



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015

This Annual Report is respectfully submitted to:

The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor
The Honorable William P. Cole III, President of the Senate
The Honorable Tim Armstead, Speaker of the House
Clark Barnes, 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

The Ron Yost Personal Assistance Service (RYPAS) Board is pleased to submit its 2015 Annual Report to Governor Earl Ray Tomblin and to the State Legislature.

The 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 services that are provided by the RYPAS program go to individuals who do not qualify for assistance through Medicaid. Recipients of the RYPAS program have said they would not be able to remain in their own homes without the financial support the program provides to them. They would be forced into a nursing home or another institutionalized setting.

RYPAS provided funds to 22 individuals during 2015. The average age of recipients was 52 and they lived in 13 different counties. We have continually added people from the waiting list to the recipients list as funds are made available, but due to the lack of funding, no one has been added to the recipient list since June of 2012. The current RYPAS recipients require \$371,179 annually to continue to function in their own homes and communities. The needs of those on the waiting list are estimated to be \$578,471, an amount which is verified by a functional assessment prior to being added to the program.

We respectfully request that you fund the Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services program at \$949,650 in order to continue services to the current recipients and to address the waiting list of 34 people.

Studies have shown it is 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 commuting using private and public transportation.

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 a good way for West Virginia to help serve the needs of people with disabilities and the elderly.

We are asking that you continue to support this much needed and valuable program for the citizens of West Virginia.

Respectively Submitted,



Cathy Hutchinson
Chairperson 2016



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW – FY 2015

The appropriation for the RYPAS Program during FY-15 was \$388,698. 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, serving as the fiscal agent processing reimbursements to RYPAS recipients, and provided staff support to the Board and the Program.

FUNDING

FY 2015 Budget Appropriation	\$388,698
Fiscal Year 2014 Carryover	\$43,476
Funding available for FY 2015	\$432,174

EXPENDITURES

FY-15 Funds Available	\$432,174
Recipient Reimbursements	\$373,474
Administrative Costs	\$23,400

INCOME

FY 2015 Interest Earned	\$0
FY 2015 Donation	\$0

BALANCE JUNE 30, 2015

Carried over for recipient services in FY 2015	\$35,027
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PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

As of fiscal year end 2015, nineteen (19) individuals from ten (10) counties are receiving reimbursements for their personal assistance services through the RYPAS program. During the fiscal year, a total of 22 individuals received services. One individual passed away and two individuals discontinued their services and went into nursing homes. None of the 34 individuals on the waiting list were added to the program due to a lack of funding.

	<u>Current Recipients</u>	<u>Total Recipients</u>
Total number of recipients	19	22
Average age of recipients	52	52
Average hours per month per recipient	225	217
Average cost per month per recipient	\$1,628	\$1,475

*The average nursing home cost, in West Virginia, is \$8,460 per month, according to SeniorHomes.com

COUNTIES OF RESIDENCE: Cabell (2), Harrison (2), Kanawha (4), Marshall (1), Mercer (1), Mineral (1), Monongalia (2), Raleigh (2), Randolph (1), and Wood (3)

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

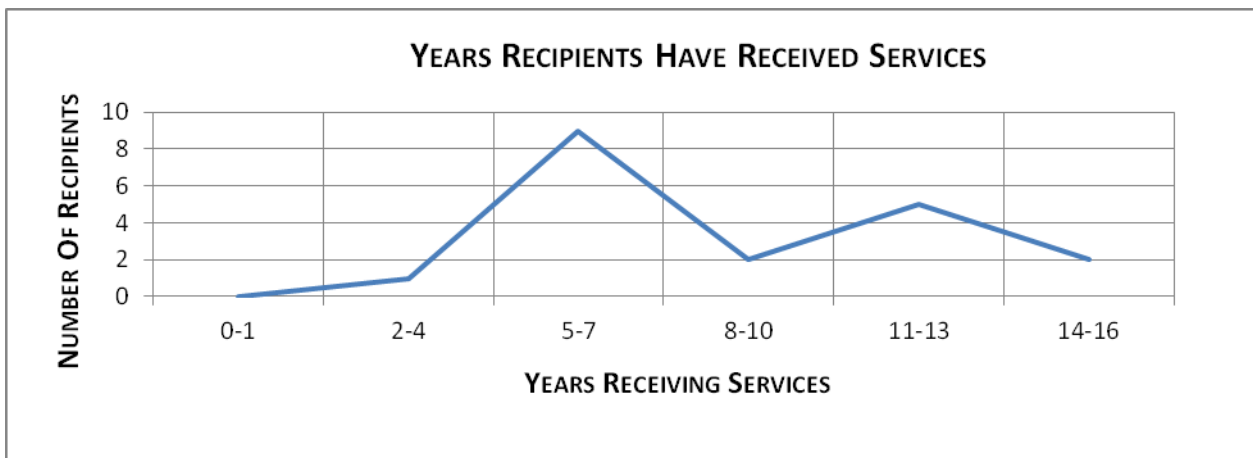
Total New Recipients – **0** (due to inadequate resources)
 Total Applicants Approved and Added to Waiting List – **2**
 Total Applicants/Recipients Who Left RYPAS – **3**

CURRENT RECIPIENTS – FY 2015

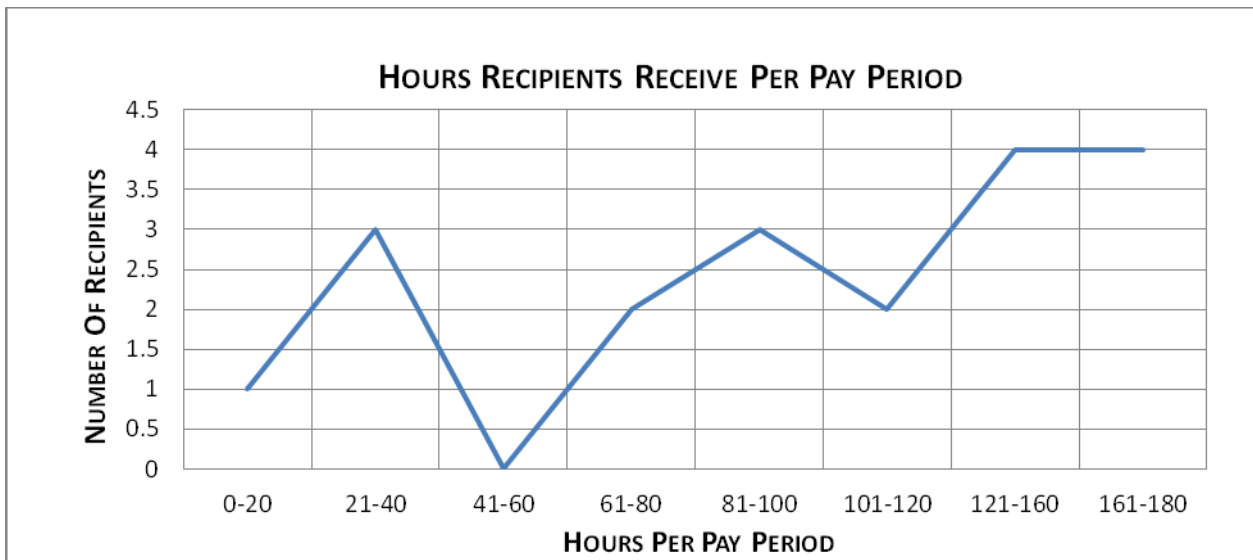
There are currently 19 RYPAS recipients receiving services.

- Age of recipients:

21-30 years – 0	31-40 years – 2
41-50 years – 1	51-60 years – 5
61-70 years – 7	71-80 years – 4
- Gender: Male – 8 Female – 11
- Length of time receiving services: 4 to 16 years



- Range of hours reimbursed per pay period: 10 to 180 hours



COUNTIES REPRESENTED: Cabell (2), Harrison (2), Kanawha (4), Marshall (1), Mercer (1), Mineral (1), Monongalia (2), Raleigh (2), Randolph (1), Wood (3)

PROGRAM WAITING LIST FY 2015

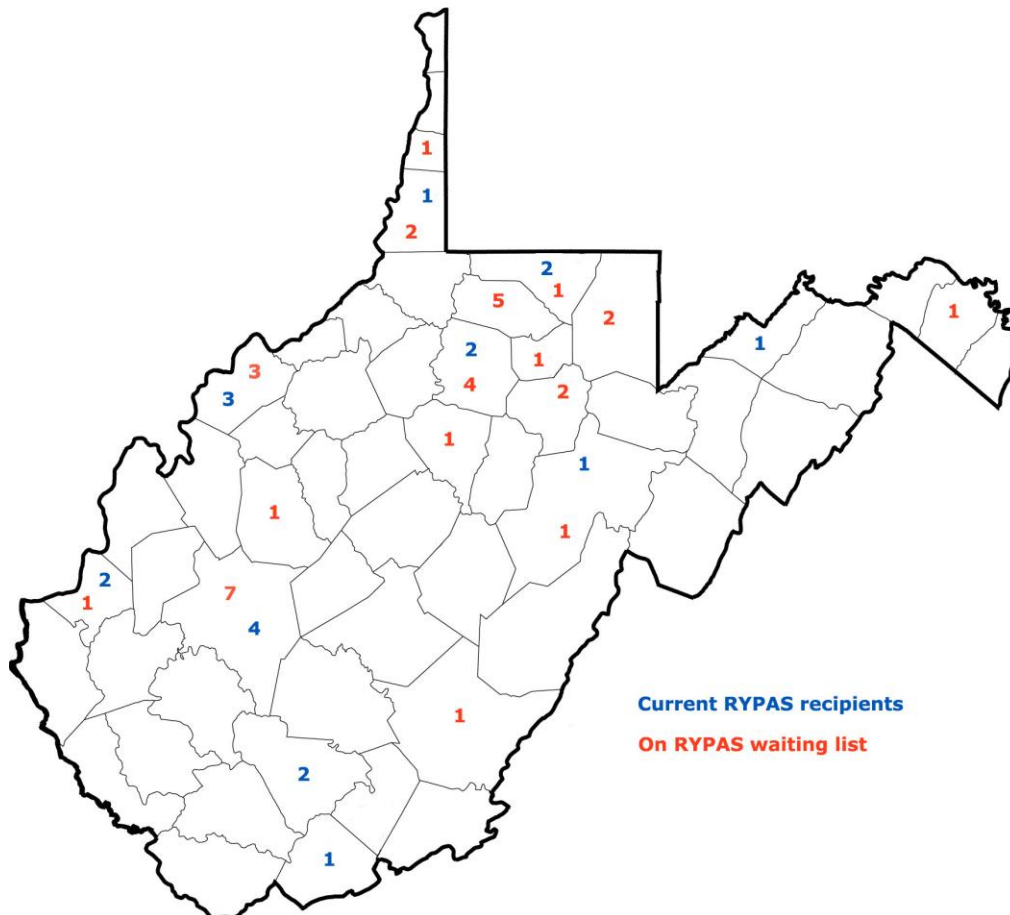
The waiting list is subdivided to delineate those who have provided documentation of applying for personal assistant services through Medicaid. Those who provide such documentation are afforded the opportunity to advance on the list regardless of service application date. Such documentation is required from each recipient in order to comply with legislative intent that this program increases the availability of personal assistance services by serving individuals not eligible for such services from Medicaid. Once an individual begins receiving such services (or turns down such services) from Medicaid, they are no longer eligible for RYPAS and are removed from the RYPAS program/waiting list.

Thirty-four (34) individuals from sixteen (16) counties are on the waiting list to receive personal assistance services through the RYPAS program as of fiscal year end 2015.

Total number on waiting list	34
Average age	60
Average hours needed per month (per recipient)	188
Average funding needed per month (per recipient)	\$1,418

COUNTIES OF RESIDENCE: Barbour (2), Berkeley (1), Cabell (1), Greenbrier (1), Harrison (4), Kanawha (7), Lewis (1), Marion (5), Marshall (2), Monongalia (1), Ohio (1), Preston (2), Randolph (1), Roane (1), Taylor (1), and Wood (3)

RECIPIENTS AND WAITING LIST APPLICANTS BY COUNTY



SATISFACTION SURVEY – FY 2015

20 Surveys were sent to RYPAS recipients – 12 responses received (60%)

THE HOURS I RECEIVE ARE ADEQUATE FOR MY NEEDS

Yes – 7 No – 4 No Response – 1

COMMENTS

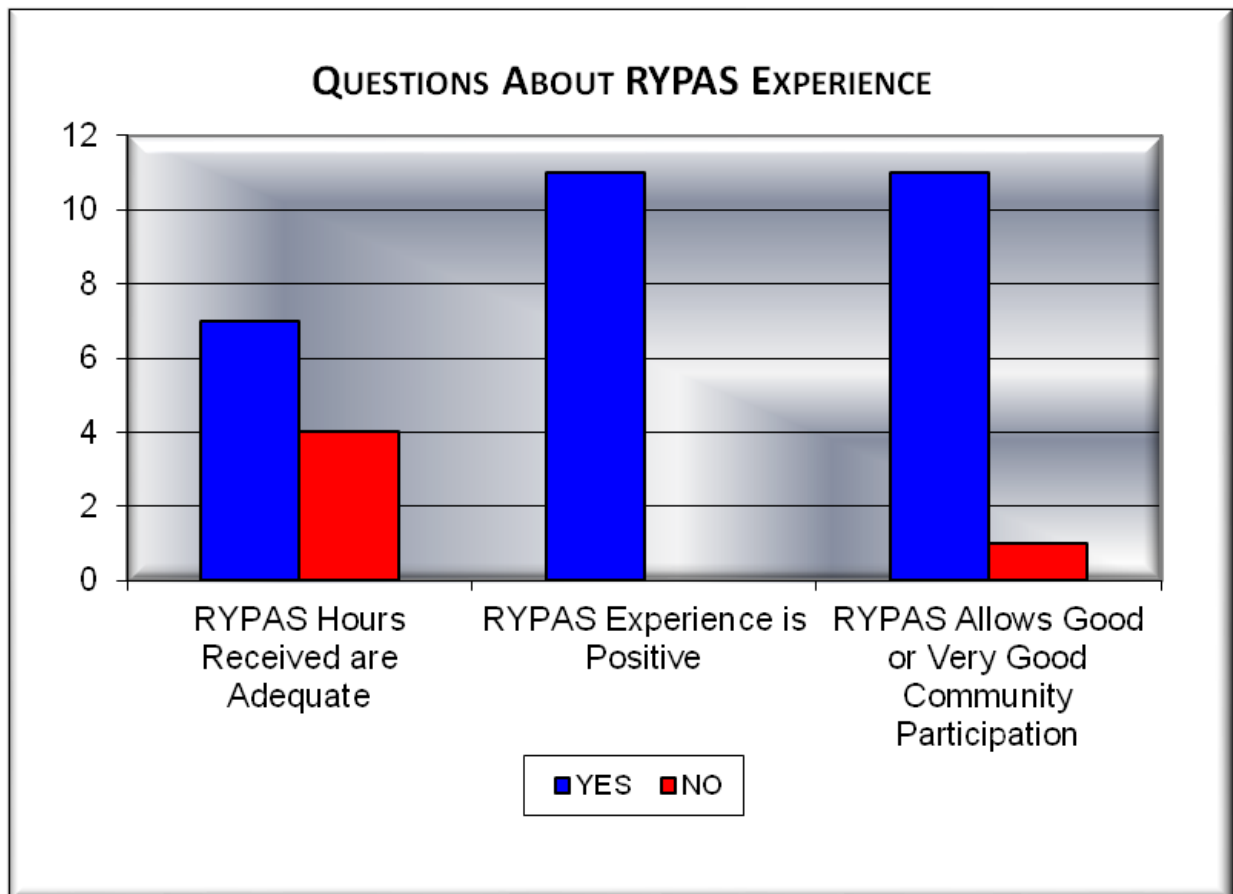
- At first hours were O.K. but later needed more
- Need night people
- I could use more hours
- My care requires more attention now than when first enrolled. Caregivers exceeds hours paid for each day.

MY EXPERIENCE WITH THE RYPAS PROGRAM HAS BEEN

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

I LIKE BEING ABLE TO DIRECT MY PERSONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Yes – 12 No – 0



THE EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES I HAVE IN DIRECTING MY OWN PERSONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

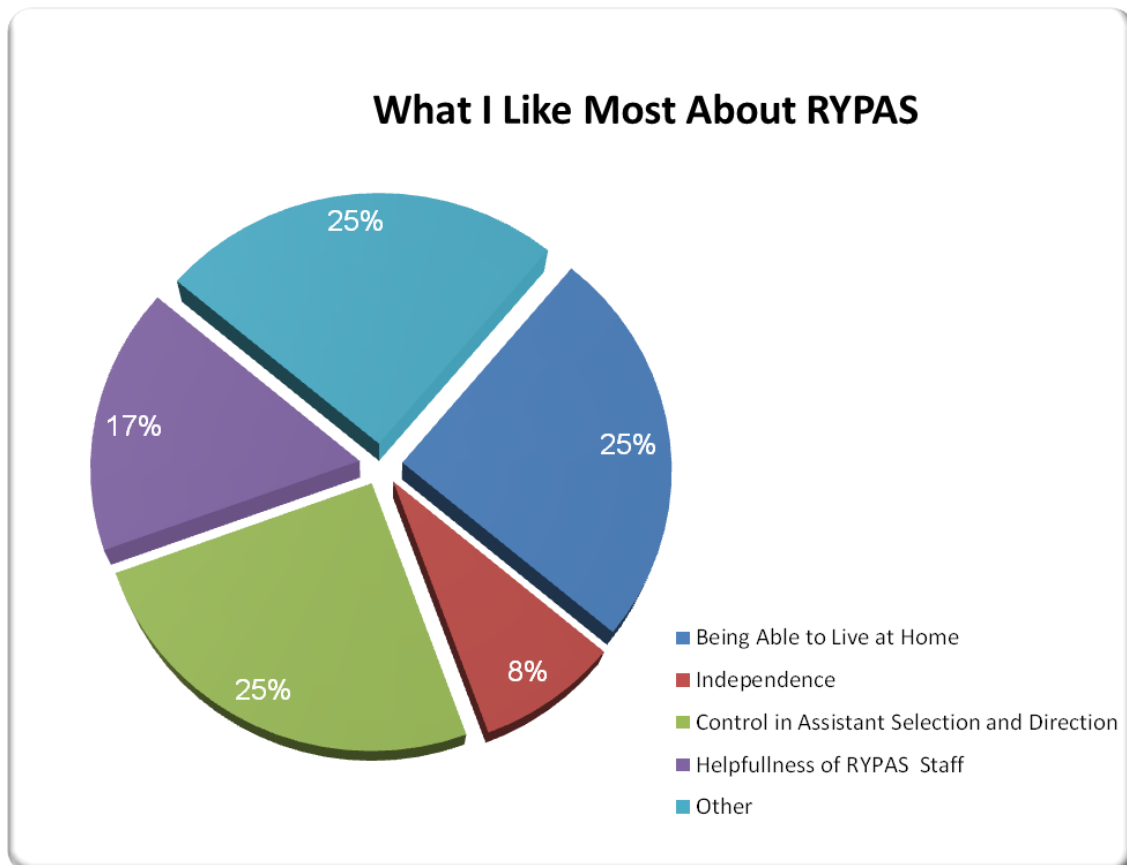
Are not a problem for me – 10 Cause me some concern – 2 Present a real problem for me – 0

BECAUSE OF THE RYPAS PROGRAM, MY ABILITY TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY IS:

Very good – 7 Good – 4 Adequate – 1 Poor – 0 No Response – 0

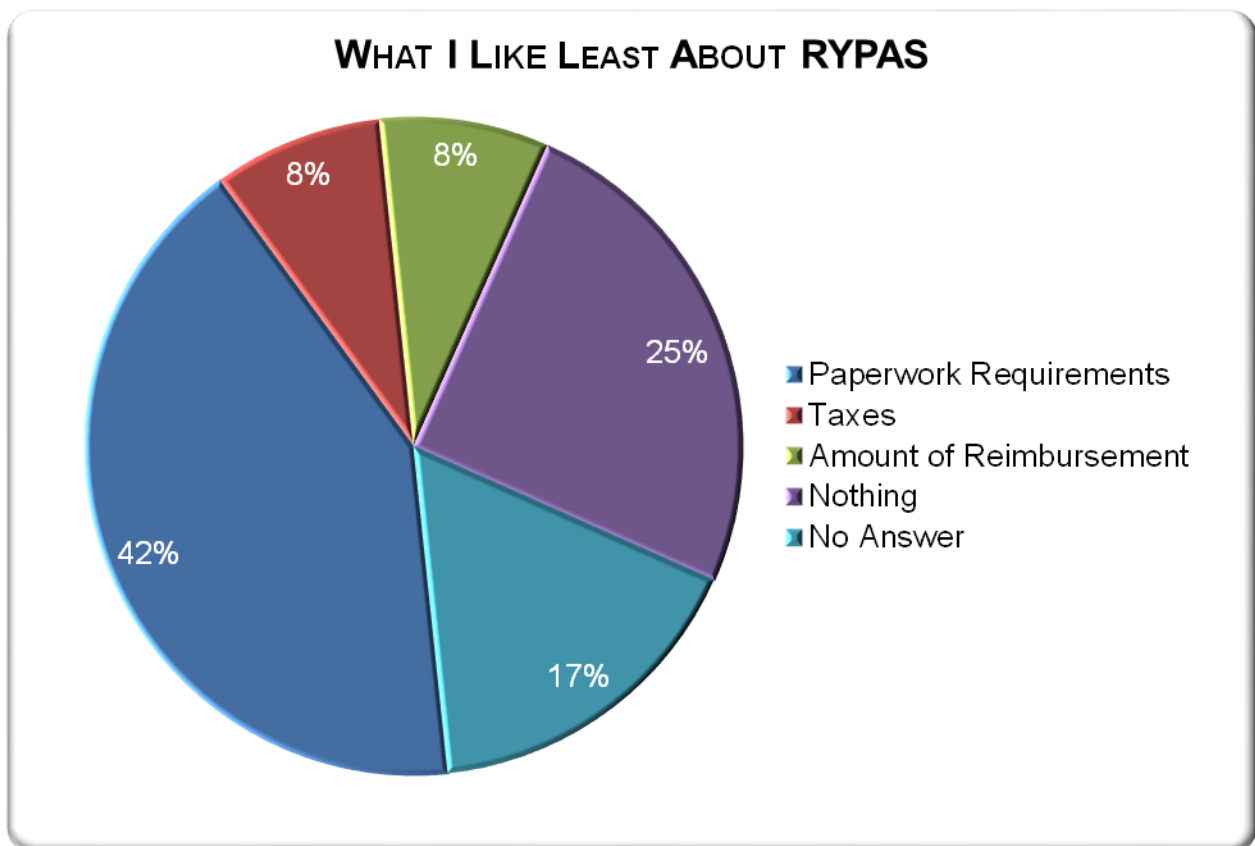
WHAT I LIKE MOST ABOUT THE RYPAS PROGRAM

- Willingness to talk and answer questions, friendly
- Everything. Caring staff.
- Having a few extra dollars
- Self-directed
- Direct deposit
- Being able to get out of house, freedom
- Availability of program
- Self-sufficiency and staying out of a nursing home
- Self-direction. (it saves me from accidents carrying wood, etc.)
- I really appreciate being able to stay in my home and maintaining as much of my independence as I can as long as I can.
- Being able to stay in my home as long as I did. I really appreciated all the service personnel, they were very helpful.
- Being able to set times and pay my caregivers what they are worth.



WHAT I LIKE LEAST ABOUT THE RYPAS PROGRAM

- Paying taxes, minimum wage outdated, limited hours
- Can't think of anything
- Filling out time sheets and claiming more income
- Record keeping
- Nothing
- Lost some excellent help when RYPAS started questioning them
- Nothing in particular
- Sometimes, especially when I'm in exacerbation, the deadlines for paperwork can get confusing but I usually get my personal assistant to help with that.
- Pay not adequate. Needed more aids. Doing quarterly and yearly tax records.
- Paperwork.



WHAT COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE PERSONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED?

- I'd like to have better communication via email. For example, I sent info in and emailed a number of times to make sure it was received before I got a response back.
- We need more money per hour.
- I haven't had any bad problems or bad experiences.
- Don't know
- I have no complaints or suggestions
- I could use more help with better trained people.
- Have only had RYPAS P.A.
- Somehow become a tax exempt program.

MY GREATEST CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE REGARDING MY PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES AND SUPPORTS IS:

- The state legislature eliminating and/or cutting the programs funding.
- Continued funding.
- If I lose assistance I would be committed to a nursing home.
- Concern over reimbursement rate vs. minimum wage hike plus additional taxes incurred.
- Anything happening to RYPAS.
- None
- Getting inadequate funding through legislature.
- It could come to a halt if the government stops it.
- That the government will decrease programs.
- Hard to hire and keep P.A. for my needs on minimum wage.
- That it [RYPAS] won't be funded.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO YOUR LIVING SITUATION IF YOU LOST RYPAS?

- I would not be able to continue living at home and being more independent not to mention the hardship financially on me and my family.
- I would cope.
- I would be committed to a nursing home.
- Nursing home
- Be bound to house, have to go to nursing home.
- I would have to go to the nursing home.
- Lose my independence.
- It would be tragic.
- I would have to go to a nursing home.
- No home. Would lose everything.
- Would have to go to family and others to get care.

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
 Personal Care Option – 0

MR/DD Waiver – 0
 Other Medicaid Services – 0

THE HOURS I RECEIVE FROM MEDICAID ARE ADEQUATE FOR MY NEEDS:

Yes – 0 No – 1
If no, please explain: I'm in a nursing home now.

I AM SATISFIED WITH MY PERSONAL ATTENDANT SERVICES THROUGH MEDICAID:

Yes – 0 No – 1

I THINK THE MEDICAID WAIVER AND OTHER PERSONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS SHOULD BE CONSUMER DIRECTED:

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

RYPAS PROGRAM & BOARD

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 of service for all applicants based on functional assessments conducted using the Ron Yost Personal Assistance Program Functional Assessment Tool. Each determination shall be in writing, a copy of which shall be provided to the applicant;
- 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; and
- Establish operating procedures.

No member of the board is eligible to receive personal assistance services through the program provided for in this article.

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; and
- If necessary designate an individual to assist in fulfilling these responsibilities.

2015 RYPAS BOARD MEMBERS

- **Ron Brown**, Chairperson, Charleston, WV
- **Karen Davis**, Charleston, WV
- **Cathy Hutchinson**, Huntington, WV
- **Beverley Jones**, Hurricane, WV
- **Charlotte Roth**, Morgantown, WV
- **Vicki Shaffer**, Morgantown, WV
- **Michael Meadows**, Ex-Officio, Non-voting member, Assistant Director, Program Development, WV Division of Rehabilitation Services
- **Ann McDaniel**, Ex-Officio, Non-voting member, Executive Director, WV Statewide Independent Living Council

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 hometown of 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.



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