furthers the Vision and Mission of the Council. To learn more about the Council, visit the Council's website at www.PADDC.org

This catalogue is designed to provide an overview of programs and supports available to persons with disabilities in Pennsylvania. The entries are organized by broad topic area covering the types of services and programs available in that area. The broad topic areas are organized alphabetically. Each individual entry within each broad area identifies: 1) name of the service; 2) other names by which service may be known; 3) eligibility standards including any disability specific, income or geographic restrictions; 4) description of the service; 5) identification of the funding source; 6) agencies responsible to administer the program; 7) how services can be accessed or applied for; 8) additional information and 9) cross references where relevant. In addition, there are four overviews of programs and legal protections important to people with disabilities: The ADA; Fair Housing Rights; the Medical Assistance Program and Mental Retardation Programs. Some services are provided to persons whether or not they have a disability. Some services are listed because they can provide assistance to the spouse, children, siblings or other family members of the person with a disability, thus increasing the total resources available to the household.

The income limits, benefit amounts and information on general eligibility criteria were current as of the time of publication of this catalogue in January 2002, but many of them change on an annual basis. Current criteria should be obtained from the relevant agencies (listed in each entry). Periodic updates of this Catalogue may be available; please contact the Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania at the number on the cover or the Developmental Disabilities Council at 717 787-6057 for information on updates.

For persons with hearing impairments, TDD/TTY numbers have been listed in individual entries when available. Otherwise, persons can use the Pennsylvania Relay Service for conversations between people who use text telephones (TTYs) or telebraille (TB) and people who use standard telephones, 24 hours a day, every day. There is no charge to access the Pennsylvania Relay Service. Call 1-800-654-5984 (TTY) or 1-800-654-5988 (voice).

Where available, website addresses have been provided. Another useful website

which collects links to the various programs of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is the Accessible PA website-- www.accessiblepa.state.pa.us. You will find information on a variety of programs and services for Pennsylvanians with disabilities, such as programs for education, housing, transportation, vocational rehabilitation, employment, health care, home and community-based services, and child-specific services. In addition, the state Department of Health funds the Special Kids Network, a free referral and information resource for families with children with special health care needs which can be reached at 1-800-986-4550.

Overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The landmark civil rights law for people with disabilities is the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. §12101 *et. seq.*. The ADA is a federal law that prohibits disability-based discrimination by employers¹, by public entities, and by places of public accommodation. Although the ADA does not itself establish programs which provide economic or other support to persons with disabilities, it ensures that they can fully participate in programs without being subject to disability-based discrimination.

Who is covered by the ADA?

A person with a disability who is substantially limited in a major life activity is covered. A disability is defined under the ADA as: i) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of an individual; ii) having a record of such impairment, or iii) being regarded as having such an impairment (42 USC §12102(2)).

Major life activities include functions such as caring for yourself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working. An impairment substantially limits a major life activity when you are either: unable to perform a major life activity that the average person in the general population can perform, or significantly restricted as to the condition, manner or duration under which you can perform a particular major life activity as compared to the average person in the general population.

To evaluate whether you are substantially limited in a major life activity, the following factors apply: i) the nature and severity of the impairment; ii) the duration or expected duration of the impairment; and iii) the permanent or long term impact, or the expected impact of the impairment.

The ADA in Employment: Title I

Employers are prohibited from discriminating against a qualified individual with a disability in job application procedures, hiring, advancement, discharge, employee compensation, job training, and other terms, conditions, and privileges of employment. You are a qualified individual with a disability if you meet the skill, experience, education, and/or other requirements of the particular job, and you are able, with or without reasonable accommodation, to perform the essential functions of the job you have or desire.

¹ Only employers having 15 or more employees are covered by the ADA. Employers with 4 or more employees are covered by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act (PHRA).

Reasonable Accommodation

Discrimination also occurs when an employer does not make reasonable accommodations to the known physical or mental limitations of an individual unless the employer can show that the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of the employer's business. If you are having trouble performing some of your work duties (due to a disability), you should request a reasonable accommodation for your disability. At that time your employer may request that you provide documentation of your disability. The employee and employer should then meet informally and have a discussion about what accommodations are necessary. Some examples of accommodations are installing wheelchair ramps, making restrooms accessible, rearranging office furniture, modifying work schedules, etc. Whether an employer is required to provide a specific accommodation is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Undue Hardship

An employer must provide a reasonable accommodation unless she can show that it would be an undue hardship to comply. The employer cannot claim "undue hardship" simply because the cost of the accommodation is high relative to the employee's salary. Reallocation of a marginal job function or reassignment of an employee to a vacant position are other possible reasonable accommodations. However, an employer is not required to reallocate the essential functions of a job that an employee must perform. To be reassigned as an accommodation, the employee must be qualified for the other position, and that position must be vacant. An employer is not obligated to create light-duty (if none exists) or a new position for an employee who has requested reasonable accommodation.

Direct Threat

An employer may refuse to employ a person or grant an accommodation if that person would pose a direct threat to the health and safety of him/herself or others in the workplace. A direct threat defense cannot be based on the employer's speculation or assumptions regarding the individual's disability.

Discrimination Claims

The following requirements must be met in order to establish a presumption of discrimination under the ADA:

- a) You are a disabled person within the meaning of the ADA;
- b) You are otherwise qualified to perform the essential functions of the job, with or without reasonable accommodations by the employer; and,
- c) You have suffered an adverse employment decision as a result of discrimination.

If you do not meet the ADA definition of a disabled person, you may still have an ADA claim if your employer regards you as having an impairment and as a result takes an adverse employment action against you. For example: an employer thinks an employee is HIV+, and he fires him because of a prejudice against people with HIV. In

reality, the employee does not have HIV. That employee still has a potential claim under the ADA because the employer discriminated against him, thinking he had a disability. In addition, individuals who have a relationship to you or who associate with you are protected by the ADA. For example, if a significant person in your life is denied a job because the prospective employer fears that person will take off too much time to assist you, your significant person could make a claim under the ADA.

The ADA and Public Entities: Title II

Title II prohibits public entities from discriminating against a person based on disability in the services, programs or activities provided by the public entity. Public entities include state/local governments and their instrumentalities, including public universities, primary schools, etc. and public transportation. Public employers are also included. In addition, public entities that receive federal funding are also covered by the anti-discrimination provisions in section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. §794.

Reasonable Accommodation

Under Title II, you are a “qualified individual with a disability” if you meet the essential eligibility requirements to receive services, or to participate in programs or activities provided by a public agency, either with or without reasonable accommodations. Public agencies must provide reasonable accommodations to permit individuals to participate unless to do so would “fundamentally alter” the nature of the program, activity, or service. For example, the public agency may be required to modify agency rules, policies, or practices, or to remove architectural, communication, or transportation barriers, or to provide auxiliary aids and services (such as qualified interpreters, readers, or assistive devices).

Access to Public Accommodations: Title III

A public accommodation is a place operated by a private company or business whose operations affect commerce. These include, but are not limited to, hotels, restaurants, doctors’ offices, retail stores, stadiums, private schools, day care centers, and theaters.

Accessibility

Places of public accommodation are required to remove architectural and communication barriers in buildings built before 1992 when such changes are “readily achievable,” or easily accomplished without much difficulty or expense. With a few exceptions, all new construction must be accessible. In addition, if a facility is renovated in full or part, the alterations must be made accessible. The path of travel to the altered area and amenities must also be accessible to the maximum extent feasible.

Reasonable Modifications

Public accommodations must make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures when such are necessary to afford individuals with disabilities access to goods, services, and facilities in the most integrated manner possible, unless the business can demonstrate that to do so would be a “fundamental alteration” of the nature of such goods, services, or facilities. You cannot be charged for the cost of any modifications or accommodations provided to you in order to make goods, services, programs, or facilities accessible to you (exception: transportation companies may charge more for paratransit services).

Filing Discrimination Claims

For Title I employment discrimination claims, the employee must file a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) within 300 days of notification that an adverse employment action will occur. If the employer has fewer than 15 employees, the employee may file a complaint with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC) within 180 days of notification of the adverse employment action. An employee filing with the EEOC may also request that their complaint be cross-filed with the PHRC. Federal employees must file a complaint with their Equal Employment Opportunity representative within 45 days of the adverse employment action. Employees of private employers may not file a lawsuit in court until they receive a determination or a “right-to-sue” letter from the EEOC and/or PHRC.

For more information about EEOC complaints, call your local EEOC field office. Pittsburgh: (412) 644-3444, TDD (412) 644-2720, Philadelphia: (215) 440-2600, TDD (215) 440-2610, or call (800) 669-4000, TDD (800) 669-6820 to be automatically connected to the nearest field office.

For more information about PHRC complaints, please contact your local PHRC field office. Pittsburgh: (412) 565-5395, TDD (412) 565-5711, Philadelphia: (215) 560-2496, TDD (215) 560-3599, Harrisburg: (717) 787-4410, TDD (717) 787-4087.

For Title II public services discrimination claims and Title III public accommodations discrimination claims, you may file a complaint with the Department of Justice: (202) 514-0301, TDD: (202) 514-0383. Alternatively, you may find a lawyer and file a complaint in federal district court. Please note that there is a 2 year statute of limitations (from the date of the discriminatory action) for filing a lawsuit.

For Title II and Title III transportation claims, a complaint may be filed with the Department of Transportation: (202) 366-9305, TDD: (202) 755-7687, or a complaint may be filed in federal court (see above).

In addition, if you are alleging Title III discrimination, you may file a complaint with the U.S. Attorney General, who is authorized to bring lawsuits in cases of general public importance, or where a “pattern or practice” of discrimination is alleged. To file such a complaint, contact the Department of Justice at the above numbers.

Questions

There are other laws (not discussed in this section) which prohibit discrimination based on disability, including but not limited to: the Fair Housing Act Amendments (See catalogue entry for Overview of Fair Housing Rights in the Housing section), and the Rehabilitation Act. If you have questions on how these laws may apply to you, please contact the Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia: (215) 238-8070, TDD (215) 789-2498, or in Pittsburgh: (412) 391-5225, TDD (412) 467-8940, or other legal advocates listed in the Legal Services section of this catalogue.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
PENNSYLVANIA'S ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LENDING LIBRARY

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Lending Library
2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Services available to persons with any disabilities.
 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None
 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
None
 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Pennsylvania residents
 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
Lends equipment as available.
4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**

Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Lending Library is a free service that loans assistive technology devices, including software and laptop computers, to people with disabilities so that they can determine whether that particular device would be helpful to them before acquiring one through other funding mechanisms (such as Medical Assistance, OVR, private health insurance). The library maintains a catalogue of the devices that are available for borrowing. Requests for devices can be made by the person with a disability, a family member, friend or advocate, or someone who is helping with assistive technology needs (e.g., a therapist, teacher, rehabilitation counselor). If the device is not included in the catalogue, suggestions for new items to include can be made. Items are loaned from two to four weeks.
5. **Funding Source(s):**
Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology

7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**

The catalogue of devices available for borrowing can be found on the PIAT website at www.temple.edu/inst_disabilities/PIAT/piat.html or by contacting the appropriate regional Assistive Technology Resource Center, listed below. A written request for the device is submitted to the regional Resource Center. The request form can be found on the website or obtained from any Resource Center. Some devices are available for direct loan to consumers and some require that a support person assist with the use of the device during the lending period.

Regional Resource Centers:

Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT)

Institute on Disabilities/UAP

Ritter Hall Annex - Room 423; Temple University

Philadelphia, PA 19122

(800) 204-PIAT (7428) Voice ; (800) 750-PIAT (7428) TTY

Contact: Carol Kahn

Counties Served: Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Montgomery, Delaware

Community Resources for Independence

2222 Filmore Avenue

Erie, PA 16506

(800) 530-5541 Voice

(814) 838-8115 TTY

Contact: Karen Zeiber

Counties Served: Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango, Warren

Three Rivers Center for Independent Living

900 Rebecca Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 152221-2997

(800) 633-4588 Toll Free

(412) 371-6230 TTY

Contact: Kevin Huwe

Counties Served: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Indiana, Lawrence, Westmoreland

Life and Independence for Today

503 Arch Street Extension
Saint Marys, PA 15857-1779
(800) 341-5438 Voice
(814) 781-1917 Fax/TTY
Contact: Merri Burkhouse
Counties Served: Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, Mckean, Potter, Tioga

United Cerebral Palsy of the Capital Area
925 Linda Lane
Camp Hill, PA 17011
(717) 737-3477 Voice/TTY
Contact: Jackie Wardle
Counties Served: Cumberland, Dauphin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, York

United Rehabilitation Services, Inc.
425 S. Main Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
(570) 820-8480 Voice
Contact Person: Judy Orgie
Counties Served: Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Schuylkill, Wyoming

Tri-County Patriots for Independent Living
69 E. Beau Street
Washington, PA 15301
(724) 223-5115 Voice/TTY
Contact: Dee Lesneski
Counties Served: Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Somerset, Washington

Center for Independent Living of North Central PA
210 Market Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
(800) 984-7492; (570) 327-9070 Voice
(570) 327-5254 TTY
Contact: Karen Swimley
Counties Served: Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Sullivan, Union

United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania

425 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503
(1-877) 827-8324 Northeastern PA
(570) 347-3117 TTY
Contact: Linda Mesavage
Counties Served: Bradford, Lackawanna, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne

Easter Seals
55 Hamilton Road
Chambersburg, PA 17201
(717) 264-7578 Voice
(717) 264-5864 TTY
Contact: Mary Steel
Counties Served: Adams, Fulton, Franklin, Huntingdon

8. Additional Comments (if any):

This service does not fund the purchase of assistive technology, but gives consumers the opportunity to try it out before purchase. See the entries below for methods of obtaining funding for assistive technology.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

Medical Assistance for funding of many types of assistive technology for children and adults.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services (OVR) for funding of assistive technology for persons over 16.

Special Education for funding of assistive technology for children age 3 and up.

Early Intervention for funding of assistive technology for children birth to age 3.

Bureau of Blindness Visual Services (BBVS) funding for assistive technology for persons who are blind or with visual impairments.

b. Other similar types of programs:

See Vocational Programs Listing for OVR Hiram G. Andrews Center for Assistive technology.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS
COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
County Mental Health Services

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
MH/MR

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Mental Illness or other demonstrated need for behavioral health services.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
There are no financial restrictions, however, for some services not covered by insurance or otherwise, an individual may be required to help pay for services.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program operated on a county-wide basis.

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
Funding for services is limited to what the Legislature appropriates each year. The counties also provide some funding. However, the total funding is less than that necessary for all eligible people to receive all necessary services.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Long-term inpatient services (at state psychiatric hospitals); short-term inpatient services; partial hospitalization; counseling; information and referral; case management; residential services (e.g. group homes and CRRs); day programming; respite care.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
The state legislature appropriates funding for mental health services which is supplemented by county funding. Approximately 90% of the funding for non-institutional care, care outside a state psychiatric hospital, is state funding and 10% is county funding. State hospitals are funded 100% by state funds.

- 6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**

The Department of Public Welfare Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (OMHSAS) is the responsible state agency. On the local level, the county or county joiner mental health and mental retardation program administers mental health services. Each county or county joiner consists of one or more base service units (BSU) which serve as the point of entry into the mental health system. The BSUs are set up to serve people in a particular geographic “catchment” area. To determine which BSU to contact, you should contact the county MH/MR office or look in the blue pages of your telephone book or the DPW web site at www.dpw.state.pa.us.
- 7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**

There are many ways mental health services can be accessed. Often, an individual’s first contact with the mental health system can be difficult because many people enter the system through an involuntary commitment process. However, one can also access services by going to a local hospital if immediate assistance is necessary. If it is not a crisis situation, the BSU is the best place to access mental health services. You can find the phone number for the BSU or the county mental health office in the blue pages of the telephone book, or the DPW web site at www.dpw.state.pa.us.
- 8. Additional Comments (if any):**
- 9. Cross-References:**
 - a. Other types of services for population:**

Medical Assistance funding is available for many of the community treatment services. See Entries on Behavioral Health--Medical Assistance Services for Adults and Behavioral Health – Medical Assistance Services for Children.
 - b. Other similar types of programs:**

See Mental Retardation Services listing for similar types of services which are appropriate for persons with mental retardation or with dual diagnoses of MR and behavioral health issues and which are operated by the county MH/MR office and BSUs.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES FOR ADULTS

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Medical Assistance Behavioral Health Services for Adults

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
MH Services

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Mental illness or other demonstrated need for behavioral health services.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
Services listed in this entry are available to adults aged 21 and over; for persons under 21, see the entry on Children's Medical Assistance Behavioral Health Services.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Limited to individuals with low or moderate income who meet the financial criteria under the State Medicaid Plan. An individual's assets and income will determine the individual's category of assistance. See the Medical Assistance Overview for specific coverage information.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program; in some counties services must be obtained from the HealthChoices behavioral health managed care organization.

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
The following services are covered when medically necessary:
 - Inpatient psychiatric hospital services, except when provided in a state mental hospital
 - Psychiatric partial hospitalization services
 - Psychiatric outpatient clinic, psychiatrist services
 - Laboratory studies ordered by behavioral health physicians and clozapine support services
 - Crisis intervention services with in-home capability
 - Targeted mental health case management (intensive case management and resource coordination)

There are limits on the amount and duration of some services, which depend on a recipient's category of assistance.

5. Funding Source(s):

Joint state and federal Medical Assistance funds

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Department of Public Welfare Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (OMHSAS) and the County mental health program; or the Behavioral Health managed care organization in Health Choices counties.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

In counties not covered by HealthChoices, services can be accessed by directly contacting an enrolled MA provider of behavioral health services, or by contacting the local MH/MR office for assistance in finding a provider. The local office can be found on the DPW website at www.dpw.state.pa.us or in the blue government pages of the phone book.

In HealthChoices counties, contact the relevant Behavioral Health plan for the county indicated:

HealthChoices Southeast

Magellan Behavioral Health:

Bucks	1-877-769-9784
Chester	1-877-769-9780
Montgomery	1-877-769-9782
Delaware	1-888-207-2911

Community Behavioral Health:

Philadelphia	1-888-545-2600
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HealthChoices Southwest

Community Care Behavioral Health:

Allegheny	1-800-553-7499
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Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania:

Armstrong	1-877-688-5969
Beaver	1-877-688-5970
Butler	1-877-688-5971
Fayette	1-877-688-5972
Greene	1-877-688-5973
Indiana	1-877-688-5974
Lawrence	1-877-688-5975
Washington	1-877-688-5976
Westmoreland	1-877-688-5977

HealthChoices Lehigh/Capital

Community Behavioral HealthCare Network of Pennsylvania

Cumberland	1-888-722-8646
Dauphin	same
Lancaster	same
Lebanon	same
Perry	same

Magellan Behavioral Health

Lehigh	1-866-238-2312
Northampton	same

Community Care Behavioral Healthcare Organization

Adams	1-866-738-9849
Berks	1-866-292-7886
York	1-866-542-0299

8. Additional Comments (if any):

In HealthChoices counties, most medications prescribed by a behavioral health psychiatrist will be provided by the patient's physical health HMO.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

Medical Assistance Services
Income Supports
Mental Retardation Services for those with Dual Diagnoses

b. Other similar types of programs:

County Mental Health Services

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

- 1. Name/Type of Service:**
Medical Assistance Behavioral Health Services for Children

- 2. Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
Those services that are *only* available to children and adolescents are sometimes referred to as EPSDT services. See names of specific services below.

- 3. Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. Disabilities Covered:**
All individuals who are eligible for Medical Assistance are eligible.

 - b. Age Restrictions:**
Under 21.

 - c. Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Although Medical Assistance is limited to persons with low income, in the case of children with serious disabilities, parental income does not count. See the Overview of Medical Assistance Programs in Medical Services Section for specific coverage information.

 - d. Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program; in some counties services must be obtained from the HealthChoices behavioral health managed care organization.

 - e. Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

- 4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Children are eligible for the same services adults receive (e.g., Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital, Outpatient Clinic, Psychiatric Partial Hospital, Targeted Case-management, psychiatric medication and psychiatrists visits, and Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation services), but without any service limitations. Children are eligible for all medically necessary services at whatever frequency is necessary.

In addition, children are eligible for the following services when medically necessary:

- Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) services. RTFs are facilities intended to provide live-in mental health treatment to children and adolescents. The average stay is under a year, but varies greatly. RTFs can be large (a few hundred children) or small (less than a dozen children)
- Behavioral Health Rehabilitation (BHR) Services are community based, non-residential services designed to provide rehabilitative treatment and avoid more restrictive services/placements. They include, Therapeutic Staff Support (a one-on-one aid to carry out a behavior plan designed by a professional), Mobile Therapy (in home psychotherapy), Behavioral Specialist Consultant (a professional who designs a behavior plan), Summer Therapeutic Camps, and any other prescribed and medically necessary rehabilitative service not otherwise covered
- Family Based Mental Health Services are intensive, professional, home-based services, including family therapy and crisis intervention services. They differ from BHR services in that they do not include non-professional, one-on-one aid services for the child.
- Psychologist visits: While adults can only get MA funded outpatient therapy from a mental health clinic or from a psychiatrist, children are also eligible for counseling services performed by a licensed psychologist in private practice.
- Evaluations: Children are eligible for any medically necessary psychiatric, psychological or neurological evaluations.

5. Funding Source(s):

Joint state and federal Medical Assistance funds.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

In HealthChoices counties, DPW's Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) administers the program through contracts with the counties and/or MCOs. In non-HealthChoices counties, the counties should be involved in the process to assist in accessing services and in coordinating with other MH/MR services, but are not responsible for authorizing or denying services, or for payment. DPW's Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP) is responsible for determining medical necessity of services and for payment, while DPW's OMHSAS works with OMAP to develop policies and has some oversight responsibilities towards the county offices of MH/MR.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

In fee for service Medical Assistance, families should contact the county office of mental health to begin the application process. The local county office can be found on the DPW website at www.dpw.state.pa.us or in the blue government pages of the phone book. Families can also start the process by going directly to a service provider.

In HealthChoices counties, contact the relevant Behavioral Health plan for the county indicated:

HealthChoices Southeast

Magellan Behavioral Health:

Bucks	1-877-769-9784
Chester	1-877-769-9780
Montgomery	1-877-769-9782
Delaware	1-888-207-2911

Community Behavioral Health:

Philadelphia	1-888-545-2600
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HealthChoices Southwest

Community Care Behavioral Health:

Allegheny	1-800-553-7499
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Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania:

Armstrong	1-877-688-5969
Beaver	1-877-688-5970
Butler	1-877-688-5971
Fayette	1-877-688-5972
Greene	1-877-688-5973
Indiana	1-877-688-5974
Lawrence	1-877-688-5975
Washington	1-877-688-5976
Westmoreland	1-877-688-5977

HealthChoices Lehigh/Capital

Community Behavioral HealthCare Network of Pennsylvania

Cumberland	1-888-722-8646
Dauphin	same
Lancaster	same
Lebanon	same
Perry	same

Magellan Behavioral Health

Lehigh	1-866-238-2312
Northampton	same

Community Care Behavioral Healthcare Organization

Adams	1-866-738-9849
Berks	1-866-292-7886
York	1-866-542-0299

In the case of an RTF or any of the Behavioral Health Rehabilitation (BHR) services, before services are approved: 1) the child must have a prescription from a psychiatrist or physician (or psychologist for BHR services); 2) there must be an interagency team meeting with representation of the various child-serving systems with which the child is involved (e.g., school district, office of mental health, children and youth agency, juvenile probation, office of mental retardation, drug and alcohol program), the family, the adolescent (if 14 or over) and, if possible, the prescribing professional; 3) a packet of papers must be prepared; and 4) OMAP or the MCO must determine that RTF or BHR services are medically necessary. If an MCO does not agree that the services are necessary, it must send the packet to OMAP for further review and must provide the service if OMAP deems it medically necessary. The county or MCO should help arrange for an evaluation (if one has not been done recently), and for the interagency team meeting.

To obtain traditional services in excess of adult limitations, a special request and letter of medical necessity will be required.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

It is important to keep in mind that even a unique service, if prescribed by a licensed practitioner and deemed to be medically necessary, must be funded even if it is not specifically listed anywhere.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

Medical Assistance Services for Children
Early Intervention and Special Education Services

b. Other similar types of programs:

County Mental Health Services

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDED DRUG AND ALCOHOL REHABILITATION

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Medical Assistance Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Substance Abuse (e.g. addiction to drugs or alcohol)

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Limited to individuals with low or moderate income who meet the financial criteria under the State Medicaid Plan. See Overview of Medical Assistance Program in Medical Services section.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program which operates on a county-by-county basis.

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Medically necessary outpatient drug and alcohol clinic services are covered for eligible recipients. Clinic services are limited to the diagnosis and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse and dependence, including psychiatric and medical examination, individual and family psychotherapy, and administration of drugs, such as methadone, for opiate detoxification. Ambulance services from a hospital to a non-hospital drug and alcohol detoxification and rehabilitation facility are also covered. With the exception of inpatient acute care hospital services, services provided by a drug and alcohol treatment institution are not covered by MA. Inpatient general hospital or rehabilitation hospital services may be covered. There are limitations on the amount and type of benefits available, depending on a recipient's category of assistance.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
Joint state and federal Medical Assistance funds.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:
Department of Public Welfare Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (OMHSAS) and Single County Authority (SCA) of each county; or the Behavioral Health managed care organization in Health Choices counties.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:
Contact the local SCA. The local office can be found on the web at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omhsas/omhsca.asp or by calling your county MH/MR office.

In HealthChoices counties, contact the relevant Behavioral Health plan for the county indicated:

HealthChoices Southeast

Magellan Behavioral Health:

Bucks	1-877-769-9784
Chester	1-877-769-9780
Montgomery	1-877-769-9782
Delaware	1-888-207-2911

Community Behavioral Health:

Philadelphia	1-888-545-2600
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HealthChoices Southwest

Community Care Behavioral Health:

Allegheny	1-800-553-7499
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Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania:

Armstrong	1-877-688-5969
Beaver	1-877-688-5970
Butler	1-877-688-5971
Fayette	1-877-688-5972
Greene	1-877-688-5973
Indiana	1-877-688-5974
Lawrence	1-877-688-5975
Washington	1-877-688-5976
Westmoreland	1-877-688-5977

HealthChoices Lehigh/Capital

Community Behavioral HealthCare Network of Pennsylvania

Cumberland	1-888-722-8646
Dauphin	same
Lancaster	same
Lebanon	same
Perry	same

Magellan Behavioral Health
Lehigh 1-866-238-2312
Northampton same
Community Care Behavioral Healthcare Organization
Adams 1-866-738-9849
Berks 1-866-292-7886
York 1-866-542-0299

8. Additional Comments (if any):

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

MA Behavioral Health Services

Medical Assistance

Income Supports – though there are limits for persons in addiction treatment programs

b. Other similar types of programs:

For persons not eligible for Medical Assistance, see entry on County Based Drug and Alcohol Rehab.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
COUNTY BASED DRUG AND ALCOHOL REHABILITATION

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
County Drug and Alcohol Programs

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
D & A
County Substance Abuse Program

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Substance Abuse (e.g., addiction to drugs and alcohol).

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
There are no financial restrictions, however, for some services not covered by insurance or otherwise, an individual may be required to help pay for services if financially able. Many low-income individuals will be eligible for Medical Assistance coverage. See Overview of Medical Assistance Program in Medical Services section and separate entry on Behavioral Health – Medical Assistance Funded Drug and Alcohol Rehab.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program operates on a county-by-county basis.

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
Drug and alcohol services are not an entitlement. Funding for services is limited to what the Legislature appropriates each year along with federal funds available to be spent in the state. The counties also provide funding.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation and treatment for substance abuse problems.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
The Department of Health is designated as the Single State Agency to plan and allocate federal block grant monies in combination with state appropriations to SCAs and other community based programs based upon population, competitive awards, and other factors.
6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
The Department of Health, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs contracts with local government units in each county or groups of counties or other non-governmental agencies. The local entities with which the state contracts, called Single County Authorities (SCAs), plan and implement community based services in accordance with the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol's decentralized planning and treatment philosophy. The Bureau of Drug and Alcohol approves these plans and formulates a statewide program. Locally, the SCA is the agency responsible for administering services. It is generally attached to the county human services office, which also includes other programs, such as offices of mental health and mental retardation, and children and youth.
7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
Most SCA's contract with independent providers for treatment, prevention and intervention services while several administer their own direct services. Applications for services are made at the SCA in the county where the applicant resides. These are listed at the Department of Health website at: www.health.state.pa.us/php/SCA/scacomap.htm or in the blue pages of your telephone book.
8. **Additional Comments (if any):**
9. **Cross-References:**
 - a. **Other types of services for population:**
 - b. **Other similar types of programs:**
Behavioral Health–Medical Assistance Funded Drug and Alcohol Rehab

EDUCATION
EARLY INTERVENTION/PRE-SCHOOL SERVICES

- 1. Name/Type of Service:**
Early Intervention/Pre-School Services

- 2. Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
EI Services
DART (In Allegheny County)
Act 212 (Early Intervention Act)
Alliance for Infants

- 3. Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. Disabilities Covered:**
Children with a developmental delay or with a physical or mental disability that is likely to result in a developmental delay. A developmental delay is defined as a significant delay in any one of the following developmental areas: cognitive, communication, physical, social/emotional, or self-care.

 - b. Age Restrictions:**
For children from birth to age 5. Services are accessed in two different ways, depending on whether the child is under or over 3 years old.

 - c. Individual Financial Restrictions:**
The evaluation for eligibility is free and services are provided at no cost to the family.

 - d. Geographic Limits:**
None

 - e. Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
No caps on number of children served or funds available for eligible children. A public agency or private provider cannot refuse to provide necessary services because they are too costly or because there is a shortage of service providers.

- 4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Early Intervention services include, but are not limited to, occupational, physical, speech and language therapies, psychological services, and specialized learning instruction. Services also include family training and counseling and other

services needed by the family to support the child's development. Assistive technology is also available to children from Early Intervention programs. Children under age three are entitled to receive service coordination and nutrition services.

The type, amount, and location of special services provided must be based on the child's needs. First, for children who are too young to attend a full day "school" program, special services may be provided in the child's home. Second, for children enrolled in a public or private day care center or pre-school program, support to the regular teacher may be provided. Third, children may also receive a combination of in-home and in-school programs. Finally, there are also special classroom-based programs available. The law requires that pre-schoolers receive their services in integrated settings (with children without disabilities), to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the child. This is also called "mainstreaming."

5. Funding Source(s):

Combined federal, state and local funds.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

The Office of Mental Health and Mental Retardation of the Department of Public Welfare (MH/MR) administers Early Intervention Services for children from birth to age 3. In most areas of the state, pre-school programs for children ages 3 to 5 are provided through local County Intermediate Units, either directly or through contracts with private providers.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

For children from birth through age 3, the parent must contact their local County MH/MR office to ask for a formal evaluation to determine a child's eligibility for services. Contact information for County MH/MR offices can be found in the blue government pages of the phone book or on the Department of Public Welfare web site at www.dpw.state.pa.us. Once a child is determined to be eligible, an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting will be scheduled to decide which services the child needs.

At least 90 days before a child receiving Early Intervention services turns 3, the County Office of MH/MR, the local pre-school agency, and the parent must meet to plan for the child's future. If the pre-school agency proposes to change the child's program, and the parent does not agree, the pre-school agency must provide the child with all of the services listed in the IFSP while the dispute is resolved through the special education hearing and appeal system.

For children age 3 to 5 who are not already receiving Early Intervention services, a parent can request such services from their County Intermediate Unit or from the child's school principal. The school will then obtain parental consent to do an

evaluation of the child. A Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) that includes the parent must do the evaluation within 45 days after parental consent is given. A report must be written and given to the parent recommending whether the child is eligible for services, and if so, what services are needed. An Individualized Education Program (IEP) team (which must include the parent) then develops an IEP at a conference. The child will receive the services that are listed on the IEP. For pre-schoolers, the IEP must be reviewed, and revised, if necessary, every 6 months.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

Parents can request a due process hearing if there are any disagreements regarding services. For more information on due process hearings, contact the Right To Education Office at 800-222-3353, TDD 800-692-7288. The Right to Education Office is an impartial agency that schedules, coordinates, and administers special education and early intervention due process hearings.

For more information on securing Early Intervention services, dispute resolution options, and on the general legal rights of pre-schoolers with disabilities, contact the Education Law Center-PA (ELC) at (215)-239-6970 or (412)-391-5225. ELC publishes booklets and fact sheets on the right to special education in Pennsylvania. Booklets are free to parents requesting them. There is a small fee to advocates who request the information. In addition, ELC has free fact sheets on their website, www.ELC-PA.org. The following groups may also be helpful:

Parents Exchange: (215) 242-9501
Parent Education Network: 1-800-522-5827
Other parent groups/organizations in your area.

9. Cross-References:

- a. Other types of services for population:**
 - Medical Assistance Services for Children
 - Behavioral Health Medical Assistance Services for Children
- b. Other similar types of programs:**
 - Special Education

EDUCATION
SPECIAL EDUCATION

1. Name/Type of Service:

Special Education

2. Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:

Special Ed.

3. Eligibility Standards:

a. Disabilities Covered:

Children with a physical, emotional, or mental disability who need special education because of the disability. Recognized disabilities include the following: mental retardation, autism, sensory and orthopedic impairments, learning disabilities, and severe emotional disturbances. Children who have chronic health problems, Tourettes Syndrome or attention deficit disorders (ADD or ADHD) can also be eligible under the category of "Other Health Impaired." For a more comprehensive listing of the recognized disabilities and their definitions, contact ELC-PA (215) 239-6970 or (412) 391-5225 to request their booklet, The Right to Special Education in Pennsylvania, A Guide for Parents.

b. Age Restrictions:

Eligible children may receive services from the age the child begins attending public school through the school term in which the child turns 21 or graduates from high school, whichever comes first.

c. Individual Financial Restrictions:

Federal and state law guarantee a "**free appropriate public education (FAPE)**" for every eligible child with a disability, at the age the child begins attending public school. All special education programs and related and supportive services needed by the child must be provided without cost to the family. School officials may not ask a family to use their private insurance to pay for an evaluation or service if there is a cost involved, an annual or lifetime limit to benefits under the policy, or if using the policy could result in a rate increase. However, school officials may use a child's Medical Assistance card to pay for services that also qualify under the Medical Assistance program. Medical Assistance may also pay for certain other medically necessary services or equipment to children in school, such as the assistance of a registered nurse, or the help of one-to-one support staff for a child. Regardless of which agency pays for the service, the school district must list the service on the IEP and must make sure the service is provided without cost to the eligible student.

- d. **Geographic Limits:**
None
- e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
No caps on number of children served or funds available for eligible children.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**

Special Education services include, but are not limited to, “**Specially Designed Instruction**,” which is a modification of the content, methodology or delivery of the curriculum (taking into account the child’s learning style); “**Supplemental Aids and Services**,” which are aids, services, and supports that are provided to help children with disabilities to be educated with their typical peers, including the help of a special teacher or an instructional aide, evaluation for and provision of assistive technology devices (either custom or non-custom) and training in the use of such devices; “**Related Services**,” which are services needed to help the student benefit from the education program, such as transportation; assistance in moving about the school building; physical, occupational, and speech therapy; counseling or psychological therapy; school health services; and other necessary services. The services of a medical doctor are usually not included, except where necessary to determine the child’s disability or the type of program/services the child needs.

Special education programs and services may be provided in a regular classroom, a special classroom or in a special school, depending on the needs of the child. The law favors placement in the school the child would attend if he/she did not have a disability. Children should be placed in separate classes or schools only if their needs cannot be met in a regular education environment, even with supports. Students requiring placement in a special class or school must still be given opportunities to be included in school programs and activities with their non-disabled peers.

5. **Funding Source(s):**

Combined federal, state and local funds.

6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**

The school district where the parents live is responsible for making sure that each eligible student is located, identified, and provided a free appropriate public education. Children who live in foster care, group homes, residential treatment or other facilities are entitled to receive their education from the school district in which they live.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

If a parent believes his/her child needs special education services, he/she must send a written request for an evaluation to the Principal of the child's school, including the child's name, birth date, why an evaluation is needed, and giving consent for the evaluation. The evaluation must be completed within 45 days from the date of parental consent. The student is usually evaluated by a certified school psychologist. Educational assessments are also necessary. The child's present skill levels and learning needs are identified. The evaluation process may also include a physician or therapist evaluation if certain related services (such as physical or occupational therapy) may be needed.

If school officials wish to evaluate a child for the first time, they must send the parent written notice detailing the types of evaluations recommended, the dates of the evaluations, and the parent's right to: 1) meet with the evaluator prior to testing; 2) review their child's school records; 3) give or refuse consent to the proposed evaluation. If a parent refuses to consent in writing to the first evaluation, the evaluation cannot be done unless school officials request a hearing and obtain an order from a special education hearing officer.

The results of all evaluations must be reviewed by the **Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)**, headed by the school principal or his/her representative. The MDT must include the parents, and at least the school psychologist and the child's teacher. The MDT must issue a written report, sometimes called a "**Comprehensive Evaluation Report**" (**CER**), within 15 school days after the evaluation is completed. The CER must recommend whether the child is eligible for special education, and if so, what services are needed. If the parent or any member of the MDT does not agree with the report, the individual has 5 school days to write a "dissenting opinion" stating the reasons for the disagreement. The opinion must be included in the final report.

An **Individualized Education Program (IEP)** team (which must include the parent) then develops an IEP at a conference. The IEP identifies the goals for the child's program, the specialized instruction that will be used to teach the child, and the way the child's progress will be monitored. An IEP must include all the programs and services necessary to meet a child's individual needs as identified during the evaluation process. School officials must make sure that the child receives all the programs and services that are listed on the IEP. All personnel who work with the child must be informed of the accommodations, modifications, and supports that must be provided under the IEP, as well as their individual responsibilities for implementing the IEP. Personnel must be prepared and trained adequately to carry out their responsibilities. An IEP conference must be held each year to review, and if necessary, revise the IEP. If a child

moves to another PA school district, the IEP “moves” with the child. An IEP conference must generally be held before a student’s program or placement can be changed for disciplinary reasons.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

Parents of children receiving special education services have the right to disagree with school officials and the right to take action on behalf of their children. These are called “**due process**” rights. These rights include the right to receive written notices whenever school officials want to: 1) re-evaluate a child; 2) make any significant changes in the child’s IEP or placement; 3) when the school refuses to do something the parent has asked the school to do. The notice must tell parents about their right to disagree with the school, and to use mediation and the pre-hearing conference, hearing, and appeal processes to resolve any concerns. The Pennsylvania mediation system is voluntary for parents and school districts, and it is free. Attorneys are not used in mediation sessions. If mediation is not successful, the parent retains his/her rights to a pre-hearing conference and/or a hearing. To request mediation, call the **Special Education Mediation System at 1-800-992-4334**. The pre-hearing conference is also optional. It provides an opportunity for parents and the school district to work out their differences regarding the child’s program and placement. A request for a pre-hearing conference should be made to the school principal in writing. The conference must be held within 10 school days after the receipt of your written request. To request a hearing, a parent must also send a written request to the school principal, and copy that request to the school district’s director of special education and/or the district superintendent.

For more information on securing Special Education services, dispute resolution options, and on the general legal rights of pre-schoolers with disabilities, contact the Education Law Center-PA (ELC) at (215)-239-6970 or (412)-391-5225. ELC publishes booklets and fact sheets on the right to special education in Pennsylvania. Booklets are free to parents requesting them. There is a small fee to advocates who request the information. In addition, ELC has free fact sheets on their website, www.ELC-PA.org. The following groups may also be helpful:

Parents Exchange: (215) 242-9501
Parent Education Network: 1-800-522-5827
Other parent groups/organizations in your area.

9. Cross-References:

- a. Other types of services for population:**
 - Medical Assistance Services for Children
 - Behavioral Health Medical Assistance Services for Children
- b. Other similar types of programs:**
 - Early Intervention

SERVICES FOR ELDERLY PERSONS
PDA WAIVER

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
PDA Waiver

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
Pennsylvania Department of Aging Waiver
Medicaid 60+ Waiver
PDA 60+ Waiver

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
A program for elderly persons who need nursing home level of care.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
Must be age 60 or older.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Persons are eligible for this waiver if they receive Medical Assistance (other than as a GA recipient). Additionally, the Waiver can provide services to people who are not currently Medical Assistance recipients but whose income is no more than 300% of the SSI federal benefit. Effective January 2002, this amount is \$1,593 per month. Unlike traditional Medical Assistance eligibility, a spouse's income and resources do not count, and the consumer applying for the program can transfer resources to a spouse without penalty. There are no co-payments or costs for eligible persons.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
The costs of home based care cannot exceed 80% of the Medical Assistance costs for nursing facility care. There are a limited number of persons who can be served by this waiver. Persons are placed on waiting lists based on the assessment performed by the AAA according to the urgency of their need. Using tobacco settlement money, Pennsylvania hopes to expand the number of persons served and has as its goal serving 19,000 elderly persons in its various Home and Community Based Services programs, including the PDA Waiver, by 2006.

4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):

The PDA Waiver provides an array of community based long term care services which assist elderly consumers to function at the optimal level while remaining in the most appropriate setting, preferably their own home. Examples of services which can be obtained are home support, home health, personal care, adult day care, respite care, counseling, protective services, extended state plan physician services, home delivered meals, transportation services, medical equipment, supplies, and adaptive devices, home modifications, personal emergency response and companions. Services must not exceed 80% of the Medical Assistance costs of nursing facility care.

5. Funding Source(s):

Joint state and federal Medicaid funds.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Local Area Agency on Aging offices (AAA) administer the program for the Pennsylvania Department of Aging. The address and phone number of the local office can be found in the blue government pages of the phone book, or by consulting the Department of Aging Website at www.aging.state.pa.us. The income and asset eligibility determination is made the Department of Public Welfare's County Assistance Offices.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

The consumer or his/her family contacts the local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) office and asks for an assessment of service needs. The AAA agency sends someone to do an extensive assessment of the applicant's condition and circumstances. The assessment determines eligibility, appropriateness, and, if all service slots are filled, where the applicant is placed on a waiting list. Once the assessment is completed, a Care Manager from the AAA works with the consumer to match the identified needs with the appropriate services. Addresses for the local AAA office can be found at PDA's website www.aging.state.pa.us or in the blue government pages of the telephone book.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

Consumers have the right to appeal if they believe the package of services offered to them under the waiver is inadequate or inappropriate. The state has the right to recover the costs of services received under the Waiver from the estate of the person upon their death. The Department of Public Welfare has published a useful guide on the variety of Medicaid-funded Home and Community Based waivers which are operated in Pennsylvania; it can be obtained from the DPW website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/general/hacbbroc.asp or by calling the Long Term Care Helpline toll free at 1-866-286-3636.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

See other listings in this section;

Food Stamp and Meals on Wheels entry in Food and Nutritional Services section;

SSI and Social Security entries in Income Supports section;

Medical Assistance; Medicare; Medicare Buy-In; Medigap; Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly in Medical Services section.

b. Other similar types of programs:

For persons whose income or resources are too high, the PDA offers essentially the same array of services under the OPTIONS program, described in a separate catalogue entry.

SERVICES FOR ELDERLY PERSONS
OPTIONS COMMUNITY BASED LONG TERM CARE PROGRAM

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Options Community Based Long Term Care Program

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
Options
AAA Attendant Care Program
Personal Assistance Services (PAS)
Provider Reimbursement Program

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
A program for elderly persons who need nursing home level of care.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
Must be age 60 or older.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
There is no income limit for this program. It is anticipated that co-payments will soon be required.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
There are a limited number of persons who can be served by this waiver. Persons are placed on waiting lists based on the assessment performed by the AAA according to the urgency of their need. Using tobacco settlement money, Pennsylvania hopes to expand the number of persons served and has as its goal serving 19,000 elderly persons in its various Home and Community Based Services programs by 2006.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
OPTIONS is an array of community based long term care services provided locally by Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) for the purpose of helping elderly consumers function at the optimal level while remaining in the most appropriate setting, preferably their own home. Examples of services which can be obtained are home support, home health, personal care, day care, counseling, protective

services, home delivered meals, transportation services, medical equipment, supplies, and adaptive devices, home modifications and respite care among others.

5. Funding Source(s):

AAA Block Grant Program

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Local Area Agency on Aging offices (AAA) administer the program for the Pennsylvania Department of Aging. The address and phone number of the local office can be found in the blue government pages of the phone book, or by consulting the Department of Aging Website at www.aging.state.pa.us.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

The consumer or his/her family contacts the local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) office and asks for an assessment of service needs. The AAA agency sends someone to do an extensive assessment of the applicant's condition and circumstances. The assessment determines eligibility, appropriateness, and, if all service slots are filled, where the applicant is placed on a waiting list. Once the assessment is completed, a Care Manager from the AAA works with the consumer to match the identified needs with the appropriate services.

Addresses for the local AAA office can be found at PDA's website www.aging.state.pa.us or in the blue government pages of the telephone book.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

See other listings in this section;

Food Stamp and Meals on Wheels entry in Food and Nutritional Services section;

SSI and Social Security entries in Income Supports section;

Medical Assistance; Medicare; Medicare Buy-In; Medigap; Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly in Medical Services section.

b. Other similar types of programs:

This program is nearly identical to the PDA 60+ Waiver, but is available for persons whose income is too high to qualify for the Waiver.

SERVICES FOR ELDERLY PERSONS
LONG TERM CARE BRIDGE PROGRAM

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Long Term Care Bridge Program

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
A program for elderly persons who need nursing home level of care.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
Must be age 60 or older.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
This program is proposed for elderly persons whose income would qualify them for the PDA 60+ Waiver but whose assets exceed the \$2000 limit.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
This program is under development by the Departments of Aging and Public Welfare. It would use tobacco funds to allow persons who would qualify for the PDA 60+ waiver but for their assets to participate while spending down their assets to the \$2000 level. A limited number of persons would be served each year. Using tobacco settlement money, Pennsylvania hopes to expand the number of persons served and has as its goal serving 19,000 elderly persons in its various Home and Community Based Services programs by 2006.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
At the time of publication of this catalogue, this program was still under development. The BRIDGE program would provide the same array of services as the PDA 60+ Waiver and the OPTIONS program; namely, an array of community based long term care services provided locally by Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) for the purpose of helping elderly consumers function at the optimal level while remaining in the most appropriate setting, preferably their own home. Examples of services which could be obtained are home support, home health,

personal care, day care, counseling, protective services, home delivered meals, transportation services, medical equipment, supplies, and adaptive devices, home modifications and respite care among others.

5. Funding Source(s):

Tobacco settlement funds.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

At the time of publication of this catalogue, the program was still under development, but it is assumed that local Area Agency on Aging offices (AAA) will administer the program for the Pennsylvania Department of Aging. The address and phone number of local AAA offices can be found in the blue government pages of the phone book, or by consulting the Department of Aging Website at www.aging.state.pa.us. Persons interested in knowing the status of the program should contact those offices.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

The program was under development at the time of publication of this catalogue, so the exact means for accessing services once the program is implemented were not known. It is assumed that services will be accessed in much the same way as other home and community based services for elderly persons like the PDA 60+ Waiver or the OPTIONS program, by contacts to the local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) office for an assessment of service needs. Addresses for the local AAA office can be found at PDA's website www.aging.state.pa.us or in the blue government pages of the telephone book.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

See other listings in this section;

Food Stamp and Meals on Wheels entry in Food and Nutritional Services section;

SSI and Social Security entries in Income Supports section;

Medical Assistance; Medicare; Medicare Buy-In; Medigap; Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly in Medical Services section.

b. Other similar types of programs:

PDA Waiver

OPTIONS Community Based Long Term Care Program

SERVICES FOR ELDERLY PERSONS
FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Family Caregiver Support Program

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
A program for the families of elderly persons.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
Must be caring for a family member age 60 or older.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Eligibility for the Family Caregiver Support Program is determined on a sliding scale and is based on income. At the time of publication of this catalogue, the approximate income guidelines provided free services to families with annual incomes under about \$24,000 and on a sliding scale for annual incomes up to approximately \$40,000.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program.

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
The Pennsylvania Department of Aging's Family Caregiver Support Program provides payments of up to \$200 per month to an eligible family caregiver for expenses incurred purchasing care-giving related supplies such as adult incontinence products and services including respite care for an elderly family member. A caregiver may also be eligible for a one time grant of up to \$2000 to make home modifications and purchase assistive devices.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
State funds

6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Pennsylvania's Department of Aging (PDA) through local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) offices.

- 7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
By contacting your local AAA to apply. Addresses can be found at PDA's website www.aging.state.pa.us or in the blue government pages of the telephone book.
- 8. Additional Comments (if any):**
- 9. Cross-References:**
 - a. Other types of services for population:**
See other listings in this section;
Food Stamp and Meals on Wheels entry in Food and Nutritional Services section;
SSI and Social Security entries in Income Supports section;
Medical Assistance; Medicare; Medicare Buy-In; Medigap; Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly in Medical Services section.
 - b. Other similar types of programs:**
Housing Modification programs under Housing Listings

SERVICES FOR ELDERLY PERSONS
LONG TERM CARE CAPITATED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Long Term Care Capitated Assistance Program

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
LTCCAP
LIFE
PACE (not to be confused with the pharmaceutical program for seniors)

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
A program for elderly persons living at home who need nursing home level of care.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
Must be age 60 or older; planned to be reduced to age 55 in the near term. Check with individual programs for information.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Persons are eligible for LIFE services if they receive Medical Assistance (other than as a GA recipient) or both Medicare and Medical Assistance. Additionally, the LIFE program can provide services to people who are not currently Medical Assistance recipients but whose income is no more than 300% of the SSI federal benefit and whose resources (excluding a residence) are less than \$2000. At the time of publication of this catalogue, this amount is \$1593 per month for an individual. Thus, a person who is not otherwise eligible for Medical Assistance but whose income is no greater than \$1,593 per month would be eligible for services from the LIFE program.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
This is a pilot program currently limited to Philadelphia and Allegheny Counties. There are two providers in Philadelphia: St. Agnes Medical Center and Penn Nursing Network. A third program is expected to begin operating in Philadelphia during 2002, at which point there will be coverage for all of Philadelphia. There are two locations in Allegheny County: LIFE --Pittsburgh, Inc. and Community LIFE. A third program is expected to begin operating in Allegheny County during 2002, thus providing coverage for the entire county.

e. Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):

Four limited pilot projects with a limited number of persons served. At the time of the publication of this catalogue, all programs had room for additional enrollees.

4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):

This innovative program for all inclusive care of elderly persons uses a single community based provider for the full array of health care and social services needed. These emphasize community based services generally delivered at an adult day center including primary medical care, grooming and bathing, physical, occupational and speech therapies, as well as social services and meals. Home health care services are provided when needed and if the participant's health prohibits participation at the adult day center. Health care services are delivered by agency-contracted physicians, nurses, therapists, home health care providers, hospitals and nursing facilities. In return for agreeing to be at risk to provide all the health care needs of participants, LIFE providers receive a lump sum payment from Medicaid (and where available, Medicare). Participants must use the LIFE program for all their health care needs. Depending on the program, enrollment can take from 4 to 10 weeks from the initial contact. Initial intake involves a screening for medical eligibility for the program, participants are evaluated by the local Area Agency on Aging to see whether they need nursing home level of care; and they must be screened for financial eligibility if they are not already Medical Assistance recipients.

5. Funding Source(s):

Medical Assistance or dual Medical Assistance and Medicare.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Department of Public Welfare

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

Individual LIFE providers should be contacted. The Philadelphia and Pittsburgh offices are divided into service areas (called catchment areas) by zip code. Interested persons should contact the program serving their zip code.

In Philadelphia, the South Philadelphia area is served by LIFE– St. Agnes at 1500 S. Columbus Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19147, Telephone: 215 339-4747. Currently serving zip codes: 19145, 46, 47, 48. Eventually will cover NE Philly as well.

All of West Philly and limited portions of NE are served by LIFE – Penn program at 4101 Woodland Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19104 , Telephone: 215 573-7200, serving zip codes: 19103, 04, 21, 30, 31, 39, 42, 43, 51, 53.

In Allegheny County, Pittsburgh Care Partnership, 1305 Fifth Avenue, McKeesport, PA 15132, Telephone: 412 664-1448, serves zip codes: 15018, 15020, 15025, 15028, 15034, 15035, 15037, 15045, 15047, 15088, 15102, 15104, 15110, 15112, 15120, 15122, 15129, 15131, 15132, 15133, 15135, 15137, 15145, 15207, 15217, 15218, 15221, 15227, 15232, 15234, 15236. In March 2002, a second site will be opened by this program at Homestead Senior High Rise Apartments, East 8th Avenue, Homestead.

LIFE Pittsburgh, 2695 Winchester Drive, Pittsburgh 15220, Telephone: 412 388-8042, serves zip codes: 15017, 15031, 15064, 15071, 15106, 15142, 15201, 15203, 15204, 15205, 15210, 15211, 15212, 15213, 15214, 15216, 15219, 15220, 15222, 15224, 15226, 15228, 15233, 15241, 15243

8. Additional Comments (if any):

Individuals can disenroll at any time if they are not satisfied with the services being received and return to traditional Medical Assistance or Medicaid/Medicare coverage. They can also appeal determinations regarding the adequacy of the care plan developed for them and any failures to receive services listed in the care plan.

The Department of Public Welfare has published a useful guide on the variety of Medicaid-funded Home and Community Based waivers which are operated in Pennsylvania; it can be obtained from the DPW website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/general/hacbbroc.asp or by calling the Long Term Care Helpline toll free at 1-866-286-3636.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

See other listings in this section;

Food Stamp and Meals on Wheels entry in Food and Nutritional Services section;

SSI and Social Security entries in Income Supports section;

Medical Assistance; Medicare; Medicare Buy-In; Medigap; Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly in Medical Services section.

b. Other similar types of programs:

SERVICES FOR ELDERLY PERSONS
SENIOR CENTER SERVICES

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Senior Center Services

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
No specific disability requirement.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
For elderly persons, exact ages served vary by programs.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Varies by program. Some centers charge fees for various programs.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Senior Centers are operated in various communities by a variety of agencies including governments, religious and charitable and civic organizations. They provide an array of services which can vary significantly from site to site including adult day care, social services, recreational opportunities, health screenings, meals.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
Can include state and federal funds; municipal and local government funds; charitable funds; self-financed activities.

6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Varies by site.

7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
The local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) should have a list of senior centers in the area. The address of the local AAA can be found at the Pennsylvania Department of Aging's website www.aging.state.pa.us or in the blue government pages of the telephone book.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

See other listings in this section;

Food Stamp and Meals on Wheels entry in Food and Nutritional Services section;

SSI and Social Security entries in Income Supports section;

Medical Assistance; Medicare; Medicare Buy-In; Medigap; Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly in Medical Services section.

b. Other similar types of programs:

FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SERVICES
FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

1. Name/Type of Service:

Food Stamp Program

2. Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:

Food Stamps
ACCESS EBT card
Food Coupons

3. Eligibility Standards:

a. Disabilities Covered:

Not a disability specific program, though there are more generous eligibility rules and deductions available to household members who have disabilities or who are elderly.

b. Age Restrictions:

None, though there are more generous eligibility rules for persons aged 60 and over.

c. Individual Financial Restrictions:

Available to low income persons. Income limits and maximum benefits are:

Household Size	Maximum Gross Monthly Income	Maximum Net Monthly Income	Maximum Monthly Food Stamp Benefit
1	\$ 905	\$ 696	\$ 130
2	1,219	938	238
3	1,533	1,180	341
4	1,848	1,421	434

Resources, not including a car or home, are limited to \$2000 per household or \$3000 for households containing a person over 60.

d. Geographic Limits:

Statewide program

e. Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):

4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):

Monthly benefit amounts are determined by subtracting designated deductions from monthly income. Deductions include a "standard deduction" of \$134; 20% of work income; medical expenses over \$35 per month for a household member who is elderly or disabled; shelter and utility deductions; child care and child support deductions; and income set aside in a Social Security PASS program.

In the past, food stamp coupons or paper food stamp cards were issued which recipients could use to purchase food. Now, food stamp benefits are placed in an "electronic" account that only the recipient can use. The recipient receives a plastic card, the Pennsylvania EBT ACCESS Card. This card allows withdrawals for food purchases at grocery stores and supermarkets. The store uses the EBT ACCESS card to "electronically" subtract purchases from the food stamp account. Similar to an ATM debit card, the recipient can only spend the amount that is in the account.

EBT ACCESS cards can be used to purchase a wide variety of foods, including any food intended for human consumption including soft drinks, candy, ice cream, coffee and spices; seeds and plants to grow food for personal consumption by eligible households; and meals prepared and served by an authorized meal delivery service such as Meals on Wheels, a communal dining facility for the elderly and/or SSI household, and a group living arrangement such as: a rehabilitation center for drug addicts or alcoholics; a shelter for battered women and children; an authorized provider of meals for the homeless; and an authorized restaurant serving meals to persons who are homeless or elderly, or per with disabilities.

5. Funding Source(s):

Federal US Department of Agriculture funds

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare and US Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

By visiting the local DPW County Assistance office to apply. Addresses can be found at DPW's website, www.dpw.state.pa.us or in the blue government pages of the telephone book.

In addition, households containing only SSI recipients can apply for food stamps at their local Social Security office. These applicants should not be required to come to the CAO to complete the application process.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

Although the Food Stamp rules usually require all members of a household to apply together for food stamps, a person aged 60 or over who is also disabled and cannot purchase or cook food on his or her own is eligible to apply for food stamps as a household of 1 in some circumstances. This may lead to higher benefit levels for this household member. There are also special rules for persons who live together in group homes and for attendants.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

Medical Assistance;
SSI and Social Security in Income Supports Section.

b. Other similar types of programs:

See Meals on Wheels and Congregate Meals entry in this section.

FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SERVICES
MEALS ON WHEELS and CONGREGATE MEALS

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Congregate Meal Program/Meals on Wheels
2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Not a disability specific program, though persons with disabilities who reside with an elderly person are qualified to receive meals.
 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
For persons aged 60 and over; and any members of their household with disabilities.
 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
None
 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program
 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Meals are provided to elderly persons and their household members with disabilities at various senior centers and other locations, usually five days a week. Meals are free to eligible persons. Persons unable to get to a local center may be able to receive home delivered meals or Meals on Wheels.
5. **Funding Source(s):**
State and federal (US Department of Agriculture) funds.
6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Local Area Agencies on Aging.
7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
Local Area Agency on Aging offices (AAA) administer the program for the Pennsylvania Department of Aging. The address and phone number of the local office can be found in the blue government pages of the phone book, or by

consulting the Department of Aging Website at www.aging.state.pa.us.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

In addition to the local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Meals on Wheels programs, some communities have private non-profit Meals on Wheels programs with varying criteria and costs. The AAA should have information about these programs in the local area.

9. Cross-References:

- a. Other types of services for population:**
See entries in Services for Elderly Persons section.

- b. Other similar types of programs:**
See Food Stamp Program entry in this section.

FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SERVICES
WIC PROGRAM

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
WIC Program

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program For Women, Infants and Children

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Not a disability specific program.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
For pregnant, postpartum and nursing mothers; and infants and children up to five years of age.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
To qualify for this Program, prospective participants must have a medical or nutritional risk verified by a physician and have income less than 185% of the federal poverty level. In January 2002, the monthly amounts were: \$1,288 for a family 1; \$1,735 for 2; \$2,182 for 3; \$2,629 for 4; and \$3,076 for 5.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
WIC provides low-income women, infants and children who are determined by a health professional to have a medical or nutritional risk with a nutritionally valuable food package to supplement their daily dietary intake during critical stages of growth and development in order to prevent health and nutritional problems. Individuals are given food vouchers which list the types and amounts of food which can be purchased each month and can be redeemed at participating food outlets. Foods include: milk, eggs, cheese, Vitamin C rich fruit juices, iron fortified infant & adult cereals, peanut butter, and dried peas & beans.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
Federal US Department of Agriculture funds

6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Pennsylvania Department of Health and US Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service
7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
To apply for the WIC Program, contact the local WIC agency to arrange for an appointment. For the phone number of the nearest agency, call 1-800-WIC-WINS or refer to the county map or contact list of local WIC agencies on the Pennsylvania Department of Health web site at: www.health.state.pa.us
8. **Additional Comments (if any):**
Participation in WIC will not affect benefits received from other programs such as Food Stamps or TANF benefits.
9. **Cross-References:**
 - a. **Other types of services for population:**
See Education section;
Home Ownership and Housing Choice Vouchers and Public Housing entries in Housing and Housing Modification Section;
SSI, TANF and GA entries in Income Supports Section;
Medical Assistance; CHIP entries in Medical Services Section;
Medical Assistance Transportation entry in Transportation Services Section.
 - b. **Other similar types of programs:**
Food Stamps

HOUSING AND HOUSING MODIFICATION PROGRAMS

Overview of Housing and Housing Modification Programs Entries

This section contains information on three main types of housing programs. The first set involves sources of low or no interest loans or grants for persons with disabilities who want to buy a home or who want to obtain a loan or grant in order to make accessibility modifications to their home. These constitute the first nine entries in this Section, from PHFA/Fannie Mae Disability Access Modification Loan Program through Pennsylvania Access Grant Program. All but one of these programs can be accessed by contacting the PHFA at 1-800-822-1174 or through the website at www.phfa.org. The last, Pennsylvania Access Grant Program, involves local government programs; see the entry for contact information.

The next set of housing programs consists of two entries on obtaining assistance with rental housing for low income persons. These programs, Housing Choice Vouchers and Public Housing are both accessed through local public housing authorities.

The third and final set of entries consists of two entries: the first on Personal Care Homes, rentals with some services for people with disabilities like medication administration and assistance with finances. The last entry is for a program limited to Delaware County residents who are deaf or deaf and blind.

This section concludes with an overview of Fair Housing Rights and protections against discrimination in the provision of housing for people with disabilities.

HOUSING AND HOUSING MODIFICATION PROGRAMS
PHFA/FANNIE MAE DISABILITY ACCESS MODIFICATION LOAN PROGRAM

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
PHFA/Fannie Mae Disability Access Modification Loan Program

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
The program offers assistance to persons with disabilities, or who have (a) family member(s) with disabilities living with them, who want to be homeowners.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
None

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
The program provides fully amortizing, 30-year, fixed rate conventional first mortgages for the purchase of homes, along with second mortgage loans for financing accessibility modifications. The second loan is a no interest, deferred payment loan that becomes due and payable upon payoff of the first mortgage, sale, transfer, refinance or non-owner occupancy at the property.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
All loan transactions are handled by local lending institutions across the state.

6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency.

7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
To obtain more information or to apply for a loan, contact PHFA at 1-800-822-1174 or visit the website at www.phfa.org.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

b. Other similar types of programs:

See various listings throughout this section for home ownership and accessibility modification programs;

For limited funding for some accessibility modifications to homes, see OBRA Waiver and Independence Waiver in Independent Living Services section and Consolidated Waiver, Person/Family Directed Support Waiver, and Family Driven Family Support Services in the Mental Retardation Services Section.

HOUSING AND HOUSING MODIFICATION PROGRAMS
ACCESS DOWN PAYMENT AND CLOSING COST LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Access Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Loan Program

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Applicants must be home buyers who are persons with a disability or who have a family member in the household with a permanent disability who are purchasing a new or existing home.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Available to families who need financial assistance with down payments and closing costs. Family income cannot exceed \$38,000 per year and liquid assets of no more than \$1200 can remain after closing.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide Program

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
The Access Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program provides mortgage loans to assist persons with disabilities or families who have a member with a disability who are purchasing homes and need down payment and closing cost assistance. This program provides a deferred payment loan with no interest. The loan becomes due and payable upon sale, transfer, refinance, payoff of the first mortgage or non-owner occupancy of property.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency

6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency

- 7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
To obtain more information or to apply for a loan, contact PHFA at 1-800-822-1174 or visit the website at www.phfa.org.
- 8. Additional Comments (if any):**
- 9. Cross-References:**
 - a. Other types of services for population:**
 - b. Other similar types of programs:**
See entries throughout this Section.

HOUSING AND HOUSING MODIFICATION PROGRAMS
HAFER HOME BUYER PROGRAM

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Hafer Home Buyer Program

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Not a disability specific program, though one category of eligible recipients are persons with disabilities or families which include a person with a disability.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
The program is limited to low income persons, with income limitations depending on the county of residence and family size.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
Funds are limited and are on a first-come, first-served basis.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Funds used to provide below market rate mortgages for eligible home buyers throughout Pennsylvania. Eligible home buyers include persons with disabilities or families which include a person with a disability; first time home buyers; single parents; and veterans or persons in active or reserve military or National Guard service.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
State Treasurer funds.

6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Administered for the Treasurer by Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency.

- 7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
To obtain more information or to apply for a loan, contact PHFA at 1-800-822-1174 or visit the website at www.phfa.org.
- 8. Additional Comments (if any):**
- 9. Cross-References:**
 - a. Other types of services for population:**
 - b. Other similar types of programs:**
See entries throughout this Section.

HOUSING AND HOUSING MODIFICATION PROGRAMS
LOWER INCOME HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Lower Income Home Ownership Program

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
This program is available to all low-income families. A family is defined to include at least one parent and related child who is either a minor or a full-time student. In addition, a family can consist of only one person if that person has a disability, or can include at least one parent with an adult child if the adult child has a disability that “substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently.”

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
The program is limited to low-income persons. In January 2002, the upper income limits ranged from \$31,000 to \$36,000 per year depending on family size and county of residence.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program with income eligibility and maximum price of residence that vary by county.

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
The program provides year round availability for below-market rate financing; below-market origination fees; closing costs; and, no or low down payments for those who meet certain eligibility requirements.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency

6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency

- 7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
To obtain more information or to apply for a loan, contact PHFA at 1-800-822-1174 or visit the website at www.phfa.org.
- 8. Additional Comments (if any):**
Borrower(s) must attend a free Pre-Closing Education Counseling Session presented by one of the agencies participating in the PHFA Network.
- 9. Cross-References:**
 - a. Other types of services for population:**
Eligible families who need help with closing costs should also apply for the Closing Cost Assistance Program, which has identical eligibility requirements.
 - b. Other similar types of programs:**
See entries throughout this Section.

HOUSING AND HOUSING MODIFICATION PROGRAMS
STATEWIDE HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Statewide Home Ownership Program

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Not a disability-specific program. All low-income, first-time home buyers are eligible.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
The program is limited to low-income persons. In January 2002, the upper income limits ranged from the mid forties to mid fifties (\$46,000 to \$55,000 per year) depending on county of residence and family size.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program with income eligibility and maximum price of residence that vary by county.

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
PHFA-financed, 30 year, fixed rate home mortgage loan if you meet the requirements including that you be a first-time home buyer and that the purchase price does not exceed the limits for your county. In some counties, including Allegheny and Philadelphia, the requirement that you be a first-time home buyer is waived.

5. **Funding Source(s)**
Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency

6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency

- 7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
Prospective home buyers wishing to apply for a PHFA mortgage must have a signed agreement to buy a house or a construction contract to build a house and apply at a PHFA participating lender. To obtain more information about the Statewide Home Ownership Program and participating lenders for your county, call PHFA's toll-free hotline at 1-800-822-1174 or visit the website at www.phfa.org.
- 8. Additional Comments (if any)**
- 9. Cross-References:**
 - a. Other types of services for population:**
 - b. Other similar types of programs:**
See entries throughout this Section.

HOUSING AND HOUSING MODIFICATION PROGRAMS
HOMESTEAD SECOND MORTGAGE

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Homestead Second Mortgage

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
Homestead Program

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Eligibility is typically limited to first time home buying families with children but an exception is made for persons with disabilities who may qualify even if they are single.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
The program is limited to low-income persons. Contact the Agency for specific guidelines.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Loans will be made available across most of the Commonwealth. However, most major cities and several counties are wholly excluded from the program because they receive their own federal allocation.

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Qualifying home buyers who participate in the program can borrow between \$1,000 and \$15,000 to help with down payment and closing costs.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and Pennsylvania House Finance Agency.

6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
PHFA administers the Homestead Program for the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, which disburses federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

- 7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
To obtain more information or to apply for a loan, contact PHFA at 1-800-822-1174 or visit the website at www.phfa.org.
- 8. Additional Comments (if any):**
- 9. Cross-References:**
 - a. Other types of services for population:**
 - b. Other similar types of programs:**
See entries throughout this Section.

HOUSING AND HOUSING MODIFICATION PROGRAMS
CLOSING COST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Closing Cost Assistance Program

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
Must meet all the requirements including income and purchase price limits of the Lower Income Home Ownership Program.
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
This program is available to all low-income families. A family is defined to include at least one parent and related child who is either a minor or a full-time student. In addition, a family can consist of only one person if that person has a disability, or can include at least one parent with an adult child if the adult child has a disability that “substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently.”

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
See above.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
The program is limited to low-income persons. In January 2002, family income could not exceed \$38,000.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program.

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Helps borrowers qualified for the Agency’s Lower Income Home Ownership Program meet the closing costs associated with buying a house. This assistance is a no-interest second mortgage that does not require repayment until the first mortgage is paid in full or the home is sold, refinanced or transferred (except transfers by inheritance or between spouses). The maximum amount of assistance will depend on the needs of the applicant. Eligible borrowers may receive as much as \$2,000.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency
6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency
7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
To obtain more information or to apply for a loan, contact PHFA at 1-800-822-1174 or visit the website at www.phfa.org.
8. **Additional Comments (if any):**
Borrower(s) must attend a free Pre-Closing Education Counseling Session presented by one for the agencies participating in the PHFA Network.
9. **Cross-References:**
 - a. **Other types of services for population:**
Lower Income Home Ownership Program
 - b. **Other similar types of programs:**
See entries throughout this Section.

HOUSING AND HOUSING MODIFICATION PROGRAMS
ACCESS HOME MODIFICATION PROGRAM

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Access Home Modification Program

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Individuals with physical disabilities or their families are eligible.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
None

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide Program

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis; borrowers must be financing their home through one of the PHFA single family loan programs listed above.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
The Access Home Modification Program provides interest-free, deferred payment loans to persons with disabilities and their families in order to make accessibility modifications to a home that is being purchased with another PHFA loan. The accessibility loans can be from \$1,000 to \$10,000. The loan is not due until payoff of the first mortgage, sale, transfer, refinance or non-owner occupancy at the property.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency

6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency

7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
To obtain more information or to apply for a loan, contact PHFA at 1-800-822-1174 or visit the website at www.phfa.org.
8. **Additional Comments (if any):**
9. **Cross-References:**
 - a. **Other types of services for population:**
 - b. **Other similar types of programs:**
See various listings throughout this section for home ownership and accessibility modification programs;
For limited funding for some accessibility modifications to homes, see OBRA Waiver and Independence Waiver in Independent Living Services section, and Consolidated Waiver, Person/Family Directed Support Waiver, and Family Driven Family Support Services in the Mental Retardation Services Section.

HOUSING AND HOUSING MODIFICATION PROGRAMS
PENNSYLVANIA ACCESS GRANT PROGRAM

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Pennsylvania Access Grant Program

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
The program is open to persons with permanent disabilities. Local administering agencies may choose to target persons with certain diagnoses, or to give special emphasis toward the prevention of institutionalization and nursing home placements, or toward getting people out of institutions and nursing homes.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Will depend on the local programs rules; may be limited to low and moderate income persons using the HUD Section 8 income guidelines.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
This program is administered by local units of government, and is limited to residents of the individual municipality, county or redevelopment authority area. Each local program can have a different emphasis and additional tailored eligibility criteria.

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
The program has limited funding and is not an entitlement. Local programs may have additional eligibility requirements or areas of priority.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
The Pennsylvania Access Grant Program is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) in Harrisburg. It's goal is to provide low and moderate income persons with permanent disabilities with assistance in modifying their existing or newly occupied home to make it accessible. The program is open to homeowners and to renters. The program involves local government units such as municipalities, counties and regional redevelopment authorities submitting proposals to the DCED and

receiving grants that are locally administered. In FY 1999-2000, over \$1.8 million was available to local government units.

5. Funding Source(s):

State funds

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

The program is operated and administered at the local government level. Grants are awarded to local governments who apply by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

By contacting all potential local government units in your area, your city, town, county commissioner and any county redevelopment authority to see whether they are administering a local program. For information on whether any of these grants have been awarded to local government units in your area, you can contact the regional offices of the DCED which cover the counties listed:

Southeast 215 560-2256: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery & Philadelphia

Northeast 717 963-4571: Berks, Bradford, Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne and Wyoming

Central 717 787-7347: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Snyder, Somerset, Union & York

Southwest 412 565-5002: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington, and Westmoreland

Northwest 814 454-7494: Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Venango, and Warren

8. Additional Comments (if any):

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

b. Other similar types of programs:

See various listings throughout this section for home ownership and accessibility modification programs;

For limited funding for some accessibility modifications to homes, see OBRA Waiver and Independence Waiver in Independent Living Services section and Consolidated Waiver, Person/Family Directed Support Waiver, and Family Driven Family Support Services in the Mental Retardation Services Section.

HOUSING AND HOUSING MODIFICATION PROGRAMS
HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS (SECTION 8)

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8)

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
Section 8 Vouchers/Certificates.

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Program available to people with any disabilities, persons who are elderly and low-income families.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Households whose income does not exceed 50% of the median income for their county or metropolitan area are eligible for this program.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
May be limited to private housing stock within the service area of your public housing authority.

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**

The Housing Choice Voucher Program is HUD's major program for assisting very-low income families, persons who are elderly, and people with disabilities to rent decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Under this program, the household applies to their local public housing authority (PHA) to obtain a rental subsidy that allows them to lease a unit on the private market. The tenant pays 30% of his or her income towards rent and the Housing Choice Voucher Program pays the balance. For eligible applicants with disabilities, the housing authority is required to maintain and provide a list of private housing units that accept the voucher and are accessible to persons with disabilities. Additionally, if no accessible unit can be obtained at the fair market value (FMV) of the voucher, HUD and the housing authority are required to increase the FMV so that an accessible unit can be obtained.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
Funding for vouchers is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
US Department of Housing and Urban Development and the local Public Housing Authority.
7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
For information about the Housing Choice Voucher Program contact your local Public Housing Authority. A list of the agencies in Pennsylvania can be found on the internet at www.pahra.org, or in the blue government pages of the telephone book.
8. **Additional Comments (if any):**
9. **Cross-References:**
 - a. **Other types of services for population:**
For assistance with home purchasing, see earlier entries in this Section.
 - b. **Other similar types of programs:**
Public Housing Programs.

HOUSING AND HOUSING MODIFICATION PROGRAMS
PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMS

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Public Housing Programs

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
Public Housing

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Not a disability specific program; though see the Description of Services below for information on set-asides for residents with disabilities.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Families and individuals must be low income according to the criteria used by the Public Housing Authority in their area.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Generally limited to private housing stock within the service area of your public housing authority.

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
Varies from Public Housing Authority to Public Housing Authority; though there are often wait lists for units.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
HUD administers federal aid to local Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) to provide decent shelter for low-income residents at rents they can afford. Local PHA's own and operate public housing. Public housing is generally provided in apartment developments. They may be high rises, garden apartments or townhouses. Some PHAs provide public housing in houses and apartments scattered throughout the community, referred to as "scattered site" public housing. Public housing developments generally have units in them that are accessible to people with disabilities. Some public housing developments are designated for elderly residents only. These buildings often provide units for non-elderly residents with disabilities. Additionally, § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires 5% of a PHA's units to be accessible to tenants with

disabilities who use wheelchairs and 2% to be accessible to tenants with sensory disabilities (e.g. strobe light fire alarms for tenants who are Deaf and Braille/Raised print elevator buttons for tenants with visual impairments).

5. Funding Source(s):

Funding for public housing programs comes largely from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

US Department of Housing and Urban Development and the local Public Housing Authority.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

A list of the Public Housing Authorities in Pennsylvania can be found on the internet at www.pahra.org, or in the blue government pages of the telephone book. The local agency should be contacted for information on how to apply for services. There are almost always wait lists for units.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

For assistance with home purchasing, see earlier entries in this Section.

b. Other similar types of programs:

Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8)

HOUSING AND HOUSING MODIFICATION PROGRAMS
PERSONAL CARE HOMES

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Personal Care Homes

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known :**
Assisted Living

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
All disabilities.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Each personal care home is operated by a private individual or not-for-profit or for-profit organization. Each has its own fees for the particular personal care home(s) it operates. If you receive SSI, you may be eligible for an SSI supplement as a resident of a personal care home. However, the operator of the personal care home will receive the supplement as part of your fee.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
None

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
Personal care homes are not a program run by any governmental agency. They are regulated by the Department of Public Welfare. A personal care home must be licensed if it serves four or more individuals.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Personal care homes provide room and board and other services such as medication administration, assistance with personal finances, and accessing medical and other services in the community. Personal care home operators are required to have a service contract with each resident setting out what services will be provided and the fees for such services.

5. Funding Source(s):

There is no government funding for personal care homes. However, a supplement is available to individuals receiving SSI while resident in a personal care home.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

The Division of Personal Care Homes within the Office of Social Programs in the Department of Public Welfare, regulates and monitors personal care homes. There are six regional offices that inspect and regulate personal care homes within their respective regions:

Southeast Region

Bea Perkins, Acting Licensing Administrator

300 Philadelphia State Office Building

1400 Spring Garden Street

Philadelphia, PA 19130

215-560-2916 or 1-800-833-5094

Berks, Chester, Lancaster, Philadelphia, Bucks, Delaware, Montgomery

Northeast Region

Duane Valence, Licensing Administrator

330 Scranton State Office Building

100 Lackawanna Avenue

Scranton, PA 18503-1923

570-963-3209 or 1-800-833-5095

Bradford, Luzerne, Northumberland, Susquehanna, Carbon, Lycoming, Pike,

Tioga, Columbia, Monroe, Potter, Union, Lackawanna, Montour, Schuylkill,

Wayne, Lehigh, Northampton, Sullivan, Wyoming

Central Region

Phil Lehman, Licensing Administrator

M&M Building

900 North Sixth Street

Harrisburg, PA 17102

717-772-4673 or 1-800-882-1885

Adams, Centre, Franklin, Mifflin, Bedford, Clearfield, Fulton, Perry, Blair, Clinton,

Huntingdon, Snyder, Cambria, Cumberland, Juniata, York, Cameron, Dauphin,

Lebanon

Mid-West Region

Diane Kutzer, Licensing Administrator

780 Kossman Building

100 Forbes Avenue & Stanwix Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15222-1311

412-565-5614 or 1-888-464-6378

Allegheny, Elk, Jefferson, Somerset, Armstrong, Indiana, McKean,
Westmoreland

Western Region

John Pinchotti, Licensing Administrator

780 Kossman Building

100 Forbes Avenue & Stanwix Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15222-1311

412-565-5616 or 1-888-322-3664

Beaver, Erie, Greene, Venango, Butler, Fayette, Lawrence, Warren, Clarion,
Forest, Mercer, Washington, Crawford

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

It is important that the consumer verify licensing information prior to resident admission to a facility. You can do this by visiting or calling the facility/home and asking to see the license prior to admission; calling or visiting the Regional Licensing Office listed above for current licensing information on a particular facility.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

See entries in the Independent Living Services Section.

b. Other similar types of programs:

HOUSING AND HOUSING MODIFICATION PROGRAMS
ELWYN WAIVER

1. Name/Type of Service:

Elwyn Waiver

2. Other Names by Which Service May Be Known:

Deaf/Blind Waiver

3. Eligibility Standards:

a. Disabilities Covered:

Individuals who are deaf or who are deaf and blind.

b. Age Restrictions:

Age 40 and older

c. Individual Financial Restrictions:

Persons are eligible for this waiver if they receive Medical Assistance (other than as a GA recipient). Additionally, the Waiver can provide services to people who are not currently Medical Assistance recipients but whose income is no more than 300% of the SSI federal benefit. Effective January 2002, this amount is \$1,593 per month.

d. Geographic Limits:

Delaware County

e. Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):

The Waiver is capped at approximately 45 persons and is close to being filled.

Individuals must need the level of care provided by a nursing facility to be deemed eligible.

4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):

The Elwyn Waiver provides residential assisted living services to eligible individuals in their own living units in a facility operated by Elwyn. Services include homemaker/chore services; attendant care; companion services; medication oversight; 24-hour on-site response staff; home health care; counselling; therapeutic social and recreational programming; specialized medical equipment and supplies; and transportation.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
Federal Medical Assistance funds and state funds.
6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare's Office of Medical Assistance Programs.
7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
To find out more information about the Elwyn Waiver, including information on applying for services, contact:

Paul Culbertson
Department of Public Welfare
Office of Medical Assistance Programs
Division of Long Term Care Client Services
1401 North 7th Street
P.O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2675
717-772-2525

8. **Additional Comments (if any):**
The Department of Public Welfare has published a useful guide on the variety of Medicaid-funded Home and Community Based waivers which are operated in Pennsylvania; it can be obtained from the DPW website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/general/hacbbroc.asp or by calling the Long Term Care Helpline toll free at 1-866-286-3636.
9. **Cross-References:**
- a. **Other types of services for population:**
CILs
Vocational Rehabilitation
Medical Assistance
Vocational Services for Persons Who Are Blind And Visually Impaired
- b. **Other similar types of programs:**

HOUSING AND HOUSING MODIFICATION PROGRAMS

Overview of Fair Housing Rights

In addition to the housing programs listed in this catalogue, people with disabilities have a number of legal protections to ensure that they may live in the housing and communities of their choice without discrimination. To protect these fundamental housing rights, the federal Fair Housing Act ("FHA") was amended in 1988 to expand its protection against housing discrimination to include persons with disabilities. In Pennsylvania, people with disabilities are also afforded protection against housing discrimination under the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act ("PHRA").² The FHA and PHRA prohibit the following types of discrimination:

Intentional discrimination: Refuse to sell or rent, or to otherwise make unavailable or deny, a dwelling to any buyer or renter because of a handicap; or to discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions, or privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling, or in the provision of services or facilities in connection with such dwelling, because of a handicap.

Intentional discrimination includes conduct which is based on prejudicial ill-will against persons with disabilities, e.g., a person in a wheelchair asks for an apartment and the response is "You can't live here because people in wheelchairs belong in a special home." It also includes conduct which is not based on prejudicial ill-will but on mistaken or patronizing attitudes about people with disabilities, e.g., "You can't live here because there's no one to take care of you;" or "I can't sell you one of the homes being built because you'll need too many expensive modifications;" or "We have apartments for the handicapped but they're full;" or "I'd like to rent to you, but my insurance premiums will go way up." The law also prohibits questions regarding whether an individual has a disability or the severity of a disability, as well as any questions that would require the tenant to waive confidentiality of a medical condition. Finally, persons with disabilities cannot be required to satisfy criteria that are not applied to other renters or purchasers, such as security deposits, rental charges, rental standards or other requirements different from those required of other tenants, e.g., requiring a tenant who is HIV positive to provide a "certification" that it was "safe" for a plumber to enter his apartment.

Failure to provide a reasonable accommodation: Refuse to make reasonable accommodations in landlord's or owner's rules, policies, practices, or services, when such changes may be necessary to afford a person with a disability equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling. Proof of failure to provide reasonable accommodation requires no showing of any discriminatory animus as to the person with a disability.

²The information in this section does not constitute legal advice. Persons with disabilities encountering housing discrimination should consult with an attorney on an individual basis to properly evaluate their legal rights.

Examples of reasonable accommodation:

Example 1: A landlord with a first come-first served parking policy must make an exception by creating a reserved parking space for a tenant who uses a wheelchair and needs to park close to the building.

Example 2: The landlord must allow a tenant with mental illness to terminate his lease early because he could not continue to live safely in his apartment due to his disability.

Example 3: A building that has a no pets policy must waive that rule for a person who uses a service dog or other animal.

Example 4: The owner of an apartment building must provide a reasonable accommodation for a tenant using a wheelchair in the form of more frequent, prompt or thorough shoveling of snow from the sidewalk than ordinarily provided.

Example 5: Third floor tenant's request for an accommodation from the landlord to move to a first floor apartment which was available was reasonable under FHAA where landlord was aware of tenant's disability and resulting need for first floor apartment.

Failure to allow reasonable modifications: Refuse to permit, at the expense of a handicapped person, reasonable modifications of existing premises occupied or to be occupied by such person if such modifications may be necessary to afford such person full enjoyment of the premises. In some cases, the landlord can require the tenant to restore the premises after they leave only if the modification will interfere with the landlord's or next tenant's use and enjoyment of the premises.

Examples of reasonable modifications

Example 1: A tenant who uses a wheelchair wishes to lower the cabinets in the kitchen to make them accessible. The landlord must permit the modifications and may require the cabinets to be restored to their original positions because the lower cabinets might interfere with the next tenant's full enjoyment. If the cost of restoration were relatively great, the landlord could require that an escrow account be established to ensure the availability of funds for restoration.

Example 2: A tenant who uses a wheelchair wishes to put grab bars in the bathroom and to widen the doorways in her apartment. It would not be reasonable to require restoration of either of these modifications because wide doorways and grab bars would not interfere with the next tenant's use.

New Construction Access Requirements: The FHAA also requires that new multi-family housing units (apartments, condominiums or townhouses of 4 or more ground floor or elevator accessed units) built after 1991 must be accessible and usable by persons with disabilities, including those who use wheelchairs. This new housing must have:

- (1) at least one building entrance on an accessible route unless it is impractical to do so because of terrain or unusual characteristics of the site;
- (2) readily accessible and usable public and common areas;
- (3) doors sufficiently wide to allow wheelchair passage; and,
- (4) features of adaptable design (accessible routes into and through covered dwelling unit; light switches, outlets and other controls in accessible locations; reinforcements in bathroom walls to allow installation of grab bars; usable kitchens and bathrooms for wheelchair maneuverability).

Enforcement of Housing Rights

Persons with disabilities who believe their fair housing rights have been violated may file a complaint in federal court or, alternatively, with the appropriate administrative agency.

To file an administrative complaint under the FHAA, contact:
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Civil Rights
Wanamaker Building
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3380
800-669-9777

To file an administrative complaint under the PHRA, contact:
Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission
State Building
Broad & Spring Garden Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19130-4088
(215) 560-2496

Under the FHAA, complaints must be filed within 2 years from the date of the alleged acts of discrimination and for the PHRA, complaint within 180 days.

It is a good idea to seek legal advice in pursuing housing discrimination claims. Consult the Legal Services entries in this catalogue for information on how to find attorneys.

INCOME SUPPORTS
SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME

1. **Name/Type of Services:**
Supplemental Security Income

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
SSI

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Persons under age 65 with a disability which is permanent, likely to last at least 12 months or to end in death, and which prevents the person from engaging in any work in the national economy.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
Low income persons aged 65 and over are eligible for benefits regardless of disability.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Program limited to individuals and couples with monthly incomes less than \$20 over the monthly benefit amounts (listed below). Assets cannot exceed \$2000 for an individual or \$3000 for a couple. Many assets, such as the value of a home and vehicle are not counted.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Nationwide program

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
The amount of the monthly SSI check depends on the amount of income the person has received. Other income that a recipient receives will reduce the amount of the SSI check. However, not everything a person receives is considered income, and many items that are income are not counted. As of January 2002, the maximum amount that an individual living in Pennsylvania may receive is \$557.40, and the maximum amount for a couple is \$839.70. Persons who receive SSI payments will automatically receive Medical Assistance.

5. **Funding Source(s):**

Federal funds

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

The Social Security Administration

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

By visiting your local Social Security office to apply, by calling 1-800-772-1213, TTY 1-800-325-0778 to make an appointment to apply by phone, or by filing on the Social Security web site at www.ssa.gov.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population

See Medical Assistance and Medicare entries in Medical Services section; Vocational Programs section.

b. Other similar types of programs

Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits
Social Security Children's Benefits
Social Security Survivors Benefits

INCOME SUPPORTS
SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS

1. **Name/Type of Services:**
Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
SSDI

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Any disability which is permanent, likely to last at least 12 months or to end in death, and which prevents the person from engaging in any work in the national economy.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
No age restrictions, though it is easier to qualify as one's age approaches 65. People over 65 are eligible for Social Security Retirement Income. A disabled individual may file an application for a past "period of disability" even though he/she is age 65, but the period of disability must begin (unless entitled to disability benefits without a waiting period) at least 5 full calendar months before the month age 65 is attained and end no later than the last day of the month before the month in which age 65 is attained.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Although there are no income or asset limits for recipients, benefits are limited to persons who have worked a sufficient amount of time to qualify. The Social Security Administration reviews work and withholding history to determine whether there are sufficient "quarters of coverage" for the worker who has become disabled.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Nationwide program

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
Not all categories of aliens are eligible for SSDI benefits. There are special rules for individuals who are blind. For example, the monthly earnings limit is higher than the limit that applies to individuals with other disabilities.

4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):

Individuals receive a monthly check. The amount of the monthly SSDI check is based on lifetime average earnings covered by Social Security.

5. Funding Source(s):

Federal funds

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

The Social Security Administration

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

By visiting your local Social Security office to apply, by calling 1-800-772-1213, TTY 1-800-325-0778 to make an appointment to apply by phone, or by filing on the Social Security web site at www.ssa.gov.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

Persons who had relatively low income during their work years, or did not work at all, may also be eligible for Supplemental Security Income benefits. The disability standards for that program are identical. The dependent spouse, minor children and adult disabled children of SSDI beneficiaries may also be eligible for benefits on the insured individual's account.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population

See Medicare entry in Medical Services section;
Vocational Programs section.

b. Other similar types of programs

Supplemental Security Income
Social Security Children's Benefits
Social Security Survivors Benefits

INCOME SUPPORTS
SOCIAL SECURITY CHILDREN'S BENEFITS

1. Name/Type of Services:
Social Security Children's Benefits

2. Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:

3. Eligibility Standards:

a. Disabilities Covered:

Children under 18: A child eligible under the program listed below will receive benefits whether or not they have a disability.

Children over age 18: An adult child will be eligible under the programs listed below if they have any physical or mental impairment that began before age 22, that is expected to keep the individual from doing any "substantial work," or is expected to result in death. "Substantial work" generally means ability to earn \$740/month or more.

b. Age Restrictions:

Under age 18, or under 19 if still in elementary or high school, or an adult whose disability began before the age of 22.

c. Individual Financial Restrictions:

No financial restrictions, but benefits will vary depending on the parent's work history.

d. Geographic Limits:

Nationwide program

e. Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):

There is a limit on the total benefits that any one family may receive each month. The parent's work history and age at the time of disability, retirement, or death determine this limit.

4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):

The following three programs provide monthly cash payments for the children of qualified workers:

- Social Security Dependents – If a parent receives retirement or disability benefits, his/her child, if unmarried and under age 18, or

under 19 and still in school is eligible for benefits, also. A child eligible under this provision will receive benefits whether or not they have a disability.

- Survivor Benefits -- If a parent is deceased and earned enough Social Security work credits, his/her child is eligible for benefits if unmarried and under age 18, or under 19 and still in school. A child eligible under this provision will receive benefits whether or not they have a disability.
- Social Security Benefits for Adults Disabled Since Childhood – Benefits are payable to a child over age 18 with a disability that began before age 22, on the record of a parent who is collecting Social Security retirement or disability benefits or who is deceased. These benefits are also known as Disabled Adult Child benefits.

5. Funding Source(s):

Federal funds

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

The Social Security Administration

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

Applications can be made at the local Social Security office to apply, or by calling 1-800-772-1213, TTY 1-800-325-0778 for information on the nearest office or by filing on the Social Security web site at www.ssa.gov.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population

See Medical Assistance and Children's Health Insurance Program entries in Medical Services section;

Early Intervention and Special Education in Education section.

b. Other similar types of programs

Supplemental Security Income

Social Security Retirement Benefits

Social Security Disability Benefits

Social Security Survivor's Benefits

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

INCOME SUPPORTS
SOCIAL SECURITY RETIREMENT BENEFITS

1. **Name/Type of Services:**
Social Security Retirement Benefits

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
Social Security

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Not a disability specific program.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
Individuals must be at least age 62, for a reduced benefit, or at least age 65 for full benefits. Because of longer life expectancies, the full retirement age will be increased in gradual steps until it reaches age 67. This change starts in the year 2003, affecting people born in 1938 and later.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
There are no asset or resource limitations for eligibility, but an individual must have paid social security taxes and have earned enough work "credits." The number of credits required is determined by the individual's date of birth. If an individual is receiving SSDI when he/she turns 65, the benefit will be converted to retirement benefits. If an individual is a widow(er) with disabilities who is receiving survivor's benefits, he/she can choose to collect on his/her own retirement record at age 62 if it is more beneficial.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Nationwide program

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Individuals receive a monthly check and are eligible for Medicare at age 65. The individual's average earnings over his/her working career determine the amount of the benefit . If an individual's SSDI benefit is being converted to a retirement benefit, he/she will receive the same amount.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
Federal funds
6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
The Social Security Administration
7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
By visiting your local Social Security office to apply, by calling 1-800-772-1213, TTY 1-800-325-0778 to make an appointment to apply by phone, or by filing on the Social Security web site at www.SSA.GOV.
8. **Additional Comments (if any):**
If an individual is eligible for retirement or disability benefits, other family members might be eligible to receive benefits, too. These include a spouse at least 62 years old or under 62 but caring for a child under age 16; children if unmarried and under age 18, or under 19 and still in school, or over 18 and disabled; and a divorced spouse.
9. **Cross-References:**
 - a. **Other types of services for population**
See Medicare entry in Health section;
and entries in Services for Elderly Persons section.
 - b. **Other similar types of programs**
Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits;
Supplemental Security Income.

INCOME SUPPORTS
SOCIAL SECURITY SURVIVORS BENEFITS

1. **Name/Type of Services:**
Social Security Survivors Benefits

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
Widow's Benefits
Widower's Benefits

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Surviving spouses aged 50 or older if they have any disability which is permanent, likely to last at least 12 months or to end in death, and which prevents the person from engaging in any work in the national economy.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
When an individual dies, certain family members may be eligible for benefits if the worker earned enough Social Security credits while working. Eligible family members include a widow(er) age 60 or older, 50 or older if disabled, or any age if caring for a child under age 16; children if unmarried and under age 18, or under 19 and still in school, or 18 or older and disabled; parents if the worker was their primary means of support; and a divorced spouse could be eligible for a widow(er)'s benefit on the worker's record if he/she would be otherwise eligible .

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
There are no income or asset limits for recipients, but the deceased worker must have worked a sufficient amount of time to earn enough credits to qualify. The number of credits required depends on the age of the worker at the time of death.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Nationwide program

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Individuals receive a monthly benefit check. The monthly benefit is dependent on the deceased worker's work history, earnings and age at time of death.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
Federal funds
6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
The Social Security Administration
7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
By visiting your local Social Security office to apply, by calling 1-800-772-1213, TTY 1-800-325-0778 to make an appointment to apply by phone, or by filing on the Social Security web site at www.ssa.gov.
8. **Additional Comments (if any):**
9. **Cross-References:**
 - a. **Other types of services for population**
Medicare entry in Medical Services section;
entries in Services for Elderly Persons section.
 - b. **Other similar types of programs**
Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits;
Supplemental Security Income.

INCOME SUPPORTS
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
TANF
Welfare
DPA or Public Assistance
The former program was called AFDC or Aid to Families with Dependent Children

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
TANF is not a program designed specifically to assist persons with disabilities, but is designed to provide temporary income supports to low income families with minor children.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
A TANF family must include a minor child or a pregnant woman.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Limited to low income persons. Income limits vary from county to county. Specific limits can be found on the DPW website at www.dpw.state.pa.us but must generally be lower than between \$174.00 and \$215.00 per month for a family of one, and \$365.00 and \$ 421.00 for a family of three. There are generous disregards for work income. Assets must be under \$1000, but some items are not counted such as the value of a family residence and the full value of one automobile per family.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program. Other states may have different eligibility rules and benefit amounts.

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
TANF benefits are generally limited to 60 months (5 years) lifetime, though there are some exceptions to this rule under development by the Department of Public Welfare. Persons with disabilities and the caretakers of persons with disabilities will become eligible for General Assistance benefits when their TANF time limits are reached. Also, the sixty month time limit does not apply to “child-only” TANF benefits. For

example, when a child lives with a parent who receives SSI because of her disability, the child can receive TANF benefits in excess of the five years. In addition, when a child lives with a relative who is not her parent such as a grandparent, as long as the grandparent is not also receiving TANF payments, the child can receive benefits for more than 60 months.

Not all categories of immigrants are eligible for TANF benefits. Adult recipients are required to seek employment or participate in an employment and training program. Some recipients may be exempt from employment requirements because of personal circumstances (for example, a temporary or permanent disability or the need to care for a household member with a disability).

4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):

TANF provides money for dependent children and their parents or other relatives with whom they live, and for pregnant women. Benefits vary by county and range from between \$174 and \$215 for a household of one, to \$454 to \$514 for a household of 4.

5. Funding Source(s):

Joint state and federal funds.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Pennsylvania's Department of Public Welfare (DPW) through the Office of Income Maintenance and local County Assistance Offices.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

By visiting the local DPW County Assistance office to apply. Addresses can be found at DPW's website, www.dpw.state.pa.us or in the blue government pages of the telephone book.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

If a person loses TANF benefits at the end of 60 months, they should nevertheless remain eligible for TANF-related Medical Assistance benefits. Care should be taken to ensure they are not erroneously switched to GA-related Medical Assistance benefits by their local County Assistance Office. TANF-related Medical Assistance benefits provide a much broader package of benefits than the extremely limited GA-related Medical Assistance benefits. In addition, many people should be eligible for GA cash benefits when their TANF benefits end.

9. Cross-References:

- a. Other types of services for population:**
Medical Assistance entry in Medical Services section;
WIC, Food Stamps in Food and Nutritional Services section.

- b. Other similar types of programs:**
General Assistance
Supplemental Security Income

INCOME SUPPORTS
GENERAL ASSISTANCE

1. Name/Type of Service:

General Assistance

2. Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:

GA
Welfare

3. Eligibility Standards:

a. Disabilities Covered:

General Assistance provides minimal income supports to some single adults or childless couples who have insufficient income to meet their basic needs, including persons who are temporarily or permanently physically or mentally disabled which prevents them from working in any gainful employment, or an adult who is caring for another person in the household who is ill or disabled, if there is no other adult in the household who is capable of providing the care.

b. Age Restrictions:

There are no age requirements for General Assistance. GA is available to a person of any age who does not qualify for TANF benefits if they are otherwise eligible.

c. Individual Financial Restrictions:

Limited to low income persons. Income limits vary from county to county. Specific limits can be found on the DPW website at www.dpw.state.pa.us but must generally be lower than between \$174.00 and \$215.00 per month for a family of one, and \$365.00 and \$ 421.00 for a family of three. There are disregards for work income. Assets must be under \$250 for an individual or \$1000 for a couple, but some items are not counted such as the value of a family residence and the full value of one automobile per family.

d. Geographic Limits:

Statewide program.

e. Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):

Adult recipients are required to seek employment or participate in an employment and training program. Some recipients may be exempt from employment requirements because of personal circumstances (for

example, a temporary or permanent disability or the need to care for a household member with a disability).

4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):

GA is cash assistance for specified individuals with certain medical, social or other circumstances that prevent them from working. Benefits vary by county and range from between \$174 and \$215 for a household of one, to \$454 to \$514 for a household of 4.

An eligible person must be:

- under age 18 or 18 through 20 and attending a secondary or equivalent school and expected to graduate before age 21; or
- parents in a two-parent household with a child under age 13 or 13 or over and disabled; or
- temporarily or permanently physically or mentally disabled which prevents them from working in any gainful employment; or
- undergoing active treatment for substance abuse in an approved drug or alcohol program if the treatment program precludes any form of employment (NOTE: there is a nine-month lifetime limit for receipt of benefits under this criterion); or
- a victim of domestic violence (NOTE: there is a nine-month lifetime limit for receipt of benefits under this criterion); or
- a pregnant woman if she is not eligible for TANF; or
- an adult other than a relative who is caring for a child under age 13; or caring for another person in the household who is ill or disabled, if there is no other adult in the household who is capable of providing the care.

5. Funding Source(s):

State funds. Unlike TANF, GA is a state only program.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Pennsylvania's Department of Public Welfare (DPW) through the Office of Income Maintenance and local County Assistance Offices.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

By visiting the local DPW County Assistance office to apply. Addresses can be found at DPW's website, www.dpw.state.pa.us or in the blue government pages of the telephone book.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

If a person has a severe disability, SSI benefits are much more generous than GA benefits, and provide the recipient with much better health care coverage. A person who is seeking or receiving GA should talk to his/her DPW case worker about receiving assistance from DPW's Disability Advocacy Program (DAP program). A special DAP worker will be assigned to the recipient and will provide assistance with the process of applying for SSI benefits and with any appeals that might be necessary.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

Medical Assistance in Medical Services section;
Food Stamps in Food and Nutritional Services section.

b. Other similar types of programs:

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
Supplemental Security Income

INCOME SUPPORTS
STATE BLIND PENSION

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
State Blind Pension

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
SBP

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
State Blind Pension benefits provide minimal income supports to persons who have limited visual acuity. A person with visual acuity in the better eye using the best correcting lens which does not exceed 3/60 or 10/200 is eligible. In addition, persons who have better acuity than this, but have such severe tunnel vision that they are considered medically blind are eligible.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
Must be at least 21 years of age.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Limited to low income persons. Income cannot exceed \$4260 per year (\$355 per month). Assets must be under \$7,500, and most assets count toward this limit including the value of a family residence.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program.

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
State Blind Pension recipients receive a maximum benefit of \$100 per month.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
State funds.

6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Pennsylvania's Department of Public Welfare (DPW) through the Office of Income Maintenance and local County Assistance Offices.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

By visiting the local DPW County Assistance office to apply. Addresses can be found at DPW's website, www.dpw.state.pa.us or in the blue government pages of the telephone book.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

Since State Blind Pension benefits are much less than TANF, GA or SSI benefits, persons who are also eligible for those programs would be better off applying for them. If a person is interested in applying for SSI benefits, he/she should talk to the DPW case worker about receiving assistance from DPW's Disability Advocacy Program (DAP program). A special DAP worker will be assigned to the recipient and will provide assistance with the process of applying for SSI benefits and with any appeals that might be necessary.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

See Medical Assistance entry in Medical Services section;
Bureau of Blindness Visual Services entry in Vocational Services section;
Food Stamp entry in Food and Nutritional Services section;
Independent Living Services entries.

b. Other similar types of programs:

Supplemental Security Income;
General Assistance;
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

INCOME SUPPORTS
WORKERS' COMPENSATION

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Workers' Compensation

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
Workers' Comp

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Workers' Compensation is a program to replace lost income and reimburse medical costs for work-related injuries. Compensation is limited to work related injuries.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
None.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program.

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
If a person cannot work because of a job injury or a work-related illness, Pennsylvania's Workers' Compensation Act (Act) provides for medical expenses and wage-loss compensation benefits until he/she is able to return to work. In addition, a worker will be compensated for the permanent loss of use of all or part of a thumb, finger, hand, arm, leg, foot, toe, sight, hearing, or for serious and permanent disfigurement of the head, face or neck. The benefits vary depending on the degree of injury and the amount the worker was earning prior to injury or illness.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
Largely funded through employer contributions.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:
Pennsylvania's Department of Labor and Industry's Bureau of Workers' Compensation is responsible for administering this program. Information can be found at the Department of Labor and Industry's website, www.li.state.pa.us, or by contacting the Bureau of Workers' Compensation: 1171 S. Cameron St., Room 324, Harrisburg, PA 17104-2501, or phoning 1-800-482-2383 or 717-772-4447.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:
A worker should report any injury or work-related illness to his/her employer or supervisor immediately, telling the employer that the injury occurred in the course of employment and informing of the date and place of injury. Failure to notify the employer can result in the delay or denial of benefits. Once the worker has lost a day, shift or turn of work, the employer is required to report the injury to the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (bureau) by filing an Employer's Report of Occupational Injury or Disease.

8. Additional Comments (if any):
If the worker and employer dispute the injury or other matters related to the Workers' Compensation claim, it may be necessary for the worker to file a petition with the bureau. Forms can be obtained through the Claims Information Helpline (800-482-2383). The bureau is responsible for resolving disputes by assigning petitions to workers' compensation judges who decide each case after holding hearings on the issues. Workers' may represent themselves, but Workers' Compensation litigation is complex, and the employer or employer's insurance carrier will be represented by an experienced attorney, so most workers choose to obtain an attorney to represent them. The local Bar Association or the Pennsylvania Bar Association can help with finding an attorney: (800) 692-7375.

If the worker requires an accommodation to participate in a hearing due to a physical impairment, or needs a sign language interpreter without cost, call or write the Judges' office assigned to your case and describe the accommodation. The Bureau Headquarters' Administrative Division Chief can also be contacted at: Telephone No.: (717) 783-5421; TTY: (800) 362-4228.

9. Cross-References:

- a. Other types of services for population:**
Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits and Private Disability Insurance entries in this section;
Legal Services;
Office of Vocational Rehab Services in Vocational Services section.
- b. Other similar types of programs:**

INCOME SUPPORTS
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Unemployment Compensation

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
Unemployment
UC

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Unemployment Compensation is not a disability specific program, but provides income to some workers who have lost their jobs. A person must be able and available to work to be eligible to receive Unemployment Compensation benefits. A person with a disability who is able to work with a reasonable accommodation qualifies as “able and available.”

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
None.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program.

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
A worker must have worked a sufficient number of hours to be covered by Unemployment Compensation benefits. They must not have committed wilful misconduct or voluntarily quit their job without good cause.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Unemployment Compensation is a form of income support against job loss. Unemployment Compensation provides an income to people who become unemployed through no fault of their own. Benefits are paid, for between 16 and 26 weeks, to individuals who are able and available for suitable work but continue to be unemployed while looking for another job. The amount of Unemployment Compensation benefits depends on the amount of income the worker was earning on the job.

5. Funding Source(s):

The primary funding source for the UC program is employer contributions. The secondary funding source is the employee withholding contribution tax. The Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) is the funding source that pays for the program administration.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Pennsylvania's Department of Labor and Industry is responsible for administering this program. The Bureau of UC Benefits and Allowances administers the benefit responsibility of the program. A statewide system of Job Centers and Service Centers takes and processes claims for benefits. Information can be found at the Department of Labor and Industry's website, www.li.state.pa.us

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

Pennsylvania is in a time of transition over how benefits can be filed. Some unemployed people will continue to file their initial application for UC benefits in person at a local Job Center. In some counties, unemployed people will telephone the UC Service Center listed below and file initial applications for UC benefits over the phone. Soon everyone filing for UC benefits under Pennsylvania Law will file their claims by telephone through a UC Service Center. If you have questions about where or how a person should file for benefits, call 1-888-313-7284.

Allentown UC Service Center

Berks, Lehigh, and Northampton Counties

Local Calls: (610) 821-6735

Toll Free Calls: 1-888-313-7284

TTY Local Calls: (610) 821-6771

TTY Toll Free Calls: 1-888-334-4046

Altoona UC Service Center

Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Elk, Forest, Fulton, Huntingdon, Jefferson, McKean, Potter, Somerset, and Warren

Local Calls: (814) 946-7224

Toll Free Calls: 1-888-313-7284

TTY Toll Free Calls: 1-888-334-4046

Erie UC Service Center

Crawford, Erie, and Venango

Local Calls: (814) 871-4311

Toll Free Calls: 1-888-313-7284

TTY Toll Free Calls: 1-888-334-4046

Lancaster UC Service Center

Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, and York.

Local Calls: (717) 299-7711

Toll Free Calls: 1-888-313-7284

TTY Toll Free Calls: 1-888-334-4046

Philadelphia UC Service Center

Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia

Local Calls: (215) 856-6990

Toll Free Calls: 1-888-313-7284

TTY Toll Free Calls: 1-888-334-4046

Scranton UC Service Center

Bradford, Carbon, Clinton, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne, and Wyoming

Local Calls: (570) 496-2332

Toll Free Calls: 1-888-313-7284

TTY Local Calls: (570) 562-4871

TTY Toll Free Calls: 1-888-334-4046

8. Additional Comments (if any):

Upon request, auxiliary aids and services are available to claimants with disabilities. Specifically, Pennsylvania Teleclaims -- PAT has a text telephone (TTY) number available for general inquiries regarding unemployment compensation and filing claims for weekly benefits. The PAT TTY number is 1-800-778-4PAT. In addition, the UC Service Center has a TTY number 1-888-334-4046, which is capable of handling specific questions about UC or requests about other related services.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

Medical Assistance and Children's Health Insurance Program in Medical Services section;

Legal Services;

Food Stamps in Food and Nutritional Services section.

b. Other similar types of programs:

TANF and GA benefits in this section.

INCOME SUPPORTS
PRIVATE DISABILITY INSURANCE

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Private Disability Insurance

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Private Disability insurance is purchased by an individual or provided as a benefit by some employers to make payments in the event of the insured becoming temporarily or permanently disabled. Which disabilities are covered varies greatly and depends on the terms of the insurance policy.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
None.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
None.

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Private Disability insurance is purchased by an individual or provided as a benefit by some employers to make payments in the event of the insured becoming temporarily or permanently disabled. The rules governing payment and the severity of disability vary widely and are based on the individual insurance policy.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
Private insurance program.

6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Administered by the insurance company issuing the disability policy.

7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
Procedures for filing claims should be part of the insurance policy issued by the insurer or may be part of informational booklets issued to explain the coverage.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

The right to private disability pay varies with each individual or group policy. In some cases, the insurance is provided pursuant to union contracts or collective bargaining agreements and individuals can seek the assistance of their union if they have difficulty obtaining benefits under the disability policy. If an individual is having a dispute with an insurance company over their right to payments under a disability policy, they may wish to obtain the advice and assistance of an attorney. The local Bar Association or the Pennsylvania Bar Association can help with finding an attorney: (800) 692-7375.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

In this section, Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Insurance, Workers' Compensation; Legal Services section.

b. Other similar types of programs:

INCOME SUPPORTS
VETERANS DISABILITY PENSION BENEFITS

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Veterans Disability Pension Benefits

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
VA Pension Benefits
Permanent and Total Disability Benefits

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Benefits are paid to veterans who cannot work because of disability, regardless of when the disability began. The disability must be permanent and total.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
VA Pension benefits are paid to veterans and their families whose annual income is below limits set annually. In January 2002, these amounts ranged from \$9556 for a veteran with no dependents to \$18,902 for a veteran needing assistance with activities of daily living who had one dependent.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
None

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
VA Pension benefits are available only to veterans who received other than dishonorable discharges, had a minimum period of service (from 90 days to 24 months, depending on the time s/he served) and had at least one day of wartime service. The veteran need not have actually seen combat, or been in the war zone, but need only have been in the service at a time of war. Dates of war time service include:
 - World War II: December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946;
 - Korean conflict: June 27, 1950, through January 31, 1955;
 - Vietnam era: February 28, 1961, through May 7, 1975, in the case of a veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam

during that period, and, for all other veterans, August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975;

- Persian Gulf War: August 2, 1990, to the present as no official end to that war has yet been declared.

4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):

Basic Pension benefits are paid to veterans of wartime service who are unable to work a full-time job because of disabilities. Additional amounts are paid to veterans whose disabilities leave them “housebound” or who need assistance with daily activities (“aid and attendance”). The VA pays the difference between the veteran’s countable family income and the yearly income limit which describes the veteran’s family circumstances. In January 2002, these amounts ranged from \$9556 for a veteran with no dependents to \$18,902 for a veteran needing assistance with activities of daily living who had one dependent. The specific amounts for the current year can be found at the VA website, www.va.gov by clicking on the links to Compensation and Pension benefits and viewing the Fact Sheets, or by calling the VA at 1-800-827-1000.

5. Funding Source(s):

Federal funds

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Department of Veterans Affairs (“VA”)

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

Apply for benefits by filling out VA Form 21-526 which can be obtained by calling 1-800-827-1000; visiting the VA website at www.va.gov, or visiting your closest Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office. Pennsylvania has two regional offices. The Philadelphia office is located at 5000 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19101. The Pittsburgh office is located at 1000 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

There are many service organizations for veterans which can be very helpful in negotiating the sometimes long and difficult process of applying for VA benefits. These include the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association, Disabled Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Red Cross, American Legion, Jewish War Veterans, Catholic War Veterans. A helpful link to the websites of these organizations can be found at www.vrna.org. Many of these organizations have representatives available to assist veterans and their families located at the VA Regional Offices, as well as in local communities.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

VA Disability Compensation Benefits, in this section;

VA Healthcare Benefits, in Medical Services section;

The VA also provides educational, vocational rehabilitation, burial and a number of other benefits for veterans. Details can be found on the VA website at www.va.gov, or more information can be obtained by calling 1-800-827-1000

b. Other similar types of programs:

Supplemental Security Income

INCOME SUPPORTS
VETERANS DISABILITY COMPENSATION BENEFITS

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Veterans Disability Compensation Benefits

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
VA Compensation Benefits
Service-Connected Disability Benefits

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Benefits are paid to a veteran of US Military service because of injuries that happened or diseases that began while on active duty or that were made worse by military service. Also covered are disabilities or injuries that were the result of VA medical care.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
None, this is not a means tested program and benefits are payable regardless of a veteran's other income or resources.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
None

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
VA Disability Compensation benefits are available only to veterans who received other than dishonorable discharges.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Disability Compensation benefits are paid to a veteran because of injuries or disabilities that are "service-connected;" that began during or were made worse by active military service or were the result of VA medical care. The amount of benefits paid depends upon the degree of disability. In 2002, the monthly tax-free benefits ranged from \$103 to \$2447. Additional amounts are paid to veterans with severe disabilities or loss of limbs, and veterans with dependent spouses, children or parents.

5. Funding Source(s):

Federal funds

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Department of Veterans Affairs ("VA")

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

Apply for benefits by filling out VA Form 21-526 which can be obtained by calling 1-800-827-1000; visiting the VA website at www.va.gov, or visiting your closest Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office. Pennsylvania has two regional offices. The Philadelphia office is located at 5000 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19101. The Pittsburgh office is located at 1000 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

There are many service organizations for veterans which can be very helpful in negotiating the sometimes long and difficult process of applying for VA benefits. These include the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association, Disabled Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Red Cross, American Legion, Jewish War Veterans, Catholic War Veterans. A helpful link to the websites of these organizations can be found at www.vrna.org. Many of these organizations have representatives available to assist veterans and their families located at the VA Regional Offices, as well as in local communities.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

VA Disability Pension Benefits, in this section;

VA Healthcare Benefits, in Medical Services section;

The VA also provides educational, vocational rehabilitation, burial and a number of other benefits for veterans. Details can be found on the VA website at www.va.gov, or more information can be obtained by calling 1-800-827-1000.

b. Other similar types of programs:

Supplemental Security Income

Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES
ATTENDANT CARE WAIVER

1. Name/Type of Service:

Attendant Care Waiver

2. Other Names by Which Service May Be Known:

Personal Assistance Services

3. Eligibility Standards:

a. Disabilities Covered:

Persons who: (1) have physical disabilities that are expected to last for a continuous period of more than twelve months and, as a result of which, require assistance for his/her activities of daily living, and (2) are "mentally alert" (i.e., capable of selecting, supervising, and (if necessary) firing an attendant and managing his/her own financial and legal affairs).

b. Age Restrictions:

Between the ages of 18 and 59, inclusive.

c. Individual Financial Restrictions:

Persons are eligible for this waiver if they receive Medical Assistance (other than as a GA recipient). Additionally, the Waiver can provide services to people who are not currently Medical Assistance recipients but whose income is no more than 300% of the SSI federal benefit. Effective January 2002, this amount is \$1,593 per month.

d. Geographic Limits:

None

e. Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):

The Waiver can provide services to no more than 2,178 persons as of June 30, 2001 and 2,396 persons as of June 30, 2002.

Also, individuals are eligible for the Waiver only if it is determined that they need the level of care provided by nursing facilities.

4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):

Attendant Care Waiver services are in-home personal care and support services provided to eligible persons to enable them to accomplish their daily living tasks. The services consists of "basic" services and "ancillary" services that enable

individuals to live in their own homes and communities, rather than institutions, and to carry out functions of daily living, self-care, and mobility. Ancillary services are only available if some basic services are needed as well.

The "basic" services that may be provided include:

- assistance with transferring to and from bed and wheelchair;
- assistance with health maintenance;
- assistance with bathing and personal hygiene;
- assistance with dressing and grooming; and
- assistance with eating, including meal preparation and cleanup.

The "ancillary" services that may be provided include:

- homemaker-type services (such as shopping, laundry, cleaning, and seasonal chores);
- companion-type services (including assistance with transportation, letter-writing, and reading mail); and
- assistance with cognitive tasks (including managing finances, planning activities, and making decisions).

The Attendant Care Waiver is designed to give consumers the right to make decisions about, direct the provision of, and control their attendant care services. They can choose among a continuum of service control models ranging from maximum consumer-control to complete agency-control.

5. Funding Source(s):

Federal Medical Assistance funds and state funds.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare's Office of Social Programs.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

The Department of Public Welfare contracts with three agencies who assess individuals to administer the program and determine whether individuals are eligible. While individuals must apply through these agencies, there are other agencies which can provide the attendant care services to persons who are eligible. To access Attendant Care Waiver services contact one of the following agencies:

Liberty Resources, Inc.
1341 N. Delaware Ave.
Suite 105
Philadelphia, PA 19125
(215) 634-2000

UCP-Lancaster
1901 Homestead Lane
P.O. Box 10485
Lancaster, PA 17605
(717) 397-1841

TRCIL Services, Inc.
900 Rebecca Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15221
(412) 371-7700

8. Additional Comments (if any):

Consumers who are dissatisfied with the amount of services they receive under the waiver can appeal. The Department of Public Welfare has published a useful guide on the variety of Medicaid-funded Home and Community Based waivers which are operated in Pennsylvania; it can be obtained from the DPW website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/general/hacbbroc.asp or by calling the Long Term Care Helpline toll free at 1-866-286-3636.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

In this section, Centers for Independent Living;
Housing and Housing Modification Program section entries;
Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance in Income Supports section;
Medical Assistance and Medicare in Medical Services section;
Transportation Services section entries;
Office of Vocational Rehab services entry in Vocational Services section.

b. Other similar types of programs:

In this section, Act 150 Attendant Care Services, Independence Waiver, OBRA Waiver, Homemaker services; Medical Assistance entry in Medical Services section --Home health care services.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES
"ACT 150" ATTENDANT CARE SERVICES

- 1. Name/Type of Service:**
Act 150 Attendant Care Services

- 2. Other Names by Which Service May Be Known:**
Personal Assistance Services

- 3. Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. Disabilities Covered:**
Persons who: (1) have physical disabilities that are expected to last for a continuous period of more than twelve months and, as a result of which, require assistance for his/her activities of daily living, and (2) are "mentally alert" (i.e., capable of selecting, supervising, and (if necessary) firing an attendant and managing his/her own financial and legal affairs).

 - b. Age Restrictions:**
Between the ages of 18 and 59, inclusive.

 - c. Individual Financial Restrictions:**
None. However, sliding scale fees may be assessed depending on income and applicants must exhaust all other available third-party benefits.

 - d. Geographic Limits:**
None

 - e. Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
Services are limited by funding available from the Legislature. Further, individuals will only be admitted to the Act 150 program if they are not eligible for services under the Medical Assistance Attendant Care Waiver (either because they are not financially eligible for the Waiver or because no additional persons can be served under that Waiver).

- 4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Act 150 attendant care services are in-home personal care and support services provided to eligible persons to enable them to accomplish their daily living tasks. The services consists of "basic" services and "ancillary" services that enable individuals to live in their own homes and communities, rather than institutions, and to carry out functions of daily living, self-care, and mobility. Ancillary

services are only available if some basic services are needed as well.

The "basic" services that may be provided include:

- assistance with transferring to and from bed and wheelchair;
- assistance with health maintenance;
- assistance with bathing and personal hygiene;
- assistance with dressing and grooming; and
- assistance with eating, including meal preparation and cleanup.

The "ancillary" services that may be provided include:

- homemaker-type services (such as shopping, laundry, cleaning, and seasonal chores);
- companion-type services (including assistance with transportation, letter-writing, and reading mail); and
- assistance with cognitive tasks (including managing finances, planning activities, and making decisions).

Act 150 is designed to give consumers the right to direct their own services, i.e., screening, interviewing, hiring, training, managing, paying, and firing attendants. Consumers can choose among a continuum of service control models ranging from maximum consumer-control to complete agency-control.

5. Funding Source(s):

State funds and Title XX federal funds (Social Security Block Grant).

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare's Office of Social Programs

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

The Department of Public Welfare contracts with several agencies who assess individuals to administer the program and determine whether individuals are eligible. While individuals must apply through these agencies, there are other agencies which can provide the attendant care services to persons who are eligible. To access Act 150 services contact one of the following agencies:

Liberty Resources, Inc. 1341 N. Delaware Ave. Suite 105 Philadelphia, PA 19125 (215) 634-2000	UCP-Lancaster 1901 Homestead Lane P.O. Box 10485 Lancaster, PA 17605 (717) 397-1841	TRCIL Services, Inc. 900 Rebecca Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15221 (412) 371-7700
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8. Additional Comments (if any):

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

In this section, Centers for Independent Living;
Housing and Housing Modification Program section entries;
Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance in
Income Supports section;
Medical Assistance and Medicare in Medical Services section;
Transportation Services section entries;
Office of Vocational Rehab services entry in Vocational Services section.

b. Other similar types of programs:

In this section, Attendant Care Waiver, Independence Waiver, OBRA
Waiver, Homemaker services;
Medical Assistance entry in Medical Services section --Home health care
services.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES
OBRA WAIVER

1. Name/Type of Service:
OBRA Waiver

2. Other Names by Which Service May Be Known:
Formerly known as the CSPPPD (Community Services Programs for Persons with Physical Disabilities) Waiver, DPW's Office of Social Programs now implements several programs, including the OBRA Waiver, the Independence Waiver, and ICFs/ORC.

3. Eligibility Standards:

a. Disabilities Covered:

Individuals with developmental disabilities (other than mental retardation). It includes individuals with physical disabilities, such as cerebral palsy, that occurred prior to age 22 as well as individuals with autism who do not also have a diagnosis of mental retardation.

b. Age Restrictions:
None

c. Individual Financial Restrictions:

Persons are eligible for this waiver if they receive Medical Assistance (other than as a GA recipient). Additionally, the Waiver can provide services to people who are not currently Medical Assistance recipients but whose income is no more than 300% of the SSI federal benefit. Effective January 2002, this amount is \$1,593 per month.

d. Geographic Limits:
None

e. Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):

The Waiver is capped. Currently, fewer than 200 individuals are served, but the Waiver is not filled.

Individuals are eligible for the Waiver only if it is determined that they need the level of care provided by intermediate care facilities for persons with other related conditions.

4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):

OBRA Waiver services include:

- resource management services (including service coordination and monitoring);
- in-home habilitation services (including daily living services, home support services, routine wellness services, and community integration services);
- out-of-home habilitation services (including supported employment services, prevocational services, adult day and educational services);
- respite services;
- physical, occupational, visual, and behavioral therapies;
- visiting nurse services;
- minor physical home adaptations;
- assistive technology; and
- transportation.

5. Funding Source(s):

Federal Medical Assistance funds and state funds.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare's Office of Social Programs

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

The OBRA Waiver program is administered through the following agencies that contract with DPW. Services can be accessed by contacting them.

Liberty Resources, Inc.
1341 N. Delaware Ave.
Suite 105
Philadelphia, PA 19125
(215) 634-2000

UCP-Lancaster
1901 Homestead Lane
P.O. Box 10485
Lancaster, PA 17605
(717) 397-1841

TRCIL Services, Inc.
900 Rebecca Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15221
(412) 371-7700

8. Additional Comments (if any):

The Department of Public Welfare has published a useful guide on the variety of Medicaid-funded Home and Community Based waivers which are operated in Pennsylvania; it can be obtained from the DPW website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/general/hacbbroc.asp or by calling the Long Term Care Helpline toll free at 1-866-286-3636.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

In this section, Centers for Independent Living;
Housing and Housing Modification Program section entries;
Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance in Income Supports section;
Medical Assistance and Medicare in Medical Services section;
Transportation Services section entries;
Office of Vocational Rehab services entry in Vocational Services section.

b. Other similar types of programs:

In this section, Attendant Care Waiver, Act 150 Attendant Care, Independence Waiver, Homemaker services;
Medical Assistance entry in Medical Services section --Home health care services.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES
INDEPENDENCE WAIVER

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Independence Waiver

2. **Other Names by Which Service May Be Known:**
None

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Individuals with physical disabilities that substantially limit three or more major life activities (e.g., mobility, communication, self-care, learning, self-direction, or capacity for independent living) with the exception of individuals who are ventilator-dependent.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
Over 18

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Persons are eligible for this waiver if they receive Medical Assistance (other than as a GA recipient). Additionally, the Waiver can provide services to people who are not currently Medical Assistance recipients but whose income is no more than 300% of the SSI federal benefit. Effective January 2002, this amount is \$1,593 per month.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
None

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
The Waiver is capped. Currently, fewer than 200 individuals are served, but the Waiver is not filled.

Individuals are eligible for the Waiver only if it is determined that they need the level of care provided by nursing facilities and only if they need two or more services under the Waiver.

4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):

Independence Waiver services include:

- service coordination (including assistance with identifying, coordinating, and facilitating Waiver and other services and advocacy to assist the consumer to access non-Waiver services);
- daily living services (including assistance with eating, bathing, dressing, hygiene, health maintenance, meal preparation, and essential housekeeping), which consumers may direct if they choose and if they complete training requirements;
- respite services;
- physical, occupational, and speech therapies;
- environmental adaptations to the home;
- specialized medical equipment and supplies;
- visiting nurse services; and,
- personal emergency response systems.

5. Funding Source(s):

Federal Medical Assistance funds and state funds.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare's Office of Social Programs

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

The Independence Waiver program is administered through the following agencies that contract with DPW. Services can be accessed by contacting them.

Liberty Resources, Inc.
1341 N. Delaware Ave.
Suite 105
Philadelphia, PA 19125
(215) 634-2000

UCP-Lancaster
1901 Homestead Lane
P.O. Box 10485
Lancaster, PA 17605
(717) 397-1841

TRCIL Services, Inc.
900 Rebecca Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15221
(412) 371-7700

8. Additional Comments (if any):

The Department of Public Welfare has published a useful guide on the variety of Medicaid-funded Home and Community Based waivers which are operated in Pennsylvania; it can be obtained from the DPW website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/general/hacbbroc.asp or by calling the Long Term Care Helpline toll free at 1-866-286-3636.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

In this section, Centers for Independent Living;
Housing and Housing Modification Program section entries;
Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance in Income Supports section;
Medical Assistance and Medicare in Medical Services section;
Transportation Services section entries;
Office of Vocational Rehab services entry in Vocational Services section.

b. Other similar types of programs:

In this section, Attendant Care Waiver, Act 150 Attendant Care, OBRA Waiver, Homemaker services;
Medical Assistance entry in Medical Services section --Home health care services.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES
MICHAEL DALLAS WAIVER

1. Name/Type of Service:

Michael Dallas Waiver

2. Other Names by Which Service May Be Known:

Michael Dallas Model Waiver
Technology-Dependent Waiver
MDMW

3. Eligibility Standards:

a. Disabilities Covered:

Individuals who are technology-dependent. "Technology-dependent" means dependence on a technological device (such as a ventilator or feeding tube) to replace a vital body function or to sustain life.

b. Age Restrictions:

None. However, since Medical Assistance-eligible youngsters under age 21 who need the services available under this Waiver can receive them through the EPSDT program, they may not be found eligible for the Waiver.

c. Individual Financial Restrictions:

Individuals whose income is within 300% of the SSI federal benefit are eligible for services (about \$1,593 per month for an individual or \$2,388 per month for a couple).

d. Geographic Limits:

None

e. Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):

The Waiver is capped. It can provide services to no more than 100 individuals, but the Waiver is not yet filled.

Individuals are eligible for the Waiver only if it is determined that they need the level of care provided by hospitals.

Individuals are not eligible if they have any third-party insurance coverage which has not been exhausted.

4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):

Services available under the Michael Dallas Waiver include:

- case management;
- specialized equipment and medical supplies;
- private-duty nursing (i.e. shift nursing for the number of hours per day which are medically necessary);
- respite care;
- attendant care;
- nutritional supplements.

5. Funding Source(s):

Federal Medical Assistance funds and state funds.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare's Office of Medical Assistance Programs.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

Individuals can apply for the Michael Dallas Waiver by contacting their caseworkers at the County Assistance Offices, the Special Needs Units of their HealthChoices HMOs (if they are enrolled in HMOs), or by contacting:

Paul Culbertson
Department of Public Welfare
Office of Medical Assistance Programs
Division of Long Term Care Client Services
1401 North 7th Street
P.O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2675
717-772-2525

8. Additional Comments (if any):

The Department of Public Welfare has published a useful guide on the variety of Medicaid-funded Home and Community Based waivers which are operated in Pennsylvania; it can be obtained from the DPW website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/general/hacbbroc.asp or by calling the Long Term Care Helpline toll free at 1-866-286-3636.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

Education section entries;
Housing Modifications in Housing section;
Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Children's benefits in
Income supports section;
Medical Assistance in Medical Services section;
Mental Retardation services if relevant;
Transportation services.

b. Other similar types of programs:

EPSDT services for children under the Medical Assistance program.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES:
CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Centers for Independent Living

2. **Other Names by Which Service May Be Known:**
CILs
Independent Living Center

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
"Significant disabilities," i.e., severe physical or mental impairments that substantially limit the ability to function independently in the family or community, or to obtain, maintain, or advance employment.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
Generally none.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Generally none.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
There are 15 CILs in Pennsylvania, each of which serves a specific geographic region. Virtually all regions in Pennsylvania are served by a CIL.

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
Each CIL can establish its own eligibility criteria within the population of persons with significant disabilities, though those criteria cannot be based on the presence of one or more specific disabilities.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
CILs are consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, non-residential private non-profit agencies that are designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities and that provide an array of independent living services. CILs offer:
 - information and referral services about disability issues and programs;
 - individual and systems advocacy;

- peer support (in which one consumer assists a client to explore options, make decisions, and increase control over his/her life); and
- independent living skills training (in which individuals learn and practice skills such as financial management and personal attendant management).

5. Funding Source(s):

Primarily federal funds. Some CILs also receive funds from Pennsylvania to operate specific programs and CILs may also receive private funds such as grants and donations.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

By contacting your area CIL. The addresses and phone numbers for Pennsylvania's CIL's are:

Abilities in Motion
416 Blair Avenue
Reading, PA 19601
(610) 376-0010

Anthracite Region CIL
40 North Church Street
Hazleton, PA 18201
(570) 455-9800

CIL of Central PA
415 Fallowfield Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011
(717) 731-1900

CIL of North Central PA
210 Market St., Suite A
Williamsport, PA 17701
(570) 327-9070

CIL of Southcentral PA
3009 Walnut Avenue
Altoona, PA
(814) 949-1905

TRCIL Services, Inc.
900 Rebecca Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15221
(412) 371-7700

Citizens for Independence and Access
3450 Industrial Highway
York, PA 17402
(717) 840-9653

Community Resources for Independence
2222 Filmore Avenue
Erie, PA 16505
(814) 838-7222

Freedom Valley Disability Enablement
3607 Chapel Road
Newton Square, PA 19073
(610) 353-6640

Lehigh Valley Center for Independence
919 South 9th Street
Allentown, PA 18103
(610) 770-9781

Liberty Resources, Inc.
1341 N. Delaware Ave.
Suite 105
Philadelphia, PA 19125
(215) 634-2000

Life & Independence for Today
503 Arch Street
St. Marys, PA 15847
(814) 781-3050

Northeast PA CIL

Tri-County Patriots for

Voices for Independence

431 Wyoming Avenue
Lower Level IBEW Bldg.
Scranton, PA 18503
(570) 344-7211

Independence
69 East Beau Street
Washington, PA 15301
(724) 223-5115

3711 West 12th Street
Erie, PA 16505
(814) 838-9890

8. Additional Comments (if any):

9. Cross-References:

- a. Other types of services for population:**
Housing Modifications in Housing section;
Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance in
Income supports section;
Medical Assistance in Medical Services section;
Transportation services.
- b. Other similar types of programs:**
Vocational rehabilitation services

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES
AIDS/HIV INFECTION WAIVER

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
AIDS/HIV Infection Waiver

2. **Other Names by Which Service May Be Known:**
AIDS Waiver

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Individuals who have AIDS or symptomatic HIV infection.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
Age 21 and older.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Virtually all persons eligible for Medical Assistance either as categorically needy or medically needy are eligible for services under this Waiver.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
None

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
The Waiver is capped. It can provide services to fewer than 1,000 individuals.

Individuals are eligible for the Waiver only if it is determined that they need the level of care provided by nursing facilities, hospitals, or intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation or other related conditions.

Individuals are not eligible if: they are enrolled in a managed care program; they are enrolled in a Medical Assistance hospice program; or they have third-party insurance coverage for inpatient hospital services.

4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):

Services available under the AIDS/HIV Infection Waiver include:

- homemaker services (including, non-medical personal care; light housekeeping; meal preparation; grocery shopping; laundry; companion services);
- specialized medical equipment and supplies (including disposable gowns, masks, and gloves for caregivers; enteral feeding pumps and enteral feeding supply kits);
- extended home nursing and home health care services;
- nutritional supplements and consultations.

5. Funding Source(s):

Federal Medical Assistance funds and state funds.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare's Office of Medical Assistance Programs.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

Individuals can apply for the AIDS/HIV Infection Waiver by contacting their caseworkers at the County Assistance Offices or by contacting:

Department of Public Welfare
Office of Medical Assistance Programs
Case Management Programs
P.O. Box 8021
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8021
1-800-922-9384
or
Paul Culbertson
Department of Public Welfare
Office of Medical Assistance Programs
Division of Long Term Care Client Services
1401 North 7th Street
P.O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2675
717-772-2525

Applications for this Waiver also can be downloaded from the Internet at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap/hiv_aids/omappwpcfse.asp.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

The Department of Public Welfare has published a useful guide on the variety of Medicaid-funded Home and Community Based waivers which are operated in Pennsylvania; it can be obtained from the DPW website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/general/hacbbroc.asp or by calling the Long Term Care Helpline toll free at 1-866-286-3636.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance in Income supports section;
Medical Assistance in Medical Services section;
Transportation services.

b. Other similar types of programs:

Homemaker Services

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES
ICF/ORC SERVICES

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
ICFs for Persons with Other Related Conditions

2. **Other Names by Which Service May Be Known:**
Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Other Related Conditions
ICF/ORCs

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Individuals with "other related conditions." "Other related conditions" are disabilities (other than mental retardation or mental illness) that arose prior to age 22, are likely to continue indefinitely, and result in substantial functional limitations in three or more major life activities (self-care, communication, learning, mobility, self-direction, or capacity for independent living).

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Must be eligible for Medical Assistance or would be eligible for Medical Assistance if institutionalized.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
None

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
Currently, there are only three ICFs/ORC in Pennsylvania that can serve six to seven people each. However, anyone eligible for ICF/ORC services has an entitlement to receive such services.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
ICFs/ORC are 24-hour residential programs for persons with other related conditions. ICFs/ORC must provide health, rehabilitation, and active treatment services programs to residents. They can house as few as four persons.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
Federal Medical Assistance funds and state funds.
6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare's Office of Social Programs.
7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
Given the limited number of ICFs/ORC in Pennsylvania, it is unclear how one applies for such services. Individuals who are interested should contact:

Department of Public Welfare
Office of Social Programs
Community Services for Persons with Physical Disabilities (CSPPPD)
P.O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2675
(717) 772-2094

8. **Additional Comments (if any):**
None
9. **Cross-References:**
- a. **Other types of services for population:**
In this section, OBRA Waiver, Independence Waiver, CILs, Attendant Care (Act 150 and Waiver), Homemaker services;
Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance in Income supports section;
Medical Assistance in Medical Services section;
Legal services;
Vocational rehabilitation.
- b. **Other similar types of programs:**

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES
HOMEMAKER SERVICES

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Homemaker Services

2. **Other Names by Which Service May Be Known:**
None

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Individuals with medical/physical health problems who are unable to attend to their own personal care and/or homemaking needs.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
Between 18 and 59, inclusive.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Income must be within 250% of the federal poverty level, at the time of publication of the catalogue, this was \$1,790 per month for an individual.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Philadelphia

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
The availability of services depends upon funding. There currently is a waiting list of between six months and one year.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
The program provides basic personal care assistance (e.g., assistance with grooming, hygiene, eating) and basic home management (e.g., light housekeeping).

5. **Funding Source(s):**
City funds

6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Philadelphia Office of Emergency Services and Shelter

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

Individuals can apply for services by contacting:

Homemaker Services of the Metropolitan Area, Inc.
801 Arch Street, Ground Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 592-0002

8. Additional Comments (if any):

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

In this section, OBRA Waiver, Independence Waiver, CILs, Attendant Care (Act 150 and Waiver);

Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance in Income supports section;

Medical Assistance home health services in Medical Services section.

b. Other similar types of programs:

LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS
LEGAL SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities
2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Varies by program.
 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None
 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Often none, though can vary by program
 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
See individual descriptions below – some programs are statewide, some regional.
 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Various programs provide legal services to persons with disabilities. See 7 below for information on individual programs.
5. **Funding Source(s):**
Varies by individual program.
6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Varies by program

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania (DRN)

www.drnpa.org

Statewide program; no income restrictions

Philadelphia office: (215) 238-8070, TDD (215) 238-6069

Pittsburgh office: (412) 391-5225, TDD (412) 467-8940

Provision of free disability-related legal services to Pennsylvania residents with disabilities including intake and referral, advocacy, and legal representation (if appropriate) in areas including: access to health care, employment discrimination, fair housing, and access to places of public accommodation.

DRN provides intake and referral, advocacy, and legal representation, where appropriate, for individuals with disabilities and their organizations. DRN's goal is to pursue litigation which increases self-determination for individuals with disabilities, has a positive impact on large populations, and results in systemwide reform. After intake, internal case review by the legal staff will occur to determine which cases are appropriate for legal representation. DRN cannot represent every individual who calls as resources are limited. DRN receives funding its funding through federal funds granted to the states by federal disabilities legislation.

Community education materials are published on the DRN web site. DRN also publishes hard copies of its materials which are available by calling either the Philadelphia or Pittsburgh offices. Materials include, but are not limited to, the following topics: Employment Discrimination, Discriminatory Zoning and Fair Housing, Guardianship, Access to Public Accommodations, and Estate Planning.

Education Law Center (ELC)

www.elc-pa.org

Statewide program; no income restrictions

Philadelphia office: (215) 238- 6970, TDD (215) 238-5892

Pittsburgh office: (412) 391-5225, TDD (412) 467-8940

ELC provides intake and referral, advocacy, and legal representation, where appropriate, for pre-schoolers and students with disabilities. After intake, internal case review by the legal staff will occur to determine which cases are appropriate for legal representation. ELC cannot represent every individual who calls as resources are limited. ELC receives funding through Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania, the recipient of federal funds granted to the states by federal disabilities legislation. ELC also publishes booklets and fact sheets on securing Special Education services for a child, the general legal rights of students with disabilities, and on the dispute resolution process. Booklets are free for parents who request them. There is a fee for booklets provided to advocates who request the information. Community education materials are published on the ELC web site.

Center for Disability Law & Policy

www.equalemployment.org

Statewide program; no income restrictions

Philadelphia office: (215) 557-7112 (voice/TDD)

Pittsburgh office: (412) 363-7223 (voice/TDD)

The Center administers the Client Assistance Program for individuals with disabilities seeking or receiving services under section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, and also provides advocacy and legal services for individuals with disabilities. Please contact the Center for additional information on intake procedures.

AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania

Statewide program; no income restrictions

(215) 587-9377

Provides legal assistance for clients living with HIV/AIDS (or clients whose family members are living with HIV/AIDS) in a wide range of legal areas, including social security appeals, family law, health, housing, employment, estate law, landlord/tenant, insurance, confidentiality issues. No income restrictions.

Pittsburgh Aids Task Force

www.patf.org

Pittsburgh area program

(412) 242-2500

Provides referrals and case management services for people living with HIV/AIDS. Legal services are provided by volunteer attorneys.

Philadelphia Bar Association Senior Citizen Judicare Project

Philadelphia program; for low income elderly persons

(215) 238-6361

Intake hours: by telephone, Monday-Friday, 9:00 - 1:00

The Judicare Project provides pro bono or sliding scale legal services for senior residents of Philadelphia County in the following areas: energy/utility assistance, estate law, health care, home repair contract issues, property damage, real estate tax matters, consumer issues, financial exploitation, and grandparents raising grandchildren issues. The project is funded by the bar association and private contributors.

The Legal Clinic for the Disabled

www.mageerehab.org, look under Community Programs

Philadelphia area; some income restrictions.

(215) 587-3350, TDD (215) 587-3352

This is a collaborative clinic sponsored by the PA Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, the Philadelphia Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, and Magee Rehabilitation. The clinic provides no-cost legal services to Philadelphia

area individuals with physical disabilities. Legal Services income restrictions apply in legal representation situations. No income level restrictions for individuals requesting information and/or advice only.

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Legal Services Network

www.aarp.com/lbn

Nationwide program

(800) 424-3410

The Legal Services Network is an AARP member benefit which provides access to private attorneys who reduce their fees for AARP members and their spouses. Please be sure to ask each attorney about his or her fee arrangement. This network is part of AARP's Legal Advocacy Group. This group also has statewide **Legal Hotline** programs. You do not have to be an AARP member to access a legal hotline. Call the above number or consult your local Yellow Pages (Blue Pages section) for hotline numbers. Some hotline programs charge for telephone time.

Pennsylvania Legal Advice Line

e-mail: telelaw@msn.com

Statewide program; some income limits.

(800) 262-5297

This hotline is generally for individuals over age 50 with questions in the Elder Law area. There is no charge for individuals with incomes below \$18,000. There is a charge of \$3.00 per minute for individuals with incomes over \$18,000, or for individuals who are under age 50.

Disabilities Lawyer Referral Service

(888) 712-0128, TDD (888) 248-2795

Statewide program; no income limits.

The Pennsylvania Bar Association sponsors this statewide referral service. Callers should identify the particular disability-related legal problem, and the service will attempt to match the caller with a private attorney. There is no charge for the referral, however, the consumer must ask the individual attorney about his/her fee arrangement.

Private Attorneys

Some private attorneys will represent individuals in disability-related litigation on either a pro bono (free of charge) basis or for a fee. Your local Bar Association (listed in the Yellow Pages) should have an attorney referral service to assist in identifying such attorneys. Please note that the Bar Association may charge a fee for the referral service. Some attorneys may charge for an initial consultation. Also, if pro bono service is not being provided, consumers should make sure to discuss fees with the individual attorney before consulting with that attorney. Each attorney may have a different fee arrangement.

Allegheny County Bar Assoc. Lawyer Referral Service: (412) 261-5555
Philadelphia County Bar Assoc. Lawyer Referral Service: (215) 238-6333

Law School Legal Clinics

Some law schools have legal clinics which may represent individuals in disability-related litigation. Please contact local law schools for information.

8. **Additional Comments (if any):**
9. **Cross-References:**
 - a. **Other types of services for population:**
 - b. **Other similar types of programs:**
Legal Services for Low-Income Persons

LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS
LEGAL SERVICES FOR LOW-INCOME PERSONS

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Legal Services for Low-Income Persons

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
Legal Aid

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Not a disability specific program.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Usual legal services financial eligibility criteria is an income level of 125% of the federal poverty rate; at the time of publication of this catalogue, approximately \$895 for an individual or \$1209 for a couple. Some of the “Specialty Programs” (see 4 below) accept clients with incomes up to 187.5% of the poverty level for special cases; approximately \$1345 for an individual or \$1813 for a couple.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Various legal services offices serve all Pennsylvania counties. Some of the larger counties have offices in multiple locations.

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
Funding is limited by the Legal Services Corporation’s federal budget which must be approved annually. Individual programs set priorities and standards for which cases they will accept for representation.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Provision of free legal services to low income Pennsylvania residents including intake and referral, advocacy, and legal representation (if appropriate) in areas including, but not limited to: public benefits, family law, SSI, health care, employment, consumer law, bankruptcy, housing, and utilities. Different legal services offices have expertise in various areas of the law.

There are also eight “Specialty Programs,” throughout the state, which provide legal services in specialized areas of the law or to special groups of clients. These programs have intake procedures followed by an internal case review by the legal staff to determine which cases are appropriate for legal representation. The Specialty Programs include: Community Justice Project, Community Legal Services, Friends of Farmworkers, PA Farmworker Project, PA Institutional Law Project, PA Health Law Project, PA Utility Law Project, and Regional Housing Legal Services. More information on these programs can be found at the website for the organization which coordinates funding for all the programs: Pennsylvania Legal Services System (PLS), www.palegalservices.org.

Community education materials are published on the PLS website. PLS also publishes a newsletter called “Hot Sheet” which discusses news affecting legal services and the legal services community. Past issues are available on the PLS website.

5. Funding Source(s):

The federal Legal Services Corporation has a budget which must be appropriated annually. Federal monies are disbursed to Pennsylvania Legal Services, which is the principal funder and overseer of organizations that provide legal assistance to low income residents of Pennsylvania.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Pennsylvania Legal Services

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

Each legal services office has a client intake system accessible by telephone or by walk-in. Addresses for local programs can be found on the Pennsylvania Legal Services website, www.palegalservices.org, or in the attorney listing of the yellow pages.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

b. Other similar types of programs:

In addition to the programs discussed above, there are four similar legal services programs operating in restricted geographic areas:

Philadelphia VIP Volunteers for the Indigent Program
(215) 523-9550

Telephone intake Mon.-Fri., 10:00-12:00 and 2:00-4:00.

This is a pro bono referral program that provides services to low-income Philadelphia residents or to others with a legal problem located within Philadelphia County. Income eligibility levels are the same as Legal Services eligibility levels. Special services include a taxpayer clinic during tax season.

Allegheny County Mental Health Legal Services

(412) 391-3820; Toll-free number: 1 (877) 391-3820

Allegheny County Mental Health Legal Services (ACMHLS) is a corporation affiliated with the Mental Health Association of Allegheny County. ACMHLS provides Allegheny County residents who are receiving mental-health services with information, advice, and limited legal representation, where appropriate. Areas of practice include but are not limited to: family law and Supplemental Security Income. ACMHLS receives funding from the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, and the Pennsylvania IOLTA Board. Typical legal services income restrictions apply in legal representation situations. ACMHLS does not charge for its services.

Venango County Pro Bono Program

(724) 867-5921

This is a pro bono referral program providing services to low-income Venango County residents in areas including: adoption, bankruptcy, consumer law, custody, domestic violence, elder law, employment, health care, housing, termination of parental rights, and estates. Program has financial restrictions. Program administrator has discretion over cases accepted for legal representation.

Lackawanna Pro Bono, Inc.

(570) 961-2714

Lackawanna Pro Bono is an independent non-profit attorney referral program serving residents of Lackawanna County. Referrals are provided to volunteer attorneys who do not charge for their services. Income restrictions are the same as the Legal Services Program income restrictions. Practice areas include, but are not limited to, family law, landlord/tenant law, social security. The program does not refer criminal cases, personal injury cases, or cases where there is a statutory right to counsel. The program receives funding from North Penn Legal Services, bar associations, the Pennsylvania IOLTA fund, and foundation funding. The program does not receive any government funding.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Overview of the Medical Assistance Program

In Pennsylvania, the primary funding source for a wide array of medical and other services for low income persons with disabilities is Medical Assistance. Medical Assistance is a program which makes matching federal funds available to states which choose to participate in the program. In return, the states agree to ensure the provision of an array of health care services to recipients. The eligibility and service provisions vary from state to state. Pennsylvania's rules are discussed below.

Income and Resource Eligibility

Adults³

In general, Medical Assistance is available to low income persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities whose income is no more than 100% of the Federal Poverty level plus \$20 are eligible. At the time of publication of this catalogue, this amount was \$736 per month for an individual and \$987 for a couple. Resources cannot exceed \$2000 (excluding a residence).

There are more generous income limits for services under various Medical Assistance waiver programs and for persons who need nursing home care; these limits are listed with those particular catalogue entries where relevant.

Under a new program being developed by DPW, Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities, persons with disabilities who work will be eligible to buy in to the Medical Assistance program using 5% of their net monthly income. This program will provide a full package of Medical Assistance benefits including durable medical equipment and prescription drug benefits. To qualify, a person must meet Social Security's definition of disabled, earn less than 250% of the Federal Poverty level (at the time of publication of this catalogue, \$21,475.00 annually), and have resources less than \$10,000. This program is expected to begin early in 2002.

Children

For children with significant disabilities, parental income is not counted in determining eligibility for Medical Assistance and resources are not counted at all. Nor is any child support paid on behalf of the child. Thus, unless a child has significant income in his or

³ There are other categories of Medical Assistance coverage for people who are not seriously disabled. For example, anyone receiving TANF benefits receives broad coverage. However, for General Assistance recipients, the package of available services is quite restricted. Since this catalogue is intended as a resource for people with disabilities, those categories of coverage are not discussed in detail, and when Medical Assistance is referred to, it is generally the category for people with disabilities, which provides broad coverage.

her own name, such as Social Security Survivor's Benefits or trust income, the vast majority of children with disabilities in Pennsylvania will be eligible for Medical Assistance regardless of the wealth or income of their parents.

Spend Down

Pennsylvania allows persons with disabilities who would otherwise be over income for Medical Assistance to use their medical expenses to "spend down" to become eligible. Persons with disabilities must spend down to the SSI benefit level, which is currently \$ 557.40 for an individual and \$839.70 for a couple. In other words, the applicant must spend down her excess income or "incur" a certain amount of medical expenses for the month before Medical Assistance will cover other medical bills. An initial deduction of \$20 is taken from income regardless of whether there are medical expenses. After the applicant meets her "spend down," Medical Assistance will pay for all covered services for the rest of the month.

Medical expenses that can be counted toward the "spend down" amount include Medicare and other health insurance premiums, and deductibles such as enrollment fees and co-payments, and a broad range of medical expenses including: hospital, physician, and home health care; personal care services, visits to a speech or physical therapist; prescriptions; medical equipment, including bedding; the cost of transportation to the hospital, doctor, or drugstore; over the counter drugs such as cold medications, laxatives; bandages, cotton balls, needles, crutches, and braces; and dentures, eyeglasses, and hearing aids. Both bills recently paid and unpaid bills from any time can be counted. In addition, the value of any medical or medical-like services received from local, county or state government entities can be counted toward the spend down, such as county provided MR or MH services including case management and free or low cost health services received from city or county health centers. The value of these services is counted **even if they are provided at no cost to the recipient.**

Delivery and Approval of Medical Assistance Services

The vast majority of Pennsylvania Medical Assistance recipients receive their benefits through the HealthChoices program which requires mandatory enrollment in managed care plans ("MCOs"). Most health care services are accessed through a primary care physician. In the areas of Pennsylvania where HealthChoices is not yet in effect, recipients receive their benefits through "fee for service" Medical Assistance by presenting their Access card to any MA participating provider.

Some services must be "prior authorized" or "prior approved" by the relevant MCO or DPW in the case of fee for service Medical Assistance. Though the list of services and items subject to prior authorization or approval vary from plan to plan, it usually includes specialized items of durable medical equipment as well as home health services. Although the exact procedure for making such requests differs from plan to plan, the usual process is for a treating physician to prescribe the item or service and to provide the MCO or DPW with a detailed justification for why the item or service is

medically necessary. A sample outline of a letter of medical necessity is attached at the end of this summary. The MCO or DPW must act upon the request within 21 days, and, if the request is denied, provide written notice of the reasons why to the recipient and the prescribing physician. Appeals can be taken from any denials, and are often successful when pursued.

Appeal Rights for Denials of Medically Necessary Services

Since Medical Assistance is an entitlement, applicants and recipients have the right to file an appeal when they are denied coverage or services and to obtain an independent review of the MCO's or DPW's decision. In general, recipients must ensure that their appeals are received by DPW within 30 days of the date on the notice of denial, reduction or termination of Medical Assistance services. **In the case of an ongoing prescription, as for home nursing or home health care, if the appeal is sent within ten days of the notice, and the appeal includes a request to have the services continue, they will continue.** A sample appeal letter follows this summary. The appeal should be sent to the address listed for DPW in the denial, and a copy should be sent to the HealthChoices HMO, if any. ⁴

The appeal, or fair hearing, is conducted by an independent DPW hearing officer who hears evidence and accepts documents from the recipient and DPW or the MCO. It is useful, but not necessary, to have the assistance of an attorney in these hearings. See the Legal Services section for information on how to obtain one. After the hearing decision, either side can request reconsideration from the Secretary of Public Welfare, or ultimately bring the matter to state court.

⁴ Persons enrolled in HealthChoices, in addition to having the right to pursue DPW Fair Hearings and appeals, have the right to an internal grievance and review by the MCO. Many consumers have not found this avenue to be as successful as immediately pursuing a DPW appeal and fair hearing, since the grievance procedure involves appeal to a committee of MCO employees, and not to a neutral decision maker, though there are occasions when pursuing an MCO grievance first makes sense.

Note: This letter must be received within 30 days of the date on denial notice or, to receive a continuation of benefits, it must be sent within **ten** days of notice date. It is essential to send a copy of this letter to your HMO if you want a continuation of services.

Sample DPW Appeal Letter

[Date]

REGISTERED MAIL

Department of Public Welfare
Office of Medical Assistance Programs
P.O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2675

OR the Address given on the denial, if any.

Re: Appeal From **[Denial/Reduction/Termination]** Of
Medical Assistance Services to [recipient's name]

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to appeal the **[denial/reduction/termination]** of **[type of service]**. **[Short description of what happened -- dates and names if possible and attach copy of any written notice or letter from the HMO or Medical Assistance]**. The denial notice is dated _____.

I do not agree with the decision to **[deny/discontinue/ reduce]** the **[type of service]**. I request a hearing to be held in **[city, town where it is convenient to you]**. The hearing will take approximately **[number of hours, days]**.

[If this is an appeal from a reduction/termination of services or, a refusal to re-authorize services state the following:] I request continued receipt of full services pending the resolution of this appeal. This appeal is filed within ten days after **[written notice of the decision was mailed or I did not receive written notice of the ten-day deadline to appeal and maintain benefits or I did not receive the notice in time to appeal within ten days]**.

I can be reached at **[work/home address and telephone numbers]**. **[You can contact name of person who will represent me in this matter at address and telephone number]**. My Medical Assistance number is **[_____]** and my Social Security number is **[_____]**.

Very truly yours,
[Signature]
[Name]

cc: **[HMO Name if relevant]**

Sample Outline for Letter of Medical Necessity

Paragraph 1: Prescriber should identify him/herself and credentials, with particular emphasis on experience with condition the Medical Assistance recipient has.

Paragraph 2: Describe relationship with the Medical Assistance recipient.

Paragraph 3: Describe the diagnosis and limitations caused by that diagnosis.

Paragraph 4: Describe any relevant caregiver, family or environment information, including limitations or disabilities of caregivers.

Paragraph 5: Explain why equipment/services prescribed or supported are medically necessary to address the limitations/needs described above. Carefully describe the equipment prescribed and attach any information you may have on it, especially if it is unusual.

Paragraph 6: Give information about and credentials of any other professionals who were consulted in making the determination of what equipment was best suited to the patient's needs.

Paragraph 7: Describe any less expensive alternatives and why they are not appropriate. Describe any more expensive alternatives that were rejected in favor of the less expensive, adequate and necessary equipment/service prescribed or supported.

Paragraph 8: In the case of services, such as speech, occupational or physical therapy or home health services (such as nursing, personal care or home health aides), be sure to be clear about the number of hours per day you are prescribing, and the particular hours (if that is important – for example to cover times when family caregivers are not available). In addition, if services are also being offered to child in school, make clear that your prescription is for services in addition to school-based services and state why such additional services are necessary. Also, keep in mind for a child receiving services in school that a prescription for speech, PT or OT over the summer might be medically appropriate and necessary.

MEDICAL SERVICES
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Medical Assistance

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
MA
Medicaid
Access

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
See the Overview of the Medical Assistance Program for specifics.
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
Some immigrants are not eligible for Medical Assistance benefits.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Medical Assistance provides coverage of a broad range of services, including in-patient and out-patient hospital physician services; laboratory and X-ray services; home health care; nursing homes; family planning; durable medical equipment; medical supplies and prescriptions, as well as transportation to and from appointments (see entry in Transportation Services section on Medical Assistance Transportation). The durable medical equipment entitlement includes power wheelchairs, motorized scooters, and augmentative/alternative communication devices for adults as well as children.

For children (up to age 21), the entitlement is quite broad, and should not include any limits on medically necessary services or equipment, including hearing aides, eyeglasses, and orthodontia. This also means, for example, that a child with demonstrated medical need can get home health care coverage for times when the demands on his parents of work, sleep and the needs of other children in the household prevent them from providing care to the child, including up to twenty

four hours a day of care in exceptional cases. Personal care services are an underutilized service available to families of children who have cognitive disabilities (e.g., mental retardation or autism), serious emotional disabilities, or physical disabilities, and as a result need assistance with activities of daily living such as getting up, dressing, bathing, grooming, toileting, eating, and meal preparation. In making requests for home health services and personal care services, it is important that the child's physician prepare a detailed request including the child's condition, the family circumstances that require the service (e.g. parent's disability, work schedule, demands of other children in the household), and the specific number of hours needed. See the sample outline attached to the Overview of Medical Assistance.

For adults, although more limited, the home health benefit can provide fairly extensive home health aid and skilled nursing visits which allow a person to remain at home instead of being forced to seek admission to a nursing facility. DPW and the HealthChoices MCOs have a restrictive view of this service and it will likely be necessary to seek legal assistance in pursuing claims for significant hours of this service. See the Legal Services section for information on how to find a lawyer to assist.

5. Funding Source(s):

Joint federal and state funds

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Department of Public Welfare

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

An individual enrolls in Medical Assistance by visiting the local DPW County Assistance office to apply. Addresses can be found at DPW's website, www.dpw.state.pa.us or in the blue government pages of the telephone book. Applications for Medical Assistance can also be completed offsite and mailed in, often with the assistance of social workers at hospitals and local health centers. These applications are processed at the County Assistance Offices and applicants will need to go to the County Assistance Offices to submit verification and for annual redeterminations of eligibility. See Overview of Medical Assistance Program for discussion of how to request specific services.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

- 9. Cross-References:**
- a. Other types of services for population:**
Food Stamps entry in Food and Nutrition Services section;
Supplemental Security Income, TANF and GA in Income Supports section;
Legal Services programs in Legal Services section;
Transportation Services.

 - b. Other similar types of programs:**
See other entries in this section.

MEDICAL SERVICES
MEDICARE

1. Name/Type of Service:

Medicare

2. Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:

3. Eligibility Standards:

a. Disabilities Covered:

Medicare is available to persons who have received Supplemental Security Income benefits or Social Security Disability benefits or Railroad Retirement Disability benefits for 24 months and to persons with end stage renal disease, or to those 65 years of age and older receiving Social Security Retirement Benefits.

b. Age Restrictions:

Regardless of disability, at age 65, individuals qualify for Medicare Part A if either they or their spouse paid into the Social Security or Railroad Retirement system for at least 40 calendar-year quarters (at least ten years of work). No premium is required for enrollment in Part A because beneficiaries paid into the system during their working years; those who lack sufficient work history may purchase Part A coverage. Individuals qualify for Medicare Part B upon turning 65; if they wish, they may enroll in Part B by paying the monthly Part B premiums.

c. Individual Financial Restrictions:

None; though premiums are paid for Part B coverage and for persons buying into Part A.

d. Geographic Limits:

Nationwide program

e. Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):

4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):

Part A coverage includes: Inpatient hospital care, for up to 90 days per benefit period and 60 lifetime reserve days; skilled nursing facility care, for 100 days following a hospital stay of at least 3 days; home health care, for up to 100 visits following a hospital stay of at least 3 days; hospice care; inpatient psychiatric care, for up to 190 days during a beneficiary's lifetime.

Part B coverage includes: physician services (including office visits, surgeries, consultations); medical equipment; lab, diagnostic, and screening tests; outpatient hospital services; physical and speech therapy; outpatient mental health services; and limited home health care.

Premiums, deductibles and co-payments are required for most services.

5. Funding Source(s):

Federal funds, including employee and employer contributions through payroll deductions; as well as co-payments and co-insurances.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), part of the Department of Health and Human Services.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

Most Medicare beneficiaries obtain their health care in a fee-for-service system that allows them to choose their own health care provider. Some Medicare beneficiaries choose to enroll in managed care. Beneficiaries in managed care have a primary care physician (PCP) who must authorize visits to specialists and requests for services and equipment. Managed care plans typically offer beneficiaries reduced out-of-pocket costs and broader coverage that includes preventive services and often some prescription drug coverage as well. Medicare beneficiaries in HMOs are able to change to another HMO or return to fee-for-service coverage on a month-to-month basis.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

There are a number of web sites with information on Medicare. A few include:

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS): www.cms.gov

Center for Medicare Advocacy: www.medicareadvocacy.org

The Medicare Rights Center: www.medicarerights.org

National Health Law Program: www.healthlaw.org

National Senior Citizens Law Center: www.nslc.org

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

Various entries in Services for Elderly Persons section;
Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Insurance, Social Security Survivor's Benefits in Income Supports section.

- b. Other similar types of programs:**
See other entries in this section including Medicare Buy-In entry which explains how low income persons can get assistance with the costs of obtaining Medicare coverage; and PACE program which provides prescription drug benefits to persons who are elderly.

MEDICAL SERVICES
MEDICARE BUY-IN

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Medicare Buy-In

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
QMBY or “Quimbees”
SLMBY or “Slimbees”
QI-1
QI-2

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Medicare Buy-Ins are available to persons who are eligible for Medicare; i.e., persons who have received Supplemental Security Income benefits or Social Security Disability benefits or Railroad Retirement Disability benefits for 24 months and to persons with end stage renal disease, or to those 65 years of age and older receiving Social Security Retirement Benefits.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
Medicare benefits are available at age 65, and earlier for persons with disabilities.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Medicare buy-ins are available to individuals whose income is under 175% of the federal poverty level: in January 2002, \$1273 a month (\$1714 for couples); and whose assets are under \$4000 (\$6000 for couples). Assets do not include homes, cars, household goods, burial plots or funds and life insurance policies of less than \$1500.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Nationwide program

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
QI-1 and QI-2 benefits are available on a first-come, first-served basis and must be reapplied for each year.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Medicare Buy-in benefits are available to low-income persons to help with the costs of Medicare premiums and deductibles. Medicare recipients must

generally pay monthly premiums to receive Medicare Part B coverage (doctor visits, medical equipment, home health care and physical, occupational and speech therapies); at the time of publication of this catalogue, those premiums were \$50 per month. In addition, Medicare recipients must generally pay annual deductibles; currently, the deductible for hospital care is \$792 and for Part B services is \$100.

Persons with monthly income less than 100% of the federal poverty level (in January 2002, \$736 for an individual and \$988 for a couple) are eligible for full payment of their monthly premiums and annual deductibles. These are called Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries or QMBs.

Persons with monthly income less than 120% of the federal poverty level (in January 2002, \$879 for an individual and \$1182 for a couple) are eligible for full payment of their monthly premiums. These are called Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries or SLMBs.

Persons with monthly income less than 135% of the federal poverty level (in January 2002, \$879 for an individual and \$1182 for a couple) are eligible for full payment of their monthly premiums on a first-come, first-served basis. These are called Qualified Individual 1 (QI-1).

Persons with monthly income less than 175% of the federal poverty level (in January 2002, \$1273 for an individual and \$1714 for a couple) are eligible for payment of part of their monthly premiums on a first-come, first-served basis. These are called Qualified Individual 2 (QI-2).

5. Funding Source(s):

Joint state and federal Medical Assistance funds

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Department of Public Welfare

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

By visiting the local DPW County Assistance office to apply. Addresses can be found at DPW's website, www.dpw.state.pa.us or in the blue government pages of the telephone book. Applicants should write on their application that they are applying for the "Medicare Buy-In Program."

8. Additional Comments (if any):

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

Various entries in Services for Elderly Persons section;

Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Insurance, Social

Security Survivor's Benefits in Income Supports section.

- b. Other similar types of programs:**
See Medicare entry which explains Medicare coverage, PACE entry which explains how elderly persons can get prescription drug coverage, as well as other entries in this section.

MEDICAL SERVICES
MEDIGAP INSURANCE

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Medigap Insurance

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Not disability specific, available to anyone enrolled in Medicare, though open enrollment is limited as described below.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
Available to all Medicare recipients, though open enrollment is limited as described below.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
None

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Nationwide program

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
There is generally only one open enrollment period for persons seeking Medigap coverage. After enrolling (regardless of age) in Part B, a Medicare recipient has six months during which a company cannot deny Medigap coverage due to a medical condition. This "open enrollment" period may be the only real opportunity for people with serious health problems to qualify for plans that offer prescription drug coverage and at-home recovery. A company also cannot deny coverage due to a medical condition in some circumstances when a Medicare recipient disenrolls from a Medicare+Choice plan.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Medigap plans are private health insurance policies that cover some of the costs the original Medicare Plan does not cover. Some Medigap policies will cover services not covered by Medicare such as prescription drugs. Medigap has 10 standard plans called Plan "A" through Plan "J". Each plan has a different set of benefits. There is detailed information on the plans, and information on how to compare plans, on the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance web site, www.insurance.state.pa.us, in the Consumer Information Section.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
Insurance program.
6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
In Pennsylvania, the Department of Insurance is responsible for oversight of the activities of insurance companies selling Medigap policies in the state.
7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
By purchasing policies from individual companies.
8. **Additional Comments (if any):**
Apprise, Pennsylvania's State Health Insurance Assistance Program, can assist with questions about Medigap policies, Medicare rights and protections and help with filing appeals. Call 1-800-783-7067.
9. **Cross-References:**
 - a. **Other types of services for population:**
Various entries in Services for Elderly Persons section; Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Insurance, Social Security Survivor's Benefits in Income Supports section.
 - b. **Other similar types of programs:**
See Medicare entry which explains Medicare coverage, PACE entry which explains how elderly persons can get prescription drug coverage, as well as other entries in this section.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES
PHARMACEUTICAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT FOR THE ELDERLY

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
PACE
PACE Net

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
This program is available regardless of disability.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
Must be age 65 or older.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
There are two levels of income eligibility for this program. In January 2002, those levels were as follows: Individuals with annual incomes for calendar year 2001 (eligibility is based on income in the prior year) less than \$14,000 or couples with less than \$17,200 qualify for PACE benefits with no deductibles and lower co-payments described below. Individuals with annual incomes between \$14,000 and \$16,000 and couples with between \$17,200 and \$20,200 qualify for PACE Net, with a deductible and higher co-payments described below. There is no asset limitation. The program is not available to Medical Assistance recipients since that program already includes prescription coverage. PACE benefits are secondary to Medicare HMO coverage or other insurances.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
PACE and PACE Net provide assistance with prescription coverage for elderly persons. PACE has no deductible, requires a \$6 co-payment for generic medications when available, and a slightly higher co-payment for non-generic drugs. PACE Net, for slightly higher income elderly persons, requires payment of an annual \$500 deductible, then a co-payment of \$8 for generic drugs and \$15 for brand name drugs.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
State lottery monies.
6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Pennsylvania Department of Aging.
7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
Applications can be obtained from local Area Agency on Aging offices (AAA), pharmacies, hospitals and other places serving elderly persons. They are filled out and mailed to the Department of Aging. The local AAA office can be found in the blue government pages of the phone book, or by consulting the Department of Aging Website at www.aging.state.pa.us.
8. **Additional Comments (if any):**
9. **Cross-References:**
 - a. **Other types of services for population:**
See Services for Elderly Persons Section.
 - b. **Other similar types of programs:**
Medical Assistance and other entries in this section.

MEDICAL SERVICES
CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Children's Health Insurance Program

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
CHIP
SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Program)

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Not a disability specific program; children with severe disabilities should seek coverage under the Medical Assistance program because the coverage is much broader.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
Under age 19

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
"Free CHIP" is available to families with incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, or, in January 2002, the following annual levels:
Family of 1: \$17,180
Family of 2: \$23,220
Family of 3: \$29,260
Family of 4: \$35,300

"Low-cost CHIP" is available to families with incomes up to 235% of the Federal Poverty Level, or in January 2002, the following annual amounts:
Family of 1: \$20,187
Family of 2: \$27,284
Family of 3: \$34,381
Family of 4: \$41,478

Families can take deductions from income of \$90 per month for each parent who works, and deductions for child care costs of up to \$200 a month for children under 2, and \$175 per month for other children or the cost of care for adults with disabilities in the home.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program

e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

Some immigrants are not eligible for CHIP benefits. Children must not have other health care coverage or be eligible for Medical Assistance benefits. Unless a newborn, a child must have lived in Pennsylvania at least thirty days.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**

CHIP provides coverage of a broad range of services, including: immunizations; routine check-ups; diagnostic testing; prescription drugs; dental, vision, hearing services; emergency care; maternity care; mental health benefits; up to 90 days hospitalization in any year; durable medical equipment; substance abuse treatment; partial hospitalization for mental health services; rehabilitation therapies; and home health care. Services are provided through managed care plans.

There are no co-pays or deductibles for CHIP services. Low-Cost CHIP requires payment of a low family premium.

5. **Funding Source(s):**

State and federal money; tobacco settlement funds.

6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**

Pennsylvania Department of Insurance.

7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**

To apply for CHIP benefits, a family should call 1-800-986-KIDS. Alternately, a family can pick a CHIP provider in their area, and enroll with them. CHIP providers for each county can be found on the Department of Insurance website at www.insurance.state.pa.us under the CHIP listing.

Services are provided by managed care plans which contract with the state. In some counties there is a choice of plans.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

Children with serious disabilities or illnesses will likely be eligible for Medical Assistance, which provides a much more comprehensive package of services.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

Education section;
Food Stamps and WIC in Food and Nutritional Services section;
TANF in Income Supports section;

b. Other similar types of programs:

Medical Assistance in this section.

MEDICAL SERVICES
ADULT BASIC COVERAGE FOR UNINSURED PENNSYLVANIANS

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Adult Basic Coverage

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
Act 77 Health Plan

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Not a disability specific program; adults with severe disabilities should seek coverage under the Medical Assistance program because the coverage is much broader.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
From age 19 to 64

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Adult basic coverage will be available to persons with incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, or, in January 2002, the following annual levels:
 - Family of 1: \$17,180
 - Family of 2: \$23,220
 - Family of 3: \$29,260
 - Family of 4: \$35,300

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
Must have lived in Pennsylvania for at least 90 days and must not have been covered by any other insurance for at least 90 days before enrolling.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
The Adult Basic Coverage program is not yet in effect, but it is expected that enrollment will begin early in 2002. The program will provide very basic health coverage for uninsured adults including preventive care, physician services, diagnosis and treatment of illness and injury, inpatient hospital care and care in case of accident or emergency.

Co-pays will be required for most services.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
State and federal money; tobacco settlement funds.
6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Pennsylvania Department of Insurance.
7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
Applications for Adult Basic Coverage benefits are expected to be available beginning as early as February 2002. The Department of Insurance website at www.insurance.state.pa.us will contain updates on when the program will begin and how applications will be accepted.
8. **Additional Comments (if any):**
Adults with serious disabilities or illnesses will likely be eligible for Medical Assistance, which provides a much more comprehensive package of services.
9. **Cross-References:**
 - a. **Other types of services for population:**
See TANF and GA in Income Supports section.
 - b. **Other similar types of programs:**
Medical Assistance in this section.

MEDICAL SERVICES
VETERANS HEALTH CARE

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Veterans Health Care

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
VA Healthcare

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Under changes made to the VA Healthcare system in 1996, priority for services is given based on a number of factors which assign a veteran to one of seven priority groups. Factors considered include whether veterans have disabilities or illnesses contracted or exacerbated during service; the degree of disability; whether veterans were POW's; whether veterans receive Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits (these veterans had wartime service, are low income and have disabilities so severe that they require assistance or cannot leave home); whether veterans receive VA Pension benefits (these veterans had wartime service, are low income and have disabilities which prevent them from working). Depending on funding levels and availability of care, other veterans may receive VA Healthcare services if they agree to make co-payments for them. A specific listing of the priority groups and the factors to be considered can be found on the VA website: www.va.gov.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
None, other than as one factor considered in assigning some veterans to priority groups. Co-payments are required of some veterans for some services, though all low income veterans can apply for a hardship waiver of all copayments.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Nationwide program

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
Although the Uniform Benefits Package will generally be provided to all enrolled veterans regardless of priority group, services are not guaranteed to all eligible veterans but are based on available funding.

4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):

The VA provides eligible veterans with needed hospital care and outpatient care services as determined by the VA health care provider through a system of VA medical centers and clinics. These can include: hospital and outpatient physician care, prescriptions, medical equipment and supplies, prosthetics and orthotics, rehabilitation care, home health care (not including private duty nursing), hospice care, respite care, mental health care, and substance abuse services. Eyeglasses and hearing aides are provided to veterans who are service-connected with a disability rating of at least 10%. Nursing home care is available to all veterans on an as available basis in VA Nursing homes.

5. Funding Source(s):

Federal funds

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Federal Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

Veterans should obtain VA Form 10-10EZ by visiting, calling or writing any VA location of care or any veterans benefits office and return the completed form in person or by mail to any VA health care facility. Facilities are listed on the VA website, can be found in the government listing of the phone book, or by calling the VA Health Benefits Service Center toll free at 1-877-222-VETS. Veterans can also apply online through the VA website: www.va.gov. Enrollment is an ongoing process and a veteran can apply for enrollment at any VA location of care at any time during any year.

When completing the application, veterans must identify which VA location of care they choose as their preferred facility for receiving VA health care services. If a selected facility is unable to provide the health care needed by an enrolled veteran, that facility will make arrangements for referral to another VA health care facility or to one of the VA's private sector affiliates to provide the required care. Facilities are listed on the VA website, can be found in the government listing of the phone book, or by calling the VA Health Benefits Service Center toll free at 1-877-222-VETS.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

VA Health Care is in addition to other medical benefits available to veterans. The VA will bill private insurers (but not Medicare) for health care services provided to a veteran, except for those involving treatment for service connected conditions.

9. Cross-References:

- a. Other types of services for population:**
See Income Supports: Veterans Disability Compensation and Veterans Disability Pension entries;
The VA also provides educational, vocational rehabilitation, burial and a number of other benefits for veterans. Details can be found on the VA website at www.va.gov, or more information can be obtained by calling 1-800-827-1000.

- b. Other similar types of programs:**

MEDICAL SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY HEALTH CLINICS

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
City and County Health Clinics
2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
Public Health Clinics
3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Not disability specific programs
 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None
 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Varies from site to site; some have free services to low income persons or charge a sliding scale fee to uninsured persons with income.
 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Programs specific to certain counties and cities.
 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Health care services provided by city and county health centers. Services vary from site to site.
5. **Funding Source(s):**
State and local funding
6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Pennsylvania Department of Health coordinates information; programs administered by local municipal agencies.
7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
Services are provided at city and county health centers, generally operated by county or municipal governments. Procedures to access services are quite variable by county and site. Individual centers should be contacted for information. They can be found in the blue government pages of the phone book or there is a list with contact information on the Pennsylvania Department of

Health website at www.health.state.pa.us under the Community Health Districts listing.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

b. Other similar types of programs:
See other entries in this section.

MEDICAL SERVICES
DONATED DENTAL SERVICES

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Western Pennsylvania Donated Dental Services
2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Persons with permanent disabilities or illnesses which prevent them from working.
 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None; though the program is also available to elderly persons who cannot work.
 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
No specific guidelines, though disposable income (income less expenses) and assets will be examined to see if there are resources available to pay for dental care.
 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
The program currently operates in 29 counties in Western Pennsylvania, but is planned to expand statewide by January 2002.
 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Various dental providers volunteer to donate complex dental services to people who have no dental insurance coverage, or who have Medical Assistance coverage but cannot locate a dental provider.
5. **Funding Source(s):**
Richard K. Mellon Foundation and a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Health.
6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Privately administered program.
7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**

Call 1-888-683-9158 or 412 243-4866 for an application. Beginning in approximately January 2002, information can be obtained at these numbers for where persons in the central and eastern parts of Pennsylvania should apply.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

b. Other similar types of programs:

Medical Assistance is supposed to cover all medically necessary services for children up to age 21 and many services for adults; although it can be difficult to locate dental providers.

MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES

Overview of Services for Persons with Mental Retardation

In Pennsylvania, an array of in-home, community-based and institutional services are available to individuals with mental retardation. Although thousands of persons are receiving these services, many more are on waiting lists. This section describes the types of mental retardation services which are available and the process to apply for these services.¹

The majority of mental retardation services in Pennsylvania are funded by the Medical Assistance program (also called MA or Medicaid), a combined state and federal program for persons who have limited income. (See Overview of Medical Assistance). There are two types of Medical Assistance funding available to support Mental Retardation Services. They are:

- Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Mental Retardation (ICF/MR)
ICF/MR funding supports state-operated institutions, large private institutions and a limited number of four-person group homes. ICF/MR services are an entitlement for eligible persons and cannot be capped or subject to waiting lists.

- Medical Assistance Home and Community-based Waivers²
Waiver programs generally support persons in their own homes, family homes or group living arrangements. Pennsylvania has received federal approval to operate several home waivers generally known as the (1) Consolidated Mental Retardation Waiver, (2) Person/Family Directed Support Waiver and, (3) the Early Intervention waiver. The Department of Public Welfare has published a useful guide on the variety of Medicaid-funded Home and Community Based waivers which are operated in Pennsylvania; it can be obtained from the DPW website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/general/hacbbroc.asp or by calling the Long

¹ Persons with retardation are also eligible for generic services and activities. Denial of access to generic services could constitute illegal discrimination on the basis of handicap (see Overview of the ADA).

² In 1981, Congress amended the Medical Assistance program to permit states to shift their Medical Assistance resources from institutional settings (like ICF/MR programs) to more integrated community-based settings. Congress gave states flexibility to create programs that are known as "home and community-based waivers."

Home and community-based waivers (which must be approved by the federal government) allow states to:

- ◆ cap the number of people who may receive services under the waiver;
- ◆ limit the services to people in one or more specific geographic regions;
- ◆ specify the types of services that may be provided;
- ◆ cap the amount of spending that any individual's services may cost.

Term Care Helpline toll free at 1-866-286-3636.

In addition to Medical Assistance Funding under either the ICF/MR program or waivers, some retardation services are supported by other federal programs (such as block grants under Title XX of the Social Security Act) or other state funds, generally known as the “base allocation” and in some cases a local match.

While the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare is ultimately accountable for the provision of Mental Retardation services, retardation services are generally provided through appropriations to County operated Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MH/MR) Programs.³ The County MH/MR programs then establish one or more organizational units known as Base Service Units (or BSUs). The BSU is the first point of intake into the MH/MR program. The Counties do not generally deliver services directly but contract with private service providers who ultimately deliver services.

What follows are entries that describe the array of services for which a person with MR may be eligible, and how and where to apply for these services.

³ County MH/MR Programs can serve a single county or two or more counties.

MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES
CONSOLIDATED WAIVER

- 1. Name/Type of Service:**
Consolidated Waiver

- 2. Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
Home and Community Based Waiver
2176 Waiver
Mental Retardation Waiver
Community services or supports
Group Homes

- 3. Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. Disabilities Covered:**
Must be diagnosed with mental retardation and show that they require an ICF/MR level of care. Most persons with retardation can meet this standard.

 - b. Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Persons are eligible for this waiver if they receive Medical Assistance (other than as a GA recipient). Additionally, the Waiver can provide services to people who are not currently Medical Assistance recipients but whose income is no more than 300% of the SSI federal benefit. Effective January 2002, this amount is \$1,593 per month.

 - d. Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program

 - e. Other:**
This Waiver serves a limited number of individuals and there is a waiting list.

- 4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**

Services available under the consolidated waiver include:
 - residential programs such as group homes or family living
 - day habilitation
 - pre-vocational services

- supported employment services
- educational services
- chore services
- private duty nursing
- specialized therapy
- permanency planning for children and youth
- respite care
- accessibility adaptations to home or vehicle
- transportation
- case management

Individuals are eligible to receive the full array of services which he/she needs and there are no limits on the cost of services for an individual. Case managers in some cases imply or assert that there is a cap on the amount an individual is entitled to under this waiver. There are **no** individual caps. However, the average state-wide cost can not exceed the cost of serving the same number of persons in ICFs/MR (cost-neutrality).

5. Funding Source(s):

Joint federal and state Medical Assistance funding.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Department of Public Welfare Office of Mental Retardation; and county Mental Health and Mental Retardation Programs and the Base Service Units.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

Applications for services are made at a person's Base Service Unit. The appropriate Base Service Unit is determined by the individual's residence. The Mental Health and Mental Retardation Program covering the individual's county will be able to make a referral to the appropriate Base Service Unit. These phone numbers can generally be found in the blue pages of the telephone book or at the DPW website at this link:

www.dpw.state.pa.us/omr/omrLifeBookHelp.asp .

8. Additional Comments (if any):

Choice of Providers: Under the waiver, recipients have a right to choose any eligible provider from which to receive services set forth in their service plan.

Wait Lists: Once the waivers reach their caps, waiting lists for waiver services are established within each county. People are selected from the waiting list on the basis of urgency of need as established by their PUNS evaluation.

Waiver Appeals: Any aspect of the waiver program, including denial of waiver services or denial or limitation of a particular waiver service, are subject to appeal.

The Department of Public Welfare has published a useful guide on the variety of Medicaid-funded Home and Community Based waivers which are operated in Pennsylvania; it can be obtained from the DPW website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/general/hacbbroc.asp or by calling the Long Term Care Helpline toll free at 1-866-286-3636.

9. Cross-References:

- a. Other types of services for population:**
 - Education entries;
 - Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Children's Benefits in Income Supports section;
 - Medical Assistance in Medical Services Section;
 - Transportation Services;
 - Vocational Rehab services in Vocational Services section.

- b. Other similar types of programs:**
 - See various entries in this section.

MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES
EARLY INTERVENTION WAIVER

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Early Intervention Waiver

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
Infants, Toddlers and Families Waiver
EI Waiver
Under 3 Waiver

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Must be diagnosed with mental retardation and show that they require an ICF/MR level of care as well as needing early intervention services. Most children with retardation can meet this standard.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
Limited to children aged 0 to 3 (birth to the third birthday).

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Persons are eligible for this waiver if they receive Medical Assistance (other than as a GA recipient). Additionally, the Waiver can provide services to people who are not currently Medical Assistance recipients but whose income is no more than 300% of the SSI federal benefit. Effective January 2002, this amount is \$1,593 per month.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program

 - e. **Other:**

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Young children with MR can receive habilitation services by qualified professionals with family/caregiver participation.

5. **Funding Source(s):**
Joint federal and state Medical Assistance funding.

6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**

Department of Public Welfare Office of Mental Retardation; and county Mental Health and Mental Retardation Programs and the Base Service Units.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

Applications for services are made at a person's Base Service Unit. The appropriate Base Service Unit is determined by the individual's residence. The Mental Health and Mental Retardation Program covering the individual's county will be able to make a referral to the appropriate Base Service Unit. These phone numbers can generally be found in the blue pages of the telephone book or at the DPW website at this link:

www.dpw.state.pa.us/omr/omrLifeBookHelp.asp .

8. Additional Comments (if any):

The Department of Public Welfare has published a useful guide on the variety of Medicaid-funded Home and Community Based waivers which are operated in Pennsylvania; it can be obtained from the DPW website at

www.dpw.state.pa.us/general/hacbbroc.asp or by calling the Long Term Care Helpline toll free at 1-866-286-3636.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

Early Intervention entry in Education services;

Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Children's Benefits in Income Supports section;

Medical Assistance in Medical Services Section.

b. Other similar types of programs:

See various entries in this section.

MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES
PERSON/FAMILY DIRECTED SUPPORT (P/FDS) WAIVER

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Person/Family Directed Support Waiver

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
P/FDS Waiver

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Must be diagnosed with mental retardation and show that they require an ICF/MR level of care. Most persons with retardation can meet this standard.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
3 and over.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Persons are eligible for this waiver if they receive Medical Assistance (other than as a GA recipient). Additionally, the Waiver can provide services to people who are not currently Medical Assistance recipients but whose income is no more than 300% of the SSI federal benefit. Effective January 2002, this amount is \$1,593 per month.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program

 - e. **Other:**
Services under this Waiver are available to a limited number of persons. There are waiting lists for services. The waiver is capped at \$21,125 per recipient.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Any individual served under the Waiver cannot receive services which cost more than \$21,125 per year. Services available under the P/FDS waiver include:
 - residential habilitation
 - day habilitation
 - pre-vocational services
 - supported employment services
 - homemaker/ chore services
 - specialized therapies

- respite care
- accessibility adaptations to home or vehicle
- adaptive appliances and equipment
- personal support
- transportation

5. Funding Source(s):

Joint federal and state Medical Assistance funding.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Department of Public Welfare Office of Mental Retardation; and county Mental Health and Mental Retardation Programs and the Base Service Units.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

Applications for services are made at a person's Base Service Unit. The appropriate Base Service Unit is determined by the individual's residence. The Mental Health and Mental Retardation Program covering the individual's county will be able to make a referral to the appropriate Base Service Unit. These phone numbers can generally be found in the blue pages of the telephone book, or at the DPW website at this link:

www.dpw.state.pa.us/omr/omrLifeBookHelp.asp .

8. Additional Comments (if any):

Choice of Providers: Under the waiver, recipients have a right to choose any eligible provider from which to receive services set forth in their service plan.

Wait Lists: Once the waivers reach their caps, waiting lists for waiver services are established within each county. People are selected from the waiting list on the basis of urgency of need as established by their PUNS evaluation.

Waiver Appeals: Any aspect of the waiver program, including denial of waiver services or denial or limitation of a particular waiver service, are subject to appeal.

The Department of Public Welfare has published a useful guide on the variety of Medicaid-funded Home and Community Based waivers which are operated in Pennsylvania; it can be obtained from the DPW website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/general/hacbbroc.asp or by calling the Long Term Care Helpline toll free at 1-866-286-3636.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

Education entries;
Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Children's Benefits in
Income Supports section;
Medical Assistance in Medical Services Section;
Transportation Services;
Vocational Rehab services in Vocational Services section.

b. Other similar types of programs:

See various entries in this section.

MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES
FAMILY-DRIVEN FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Family-driven Family Support Services

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
FD/FSS

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Persons with mental retardation who live at home with their natural, adoptive or foster families or legal guardians; or persons with mental retardation who live independently in their own homes, domiciliary care, boarding homes or in minimal supervision group homes; or natural or adoptive families, foster families or relatives or legal guardians who live with a person with mental retardation.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
There are no financial eligibility requirements but a contribution based on a sliding scale is required for families (of persons under age 18) or persons with retardation who have income or assets.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program

 - e. **Other:**
The availability of funding is limited by the amount of money appropriated by the Commonwealth to each county MH/MR program in which the individual resides coupled with the number of persons in that program who apply for and receive FD/FSS funding. Local advisory boards assist and advise the counties as to the criteria for distribution of these funds.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
An annual amount of money (generally between a few hundred and a few thousand dollars) provided to a person with retardation or his/her family to be used for the benefit of the family member with mental retardation. The money can be spent on a vast array of services, including, but not limited to, camp, respite care, housing modifications, and equipment purchases (such as computers).

5. **Funding Source(s):**
State funds administered by the Department of Public Welfare and directed to County MH/MR programs.
6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Department of Public Welfare and county Mental Health and Mental Retardation Programs and the Base Service Units with which they subcontract with the input of local advisory boards.
7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
Applications for services are made at a person's Base Service Unit. The appropriate Base Service Unit is determined by the individual's residence. The Mental Health and Mental Retardation Program covering the individual's county will be able to make a referral to the appropriate Base Service Unit. These phone numbers can generally be found in the blue pages of the telephone book or at the DPW website at this link:
www.dpw.state.pa.us/omr/omrLifeBookHelp.asp .
8. **Additional Comments (if any):**
Appeals from the denial of funding may be made to the county Mental Health and Mental Retardation Administrator.
9. **Cross-References:**
 - a. **Other types of services for population:**
Education entries;
Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Children's Benefits in Income Supports section;
Medical Assistance in Medical Services Section;
Transportation Services;
Vocational Rehab services in Vocational Services section.
 - b. **Other similar types of programs:**
See various entries throughout this section;
See Home Modification loan programs in Housing and Housing Modification Section.

MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES
COMMONWEALTH-FUNDED

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Mental Retardation Services (Commonwealth-funded)

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
MH/MR services
1966 MH/MR Act Services
Base Funding

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Mental Retardation

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
There are no financial eligibility requirements but a contribution based on a sliding scale is required for families (of persons under age 18) or persons with mental retardation who have high income or resources.

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program

 - e. **Other:**
The availability of services is limited by the amount of funds appropriated by the Commonwealth to each county MH/MR program.

4. **Description of Service (including any important Limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Services for people with MR and their families which can include: case management; day programs; supported work; group homes; Family Living services; and Community Mental Retardation Facilities (private congregate facilities)

5. **Funding Source(s):**
The primary funding source is state funds appropriated pursuant Mental Health and Mental Retardation Act of 1966. For some services, a 10% county match is required.

6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Department of Public Welfare Office of Mental Retardation; and county Mental Health and Mental Retardation Programs and the Base Service Units.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

Applications for services are made at a person's Base Service Unit. The appropriate Base Service Unit is determined by the individual's residence. The Mental Health and Mental Retardation Program covering the individual's county will be able to make a referral to the appropriate Base Service Unit. These phone numbers can generally be found in the blue pages of the telephone book or at the DPW website at this link:

www.dpw.state.pa.us/omr/omrLifeBookHelp.asp .

8. Additional Comments (if any):

Increasingly, most mental retardation services are funded under one of the Home and community based Waivers.

Appeals from the denial of services or the types or amount of service may be made to the county Mental Health and Mental Retardation Administrator.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

Education entries;

Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Children's Benefits in

Income Supports section;

Medical Assistance in Medical Services Section;

Transportation Services;

Vocational Rehab services in Vocational Services section.

b. Other similar types of programs:

See various entries in this section.

MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES
INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED

- 1. Name/Type of Service:**
Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded

- 2. Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
ICFs/MR
Private Licenced Facilities (PLFs)⁴
Community Residential Retardation Facilities
State-operated Mental Retardation Centers

- 3. Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. Disabilities Covered:**
Mental Retardation (including persons who also have other disabilities).

 - b. Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Medical Assistance eligibility.

 - d. Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program

 - e. Other:**
This service is an entitlement for those persons with mental retardation who are eligible for Medical Assistance and who would benefit from “active treatment.”

- 4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
ICFs/MR are residential facilities providing active treatment for four or more persons with retardation. Included are both state-operated and privately operated facilities. Most ICFs/MR in Pennsylvania are large, congregate facilities.

- 5. Funding Source(s):**
Joint federal and state Medical Assistance funding.

⁴ This term while still in use it has been replaced in regulation by the term “Community Residential Retardation Facilities” which includes both group homes as well as large and small ICFs/MR.

6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Department of Public Welfare Office of Mental Retardation

7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
There are three main points of entry for ICF-MR services. Persons can be court-committed to an ICF/MR pursuant to §406 of the MH/MR Act of 1966. Persons can be referred to ICF/MRs through their county MH/MR Program. Or persons can apply directly to an ICF/MR for admission.

8. **Additional Comments (if any):**
ICF/MR services are an entitlement. There can be no caps or waiting lists for this service. The movement has been away from ICF/MR services, especially large, separate congregate-care facilities, so that persons with mental retardation can live in settings which are fully integrated with community living.

9. **Cross-References:**
 - a. **Other types of services for population:**
Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Children's Benefits in Income Supports section;
Medical Assistance in Medical Services Section;
Transportation Services;
Vocational Rehab services in Vocational Services section.

 - b. **Other similar types of programs:**
See various entries in this section.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Accessible Public Transportation Services
2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Requirements ensure equal access to public transportation for people with disabilities as that provided to persons without disabilities.
 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None, except children with disabilities may be required to travel with an adult if other same age children without disabilities are also required to travel with an adult.
 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
None
 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Contact your transit authority for particular service areas/routes where you live.
 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, transit authorities must provide accessible transportation to riders with disabilities. This requirement, however, is not immediate and absolute. Transit authorities have until 2010 to ensure that at least $\frac{2}{3}$ of key transit stations are accessible to people with disabilities. Importantly, as new buses and trains are purchased, they must be accessible to riders with disabilities and as new stations are constructed or altered, the new or altered portions must be accessible.
5. **Funding Source(s):**
Fares paid by riders, as well as subsidies from state and federal Departments of Transportation. Riders with disabilities must pay the same fare as riders without disabilities and may not be charged any surcharges (e.g., because they use a wheelchair).

6. **Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Transit Authority in your area.
7. **Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**
By contacting the transit authority in your area.
8. **Additional Comments (if any):**
9. **Cross-References:**
 - a. **Other types of services for population:**
See catalogue entry on Paratransit services.
 - b. **Other similar types of programs:**
Some transit authorities offer Shared Ride services to senior citizens;
consult your local transit authority for information.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
PARATRANSIT

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Paratransit

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Physical and/or mental disabilities. To be eligible, applicants must complete the eligibility application process with the transit authority serving their area. The application may have to be signed or verified by a doctor.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
None, except children with disabilities may be required to travel with an adult attendant or companion.

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
None

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Service if offered by your transit authority, can be limited to travel within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile on each side of the regular (fixed) bus route service offered by the transit authority. However, in areas where the fixed route services overlap (such as urban systems like SEPTA in Philadelphia), the transit authority may offer paratransit to all destinations within that area.

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
No cap on number of people served, however, the transit authority is not required to provide the service outside the hours of operation of the regular fixed route service.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) requires local and regional transit authorities to provide a comparable level of transit service to riders with disabilities who are unable to travel on regular (“fixed route”) transit service because of their disability. Eligible riders must schedule rides before the close of business at least one day in advance and the transit authority must schedule and provide a ride to the rider within a two hour window (either one hour before or after the rider’s original requested ride time). Companions may travel with the rider on a space available basis and must also pay a fare. Personal attendants

may travel with the rider, but are not required to pay a fare. Fares charged may be up to twice the full fare amount paid on the fixed route system.

5. Funding Source(s):

Fares paid by riders, as well as subsidies from state and federal Departments of Transportation.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:

Transit Authority in your area.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:

By contacting the transit authority in your area.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

Accessible Public Fixed Route Transit Services

b. Other similar types of programs:

Some transit authorities offer Shared Ride services to senior citizens; consult your local transit authority for information.

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

- 1. Name/Type of Service:**
Medical Assistance Transportation Program

- 2. Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
MATP

- 3. Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. Disabilities Covered:**
Not a disability specific program.

 - b. Age Restrictions:**
None

 - c. Individual Financial Restrictions:**
Available to Medical Assistance beneficiaries.

 - d. Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program; though it is operated by individual counties or contractors with those counties.

 - e. Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**

- 4. Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
Medical Assistance recipients are eligible for free rides to and from Medical Assistance providers like doctors and dentists. Actual transportation can be provided by a county or by the Medical Assistance contractor hired by the county; or tokens for public transportation can be provided; or reimbursement for transportation provided by the recipient in their own or another's vehicle. Ambulance services are provided when medically necessary or in an emergency. In addition, transportation for distant specialty care treatment, including air fare or air ambulance service, can be provided in extraordinary circumstances.

- 5. Funding Source(s):**
Joint state and federal medical assistance funds

- 6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:**
Department of Public Welfare Office of Social Programs and individual counties.

- 7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:**

By contacting the Medical Assistance Transportation Program in the county of residence of the Medical Assistance recipient. This information can be obtained from the DPW caseworker. For recipients enrolled in managed care plans, contacting the Special Needs Unit of the plan can sometimes be helpful.

8. Additional Comments (if any):

Because this program is operated on a county-by-county basis, it is sometimes difficult to get transportation to out-of-county appointments, though recipients have a right to receive transportation to enable them to receive medically necessary care. Denials of service can be appealed like denials of any other Medical Assistance service. See Medical Assistance Overview in the Medical Services Section for information on appeals and a Sample letter of appeal.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

Various entries in Income Supports;
Food Stamps in Food and Nutritional Services Section;
Public Housing and Section 8 Programs as well as Home Ownership programs in Housing Programs section;
Medical Assistance in Medical Services section.

b. Other similar types of programs:

Paratransit

VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS
OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
OVR

3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Physical, mental, or emotional impairment which results in a substantial impediment to employment, and the person with such a disability can benefit in terms of an employment outcome from services provided, and, Vocational Rehabilitation services are required for the person with a disability to prepare for, enter, engage in, or retain gainful employment.

 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
16 to 64

 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
None

 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
None

 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
Vocational services are not an entitlement program. Funding is limited by appropriations from the Legislature.

4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
OVR services are designed both to help overcome or mitigate the effects of disability and to help persons with disabilities prepare for a career. Services are tailored to meet individual needs. OVR services can include:
 - Diagnostic Services: Medical, psychological, and audiological examinations and tests.

 - Vocational Evaluation: Aptitude, interest, general ability, academic exams, work tolerance, and "hands-on" job experience used to understand vocational potential.

- **Counseling:** Vocational counseling is available to help recipients understand their potential, rely on their abilities, set realistic vocational goals, change them when necessary, develop successful work habits, and begin a satisfying career. Counseling is available throughout the rehabilitation program.
- **Training:** Education including, but not limited to, basic academic, vocational/technical, college, on-the-job training, independent living skills, and personal and work adjustment training.
- **Restoration Services:** Medical services and equipment such as physical and occupational therapy, wheelchairs, and automobile hand controls needed to pursue and achieve employment.
- **Placement Assistance:** Counseling, job-seeking programs, job clubs, and job development, including practice, and advice on finding job leads, filling out applications, getting interviews for a job, and how to interview.
- **Assistive Technology:** Assistive technology includes a wide range of devices and services that can empower persons with disabilities to maximize employment, independence and integration into society. OVR can assist an individual with a disability in effectively selecting and acquiring appropriate assistive technology. OVR can arrange for a consultant to evaluate needs and make appropriate recommendations. OVR also operates and maintains the Center for Assistive and Rehabilitation Technology (CART) at the Hiram G. Andrews Center. There is no charge for evaluation and vocational counseling services through OVR. Based upon your financial needs, you may have to contribute to the cost of assistive technology devices and services.
- **Support Services:** Other services are provided for eligible persons if needed to start and maintain employment. Such services may include: Room, board, and transportation costs during an evaluation or while completing a rehabilitation program; occupational tools, licenses, or equipment; home modifications, adaptive or special household equipment needed to get ready to go to and be on time for a job; van or car modifications, including special driving devices or lifting devices to enable travel to a job; personal care assistance provided to help with daily needs in order to enable participation in a vocational rehabilitation program; job site modifications; independent living training; Text Telephone (TT), signaling devices, hearing aids, and interpreters services when needed to facilitate communication.

5. Funding Source(s):
State and federal funds.

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) in the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:
Contact one of the 15 District Offices listed below to apply for services; or the Hiram G. Andrews Center (last entry) for help in obtaining assistive technology:

Allentown District Office
160 Hamilton Street - Suite 100
Allentown - 18101
(610) 821-6441 - 821-6144 TTY
1-800-922-9536
Counties Served: Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton

Altoona District Office
1101 Green Avenue
Altoona - 16601
(814) 946-7240 Voice/TT
1-800-442-6343
Counties Served: Bedford, Blair, Centre, Fulton, Huntingdon

Dubois District Office
199 Beaver Drive
Dubois - 15801
(814) 765-0545 - 371-7505 TT
1-800-922-4017
Counties Served: Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean

Erie District Office
1600-C Peninsula Drive
Erie - 16505
(814) 871-4551 - 871-4535 TT
1-800-541-0721
Counties Served: Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango
Warren

Harrisburg District Office
Uptown Plaza Office Building
2971-B North Seventh Street
Harrisburg - 17110
(717) 787-7834 - 787-4013 TT
1-800-442-6352
Counties Served: Cumberland, Dauphin, Juniata, Lebanon, Mifflin
Perry

Johnstown District Office
727 Goucher Street - Section 10
Johnstown - 15905
(814) 255-6771 - 255-5510 TT
1-800-762-4223
Counties Served: Cambria, Indiana, Somerset, Westmoreland

New Castle District Office
100 Margaret Street
New Castle - 16101
(724) 656-3070 - 656-3252 TT
1-800-442-6379
Counties Served: Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Lawrence

Philadelphia District Office
444 North Third Street - 5th Floor
Philadelphia - 19123
(215) 560-1900 - 560-6144 TTY
1-800-442-6381
Counties Served: Philadelphia

Pittsburgh District Office
217 State Office Building
300 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh - 15222
(412) 392-4950 - 392-5936 TTY
1-800-442-6371
Counties Served: Allegheny

Reading District Office
1090 Commons Boulevard
Reading - 19605-3332
(610) 378-4370 - 378-4433 TTY
1-800-442-0949
Counties Served: Berks, Schuylkill

Rosemont District Office
1062 East Lancaster Avenue
Rosemont - 19010
(610) 525-1810 - 525-5835 TTY
1-800-221-1042
Counties Served: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery

Washington District Office
201 West Wheeling Street

Washington - 15301
(724) 223-4430 Voice/TTY
1-800-442-6367
Counties Served: Fayette, Greene, Washington

Wilkes-Barre District Office
665 Carey Avenue
Wilkes-Barre - 18702
(570) 826-2011 - 826-2023 TTY
1-800-634-2060
Counties Served: Bradford, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Pike
Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming

Williamsport District Office
The Grit Building - Suite 102
208 West Third Street
Williamsport - 17701
(570) 327-3600 - 327-3620 TTY
1-800-442-6359
Counties Served: Clinton, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter,
Snyder, Tioga, Union

York District Office
2550 Kingston Road
Suite 101
York - 17402
(717) 771-4407 - 771-4433 TTY
1-800-762-6306
Counties Served: Adams, Franklin, Lancaster, York

Hiram G. Andrews Center for Assistive Technology
727 Goucher Street
Johnstown, PA 15905
(814) 255-8200 Voice/TTY
1-800-762-4211

8. Additional Comments (if any):

Persons desiring assistance with appeals or concerns with the services they are or are not receiving from OVR, can contact the Center for Disability Law & Policy; www.equalemployment.org, Philadelphia office: (215) 557-7112 (voice/TDD); Pittsburgh office: (412) 363-7223 (voice/TDD). The Center administers the Client Assistance Program for individuals with disabilities seeking or receiving services under section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act. Please contact the Center for additional information on intake procedures.

9. Cross-References:

a. Other types of services for population:

Education entries;
Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Insurance,
Workers' Compensation, Private Disability Insurance in Income Supports
section;
Independent Living Services;
Medical Assistance and other medical care entries in Medical Services
section;
Transportation Services.

b. Other similar types of programs:

Other entries in this section;
The VA also provides vocational rehabilitation and a number of other
benefits for veterans. Details can be found on the VA website at
www.va.gov, or more information can be obtained by calling 1-800-827-
1000.

VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS
SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

1. **Name/Type of Service:**
Bureau of Blindness Visual Services (“BBVS”)
2. **Other Names By Which Service May Be Known:**
3. **Eligibility Standards:**
 - a. **Disabilities Covered:**
Blindness and visual impairments
 - b. **Age Restrictions:**
Adults (over 18 years of age)
 - c. **Individual Financial Restrictions:**
There are no financial restrictions.
 - d. **Geographic Limits:**
Statewide program
 - e. **Other (e.g., cap on total number of people served or total funds available):**
Blindness and visual services are not an entitlement because funding for services is limited to what the Legislature appropriates each year. However, total funding is generally less than that necessary for all eligible people to receive all necessary services.
4. **Description of Service (including any important limits or restrictions on amount of services):**
There are six broad areas of services available:
 - Rehabilitation Teaching - Helps individuals safely and efficiently carry out their daily activities at home, on the job and in the community.
 - Orientation and Mobility Instruction - Teaches individuals how to travel independently within their homes, workplaces and communities.
 - Vocational Rehabilitation - Assists individuals to prepare for, enter, engage in, or retain employment.
 - Business Enterprises - Enables legally blind persons to operate a food service business in a commercial, industrial or government facility.

- Specialized Services - Assists individuals to achieve maximum independence within their homes and communities. The Bureau also contracts with the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind (PAB) and Associated Services for the Blind (ASB) in the delivery of Life Skills Education, Quality of Life and Transportation and Escort Assistance. Prevention of Blindness services are also contracted through BBVS which includes large scale vision screening of preschool children, school age children and older adults.
- Independent Living - Assists persons aged 55 and older to become more self sufficient and independent in their home and community.

5. Funding Source(s):
State funds

6. Agency or Agencies Responsible to Administer:
The Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services in the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry administers the programs listed above.

7. Describe How Services Can Be Accessed:
These services are delivered to customers in their homes and community settings by the staff of BBVS assigned to six district offices located throughout the Commonwealth as well as through agreements or contracts with numerous vendors and service organizations. Applications for services are handled by the district office for the county where the applicant resides.

ALTOONA
Executive House 1
615 Howard Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601
(814) 946-7330
Counties Served: Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Somerset, Union

ERIE
448 West Eleventh Street
Erie, PA 16501
(814) 871-4401
Counties Served: Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Venango, Warren

HARRISBURG

2923 North Seventh S., Suite B
Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 787-7500

Counties Served: Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, York

PHILADELPHIA

Room 206 State Office Building
1400 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130
(215) 560-5700

Counties Served: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia

PITTSBURGH

1075 Kossman Bldg.
Forbes and Stanwix Sts.
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 565-5240

Counties Served: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington, Westmoreland

WILKES-BARRE

111 North Pennsylvania Ave.
Third Floor
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
(570) 826-2361

Counties Served: Berks, Bradford, Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne, Wyoming

8. Additional Comments (if any):

9. Cross-References

a. Other types of services for population:

Education entries;
Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Insurance, State Blind Pension in Income Supports section;
Independent Living Services;
Medical Assistance and other medical care entries in Medical Services section;
Transportation Services.

b. Other similar types of programs:

Other entries in this section;

The VA also provides vocational rehabilitation and a number of other benefits for veterans. Details can be found on the VA website at www.va.gov, or more information can be obtained by calling 1-800-827-1000.