



2018 Annual Report

July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

This Annual Report is respectfully submitted to:

The Honorable James C. Justice , Governor
The Honorable Mitch Carmichael, President of the Senate
The Honorable Roger Hanshaw, Speaker of the House
Lee Cassis, Clerk, West Virginia Senate
Steve Harrison, Clerk, West Virginia House of Delegates

Presented by:

The Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services Board
The West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services



Message from the RYPAS Board

RYPAS and Why It's Important

The Ron Yost Personal Assistance Service (RYPAS) program provides financial assistance to people with severe disabilities so they may hire personal assistants to help them with everyday tasks that they cannot perform on their own. With this assistance, individuals are able to live in their own homes and communities.

The RYPAS program provides funding for personal assistance services to individuals who do not qualify for such assistance through Medicaid. Recipients of the RYPAS program reported they would not be able to remain in their own homes without the financial support the program provides and would be forced into a nursing home or another institutional setting. They also reported that their quality of life would be diminished.

2018 Stats

During the fiscal year 2018, a total of 17 individuals received personal assistance services supported by the RYPAS program. Because RYPAS does not have adequate funding to increase recipient hours or the \$7.25 reimbursement rate, one RYPAS recipient was forced into a nursing home and removed from the program. As a result, one person was added to the program.

2018 Fiscal Year End (June 30, 2018)

- Sixteen (16) recipients from nine (9) counties were active¹
 - 1,319 hours per reimbursement period approved at \$7.25 per hour – 13 recipients
 - 36 hours per reimbursement period approved at \$6.16 per hour – 1 recipient
 - 111 hours per reimbursement period approved at \$6.96 per hour – 1 recipient
 - 90 hours per reimbursement period approved at \$6.82 per hour – 1 recipient
- Reimbursement period (26 periods/year) amount approved: \$12,200.37
- Annual reimbursement amount approved: \$317,209.62

- 4 applicants, from 3 counties, were on the waiting list²
- Estimated 466 hours per reimbursement period needed at \$7.25 per hour
- Reimbursement period (26 periods/year) amount needed: \$3,378.50
- Annual reimbursement amount needed: \$87,841.00

¹sliding scale for reimbursement based on income

²estimates prior to functional assessment


West Virginia and Independent Living Facts

West Virginia has the highest percentage of citizens with disabilities in the nation, totaling approximately one fourth of our population. It also has the fastest growing elderly population in the nation. RYPAS is an excellent way to help people with disabilities and the elderly in West Virginia remain in or return to their own homes.

Studies have shown it is nearly six times more cost effective to provide services that allow people to live at home rather than institutionalizing them, and that people living in their own homes are happier and healthier. They also remain a part of their community and continue to contribute to the economy by providing jobs for personal assistants, shopping at local stores, and using private and public transportation.

We are asking that you continue to support this much needed and valuable program for the citizens of West Virginia and support upcoming legislative action that can be taken to secure and increase funding for Independent Living and the RYPAS Program.

Respectively Submitted,


Beverley Jones
Chairperson

Financial Overview – FY 2018

The appropriation for the RYPAS Program during FY-18 was \$333,828. Through contracts with the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services and the RYPAS Board, the Statewide Independent Living Council administered the funds for the operations of the Board, provided staff support to the Board and the Program, and served as the fiscal agent processing reimbursements to RYPAS recipients.

Funding

FY 2018 Budget Appropriation	\$333,828
Fiscal Year 2017 Carryover	\$ 52,327
Unicare Gift Carryover	\$ 2,185
Funding available for FY 2018	\$388,340

Expenditures

Recipient Reimbursements	\$243,835
Administrative Costs	\$21,870

Income

FY 2017 Interest Earned	\$0
FY 2017 Donations	\$0

Balance June 30, 2018

Carried over for recipient services in FY 2018	\$68,123
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Program Recipients

As of fiscal year end 2018, sixteen (16) individuals from nine (9) counties were receiving reimbursements for their personal assistance services through the RYPAS program. During the fiscal year, a total of seventeen (17) individuals received personal assistance services supported by the RYPAS program. One person went into a nursing home and was removed from the program, and as a result, one person was added to the program.

Current Recipients

Total number of recipients	16
Average age of recipients	62
Average hours per month per recipient	212
Average cost per month per recipient*	\$1,652

Counties of Residence: Cabell (2), Harrison (3), Kanawha (1), Marshall (1), Mercer (1), Monongalia (2), Raleigh (2), Randolph (1), and Wood (3)

Program Activity

Overview

New Recipients – 1	Recipients Who Entered Nursing Home – 1
Applicants Added to Wait List – 1	Applicants Removed from Wait List – 2
Recipients Who Passed Away – 0	Applicants on Wait List Who Passed Away – 1

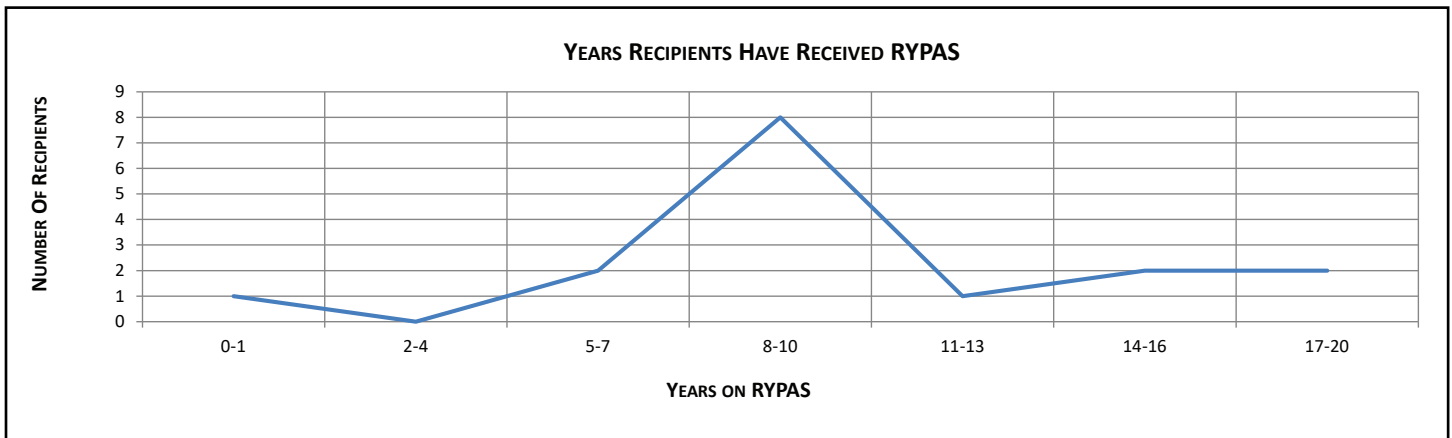
*According to www.payingforseniorcare.com, nursing home care in the Statewide area of West Virginia ranges from \$240.52 to \$436.54 / day. The average cost is \$338.00. The average cost of the RYPAS program per day is \$55.07.



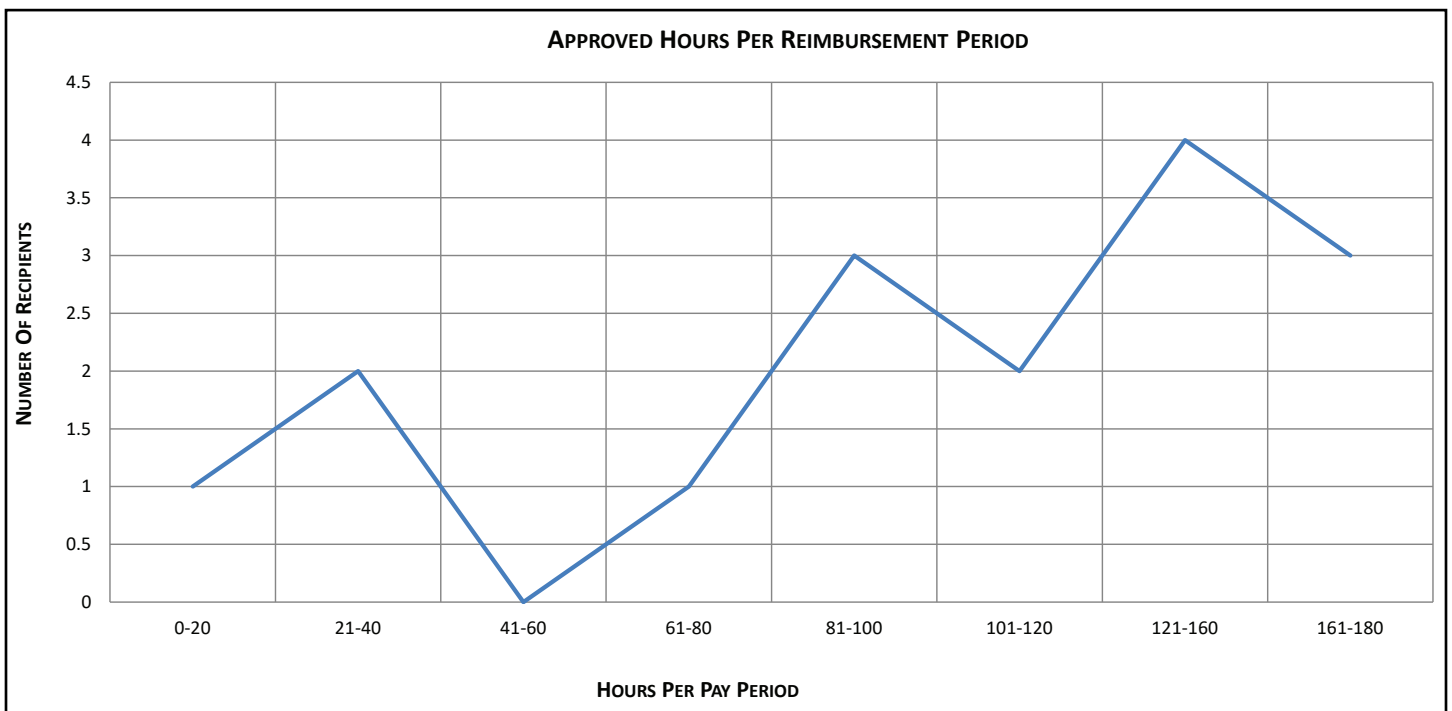
Current Recipients – FY 2018

There are currently 16 RYPAS recipients.

- Age of recipients: 21-30 years – 0 31-40 years – 1
 41-50 years – 3 51-60 years – 3
 61-70 years – 4 71-80 years – 4
 81-90 years – 1
- Gender: Male – 6 Female – 10
- Length of time on RYPAS: 0 to 18 years



- Range of hours reimbursed per pay period: 10 to 171 hours



Counties Represented: Cabell (2), Harrison (3), Kanawha (1), Marshall (1), Mercer (1), Monongalia (2), Raleigh (2), Randolph (1), Wood (3)

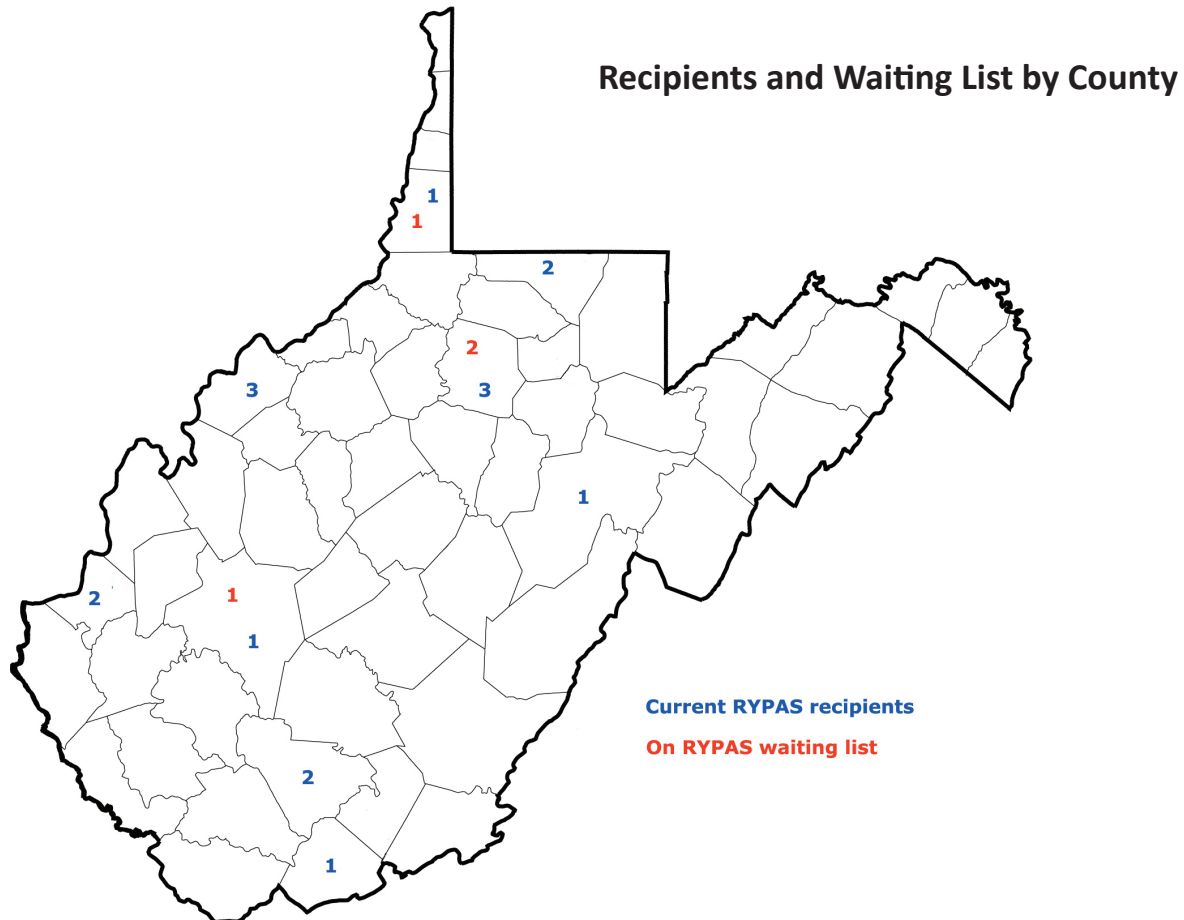
Waiting List – FY 2018

The waiting list is composed of 2 parts; applicants who have applied for personal assistant services through Medicaid and have been denied or put on a Medicaid waiting list, and those who have not yet provided documentation of applying for Medicaid Services. Those who provide the required documentation, and are denied or put on the Medicaid waiting list, advance on the waiting list regardless of application date. This documentation is required from each recipient in order to comply with legislative intent that the RYPAS program increases the availability of personal assistance services by serving individuals not eligible for such services from Medicaid. Once an individual begins receiving (or refuses) Medicaid services, they are no longer eligible for RYPAS and are removed from the RYPAS program or waiting list.

An audit of the RYPAS waiting list at fiscal year end 2018 revealed the number of individuals waiting for RYPAS services was four (4). Two (2) on the documented waiting list, from Kanawha and Marshall counties, and two (2) on the undocumented waiting list, both from Harrison County. One (1) person was, moved from the waiting list to the recipient list and became active on RYPAS. One (1) other applicant on the waiting list was scheduled for a functional assessment to determine the number of hours of reimbursement, but unfortunately passed away before the assessment took place.

Total number on Wait List: 4
 Average age: 57
 Average hours needed per month per recipient: 233
 Average funding needed per month per recipient: \$1,689

Counties of Residence: Harrison (2), Kanawha (1), Marshall (1)





Satisfaction Survey Results – FY 2018

Of the 17 surveys that were sent to current and previous RYPAS recipients, 12 responses were received (71%) and the following was reported:

The hours I receive are adequate for my needs: Yes – 8 No – 4

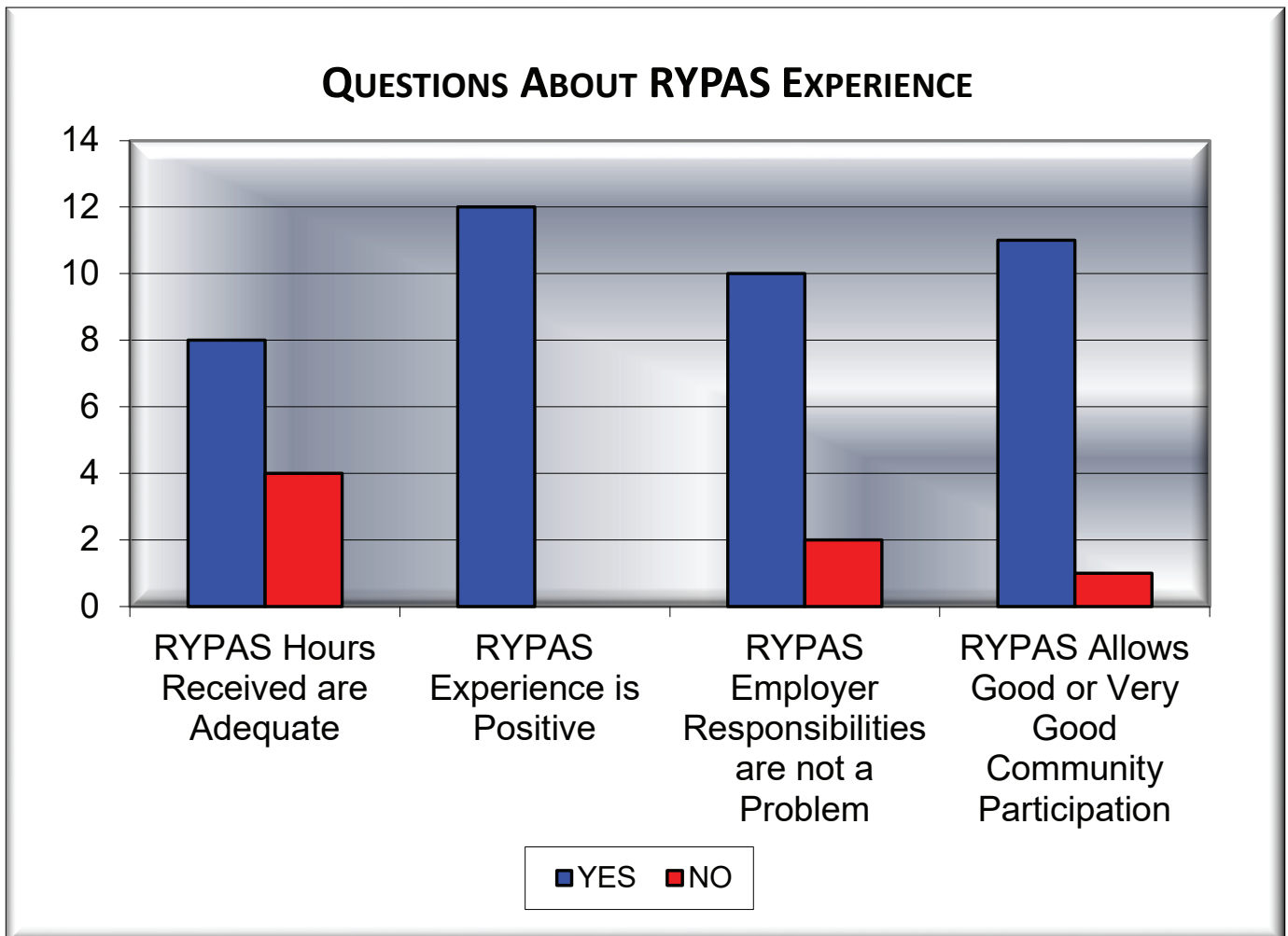
If no, please explain:

- RYPAS did not receive enough state funding to provide enough hours or hourly wage needed to keep my employees
- As my health deteriorated, I could use more hours per reimbursement period
- My health is getting worse and the hours I receive only cover day shift
- Need more hours

My experience with the RYPAS program has been:

Very good – 12 Good – 0 Adequate – 0 Poor – 0 Very Poor – 0

I like being able to direct my personal assistance program: Yes – 12 No – 0



The employer responsibilities I have directing my own personal assistance program:

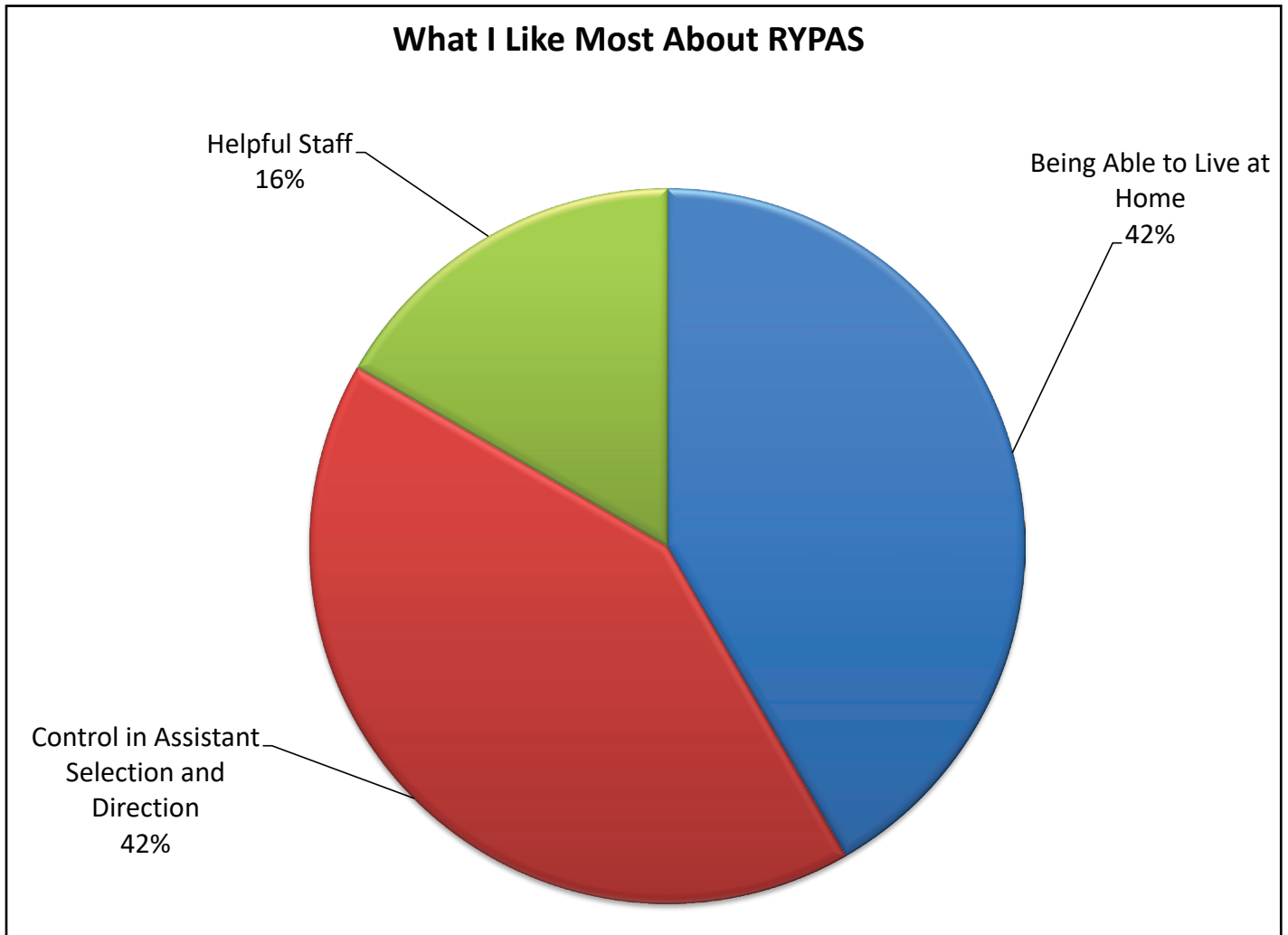
Are not a problem for me – 10 Cause me some concern – 1 Present a real problem for me – 1

Because of the RYPAS program, my ability to actively participate in the community is:

Very good – 8 Good – 3 Adequate – 1 Poor – 0 No Response – 0

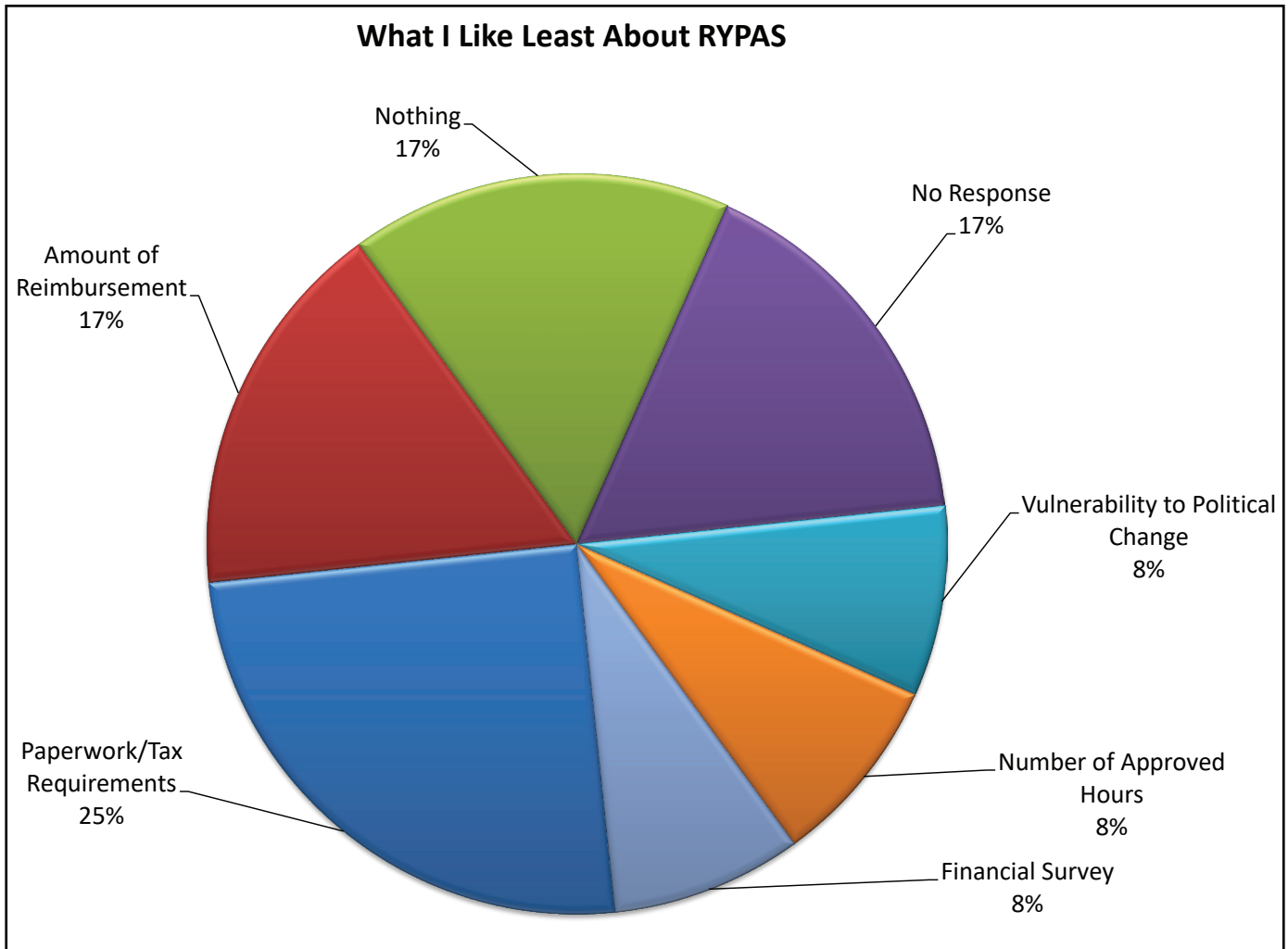
What I like most about the RYPAS program:

- Being able to stay in my own home
- Getting help with personal care
- The helpful and considerate RYPAS staff
- Being able to self direct my care
- I can be in charge of my own life and stay in my home with family
- Hiring and schedule control
- Can safely stay in my own home
- Self directing ability
- Choosing my own caregiver



What I like least about the RYPAS program:

- Lack of state funding
- The vulnerability to political change
- Paying taxes
- The paperwork
- There is nothing I dislike
- No increase in wages
- Not enough hours
- Financial survey



What could be done to improve personal assistance programs you have experienced?

- More hours
- Higher wages for caretakers
- More money for personal assistants
- Being able to have more hours
- Eliminate paperwork and taxes

My greatest concern for the future regarding my personal assistance services and support is:

- Going into a nursing home
- Lack of funding
- I might become homeless
- Not enough funding or funding will be cut
- RYPAS will lose funding
- The state legislature might cut funding
- Having to go into a nursing home because my husband is getting older
- Lack of funding from the government
- No funding for RYPAS

What would happen to your living situation if you lost RYPAS?

- I had to go into a nursing home
- I would not be able to live on my own
- I would be forced into government housing
- I fear I would have to go to a nursing home
- I would try to manage
- I would probably have to go in a nursing home
- Nursing home
- Would be a great hardship and end up in a nursing home
- My quality of life would be much diminished

Responses Regarding Medicaid Personal Assistance Services**I was a RYPAS recipient but now I am receiving Medicaid services through the:**

Aged and Disabled Waiver – 0 MR/DD Waiver – 0 Personal Care Option – 0 Other Medicaid Services – 1

The hours I receive from Medicaid are adequate for my needs: Yes – 0 No – 1

If no, please explain:

- I am now in a rehab nursing home because I couldn't get enough hours or money for caregivers

I am satisfied with my personal attendant services through Medicaid: Yes – 0 No – 1

If no, please explain:

- I am in Maryland not in my WV home.

I think the Medicaid waiver and other personal assistance programs should be consumer directed:

Agree – 1 No Opinion – 0 Disagree – 0 No response – 11

Imagine

Imagine an individual living in a nursing home, a hospital-type environment, with strangers providing care for him/her who are not chosen or approved by this individual. An unfamiliar caregiver each day.

Now imagine the same individual living comfortably in his/her own home being cared for by familiar caregivers approved by this individual, who is now an employer who pays taxes. At a cost 5 to 6 times less than a nursing home. Able to have and enjoy the freedoms they have been accustomed to their entire life as an American citizen. Being an active participant in the community, living longer, more comfortably and much happier. Now...imagine that individual is you.



RYPAS Board & Program

Governor Cecil H. Underwood signed the Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services (RYPAS) Act into law on April 1, 1999 to establish a consumer directed, personal assistance services program to meet the needs of individuals with severe disabilities who are not eligible for other programs

The Role of the Division of Rehabilitation Services in the RYPAS program is to administer the program, either directly or through a contract, in accordance with the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL); and provide training, information and referral services relating to state and federal payroll taxes, deductions and withholding, and wage withholding for child support and worker's compensation, to recipients as necessary.

The role of the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) in the RYPAS program is to appoint members to the consumer controlled, RYPAS board; to hear any appeals of the decisions of the board; and for the executive director to serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the board.

The Role of the RYPAS Board is to:

- Determine eligibility and approve hours for reimbursement for all applicants based on functional assessments conducted using the Ron Yost Personal Assistance Program Functional Assessment Tool. Each determination is provided to the applicant in writing
- Monitor disbursements and utilization of the program
- Survey consumer satisfaction and recommend program revisions to the Division of Rehabilitation Services
- Develop and maintain a waiting list for those eligible individuals who cannot be served immediately
- Contract with public or private entities to assist in fulfilling the functions of the board and approve contracts proposed by the Division of Rehabilitation Services with a public or private entity for the fiscal management of the program
- Establish operating procedures

Legislatively, the board is required to meet at least quarterly, but usually meets monthly to review applications for eligibility and to address policy and other governing issues for the program. Board members are compensated for allowable expenses incurred as a result of active participation on the board. No member of the board, or an individual who resides with a member of the board, is eligible to receive personal assistance services through the program.

Recipient's Responsibilities Include:

- Apply for services through Medicaid and provide a copy of that determination to the board
- Comply with the employer responsibilities of hiring, supervising and, if needed, terminating the employment of a personal assistant
- Manage his or her own financial and legal affairs regarding the Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services
- If necessary/desired, designate an individual to assist in fulfilling these responsibilities

Staff Responsibilities Include:

- Process applications and reimbursements
- Provide recipient support
- Develop reports
- Maintain policy manual
- Make meeting arrangements
- Other duties as assigned by the board

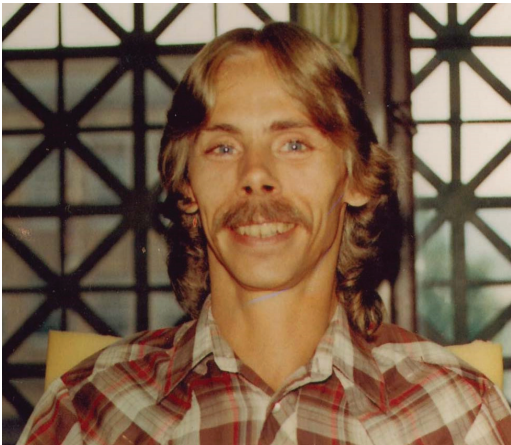
RYPAS Establishment

Establishment

This program, Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services (RYPAS), was established by the West Virginia State Legislature and is governed pursuant to West Virginia Code §18-10L and West Virginia Code 198CSR1, as amended, and subsequent rules. The program was established to provide personal assistance services for persons with significant disabilities, enabling them to live in their own homes and communities in lieu of more restrictive settings, thereby enhancing self fulfillment and participation in society.

RYPAS policy provides equal opportunity for all applicants and recipients. RYPAS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions), national origin, ancestry, age, disability, medical condition, family-care status, veteran status, marital status or sexual orientation.

Who is Ron Yost?



Ron Yost was an advocate for disability rights in West Virginia for fifteen years.

This program was named in his memory by the legislators who sponsored the bill that created it. Ron was an individual with a severe disability himself, a spinal cord injury resulting in quadriplegia. He understood the need for such services and how much difference having an attendant or personal assistant can make in the independence and quality of life of a person with a disability.

He was involved in establishing the Employment Attendant Care Program, operated by the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services, and advocated for the PAS program that would later bear his name. He had a great impact on his community in Huntington and on the disability community across West Virginia.

Thank you, Ron, for your advocacy efforts and service to the disability community in West Virginia.

Current RYPAS Board Members

- Beverley Jones - Chairperson, Hurricane, WV
- Nathan Parker - Vice Chair, Huntington, WV
- Paul Smith - Secretary, Charleston, WV
- Delmar Davis, Charleston, WV
- Tamra Price, St. Albans, WV
- Richard Ward, Ex-Officio, Non-voting member, Program Specialist, WV Division of Rehabilitation Services
- Ann McDaniel, Ex-Officio, Non-voting member, Executive Director, WV Statewide Independent Living Council



RYPAS

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