



2016 Annual Report

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

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) 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 report they would not be able to remain in their own homes without the financial support the program provides and they would be forced into a nursing home or another institutionalized setting.

RYPAS provided funds to 19 individuals during 2016. The average age of recipients was 59 and they lived in 10 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 \$325,085 annually to continue to function in their own homes and communities. The needs of those on the waiting list are estimated to be \$106,720, 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 \$431,805 in order to continue services to the current recipients and to address the waiting list of 8 people.

These numbers have been drastically reduced over the last two years for a number of reasons. As of the printing of this report, we have 17 individuals receiving services. Down 5 in the past 2 years. We have 8 individuals on the waiting list. Down 26 in the past year. Due to budget cuts, we have been unable to move anyone from the waiting list to the recipient list. In addition, we have not been able to increase the reimbursement rate to meet state minimum wage, which makes it difficult for recipients to recruit and retain personal assistants. Our reimbursement rate remains \$7.25 per hour.

In addition to our request of \$431,805 to serve the current recipients and eliminate the waiting list, we also respectfully request an additional \$500,000. This would allow us to meet the state minimum wage and add new qualified applicants to the recipient list.

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 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
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Financial Overview – FY 2016

The appropriation for the RYPAS Program during FY-16 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, provided staff support to the Board and the Program, and served as the fiscal agent processing reimbursements to RYPAS recipients.

Funding

FY 2016 Budget Appropriation	\$388,698
Fiscal Year 2015 Carryover	\$35,027
Funding available for FY 2016	\$423,725

Expenditures

Recipient Reimbursements	\$345,369
Administrative Costs	\$23,074

Income

FY 2016 Interest Earned	\$0
FY 2016 Donations	\$0

Balance June 30, 2016

Carried over for recipient services in FY 2017	\$55,282
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Program Recipients

As of fiscal year end 2016, eighteen(18) individuals from ten(10) counties were receiving reimbursements for their personal assistance services through the RYPAS program. During the fiscal year, a total of nineteen(19) individuals received services. One individual discontinued their services and now relies on family for her care because she could not afford the tax burden required of a household employer. Due to insufficient funding, no one on the waiting list was added to the program.

	<u>Current Recipients</u>	<u>Total Recipients</u>
Total number of recipients	18	19
Average age of recipients	62	59
Average hours per month per recipient	201	208
*Average cost per month per recipient	\$1,454	\$1503

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

Program Activity

New Recipients – 0 Applicants Approved and Added to Waiting List – 1 Recipients Who Left RYPAS – 1

*In 2016, according to www.payingforseniorcare.com, the average nursing home cost for an individual in West Virginia was \$8,250 per month. That is five to six times more than the cost to allow someone to live comfortably in their home through the RYPAS program.



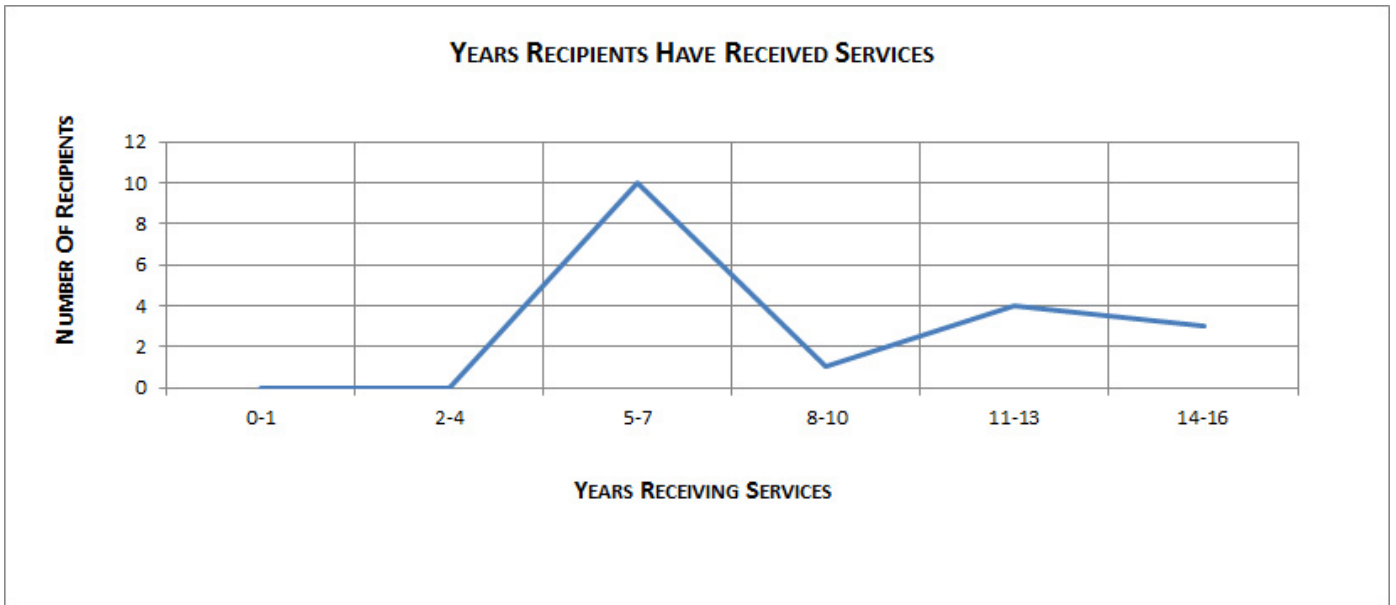
Current Recipients – FY 2016

There are currently 18 RYPAS recipients receiving services.

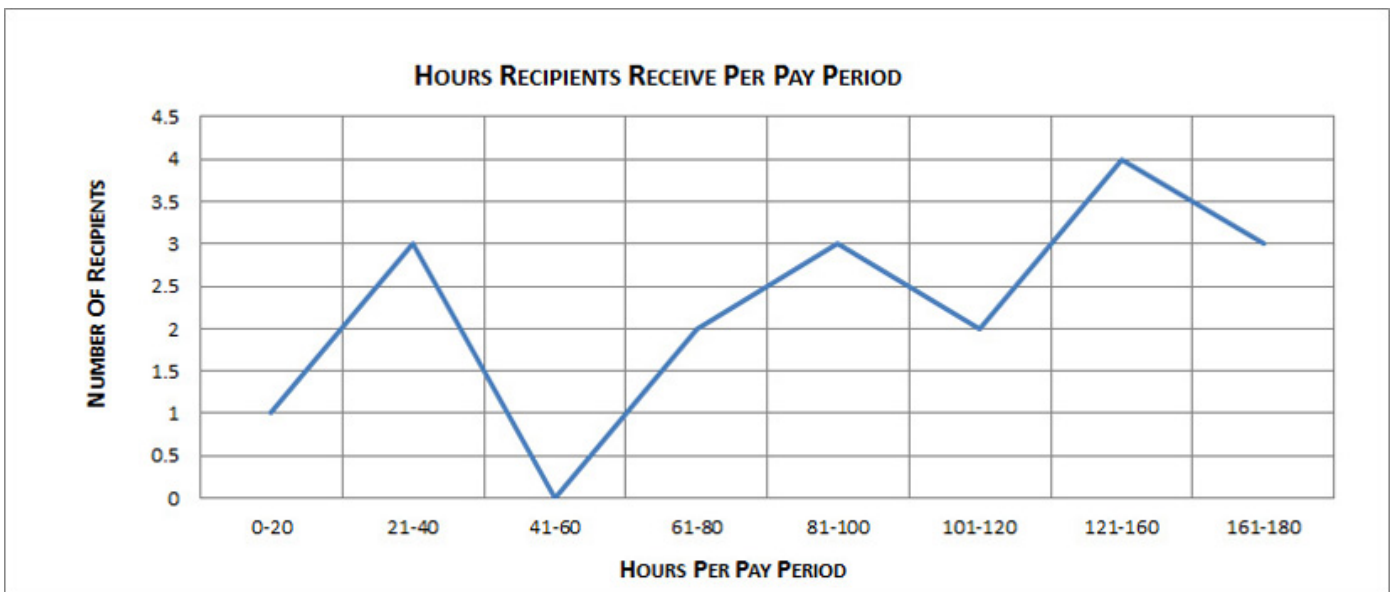
- Age of recipients: 21-30 years – 0 31-40 years – 1
 41-50 years – 2 51-60 years – 5
 61-70 years – 6 71-80 years – 3
 81-90 years – 1

- Gender: Male – 8 Female – 10

- Length of time receiving services: 5 to 16 years



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



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

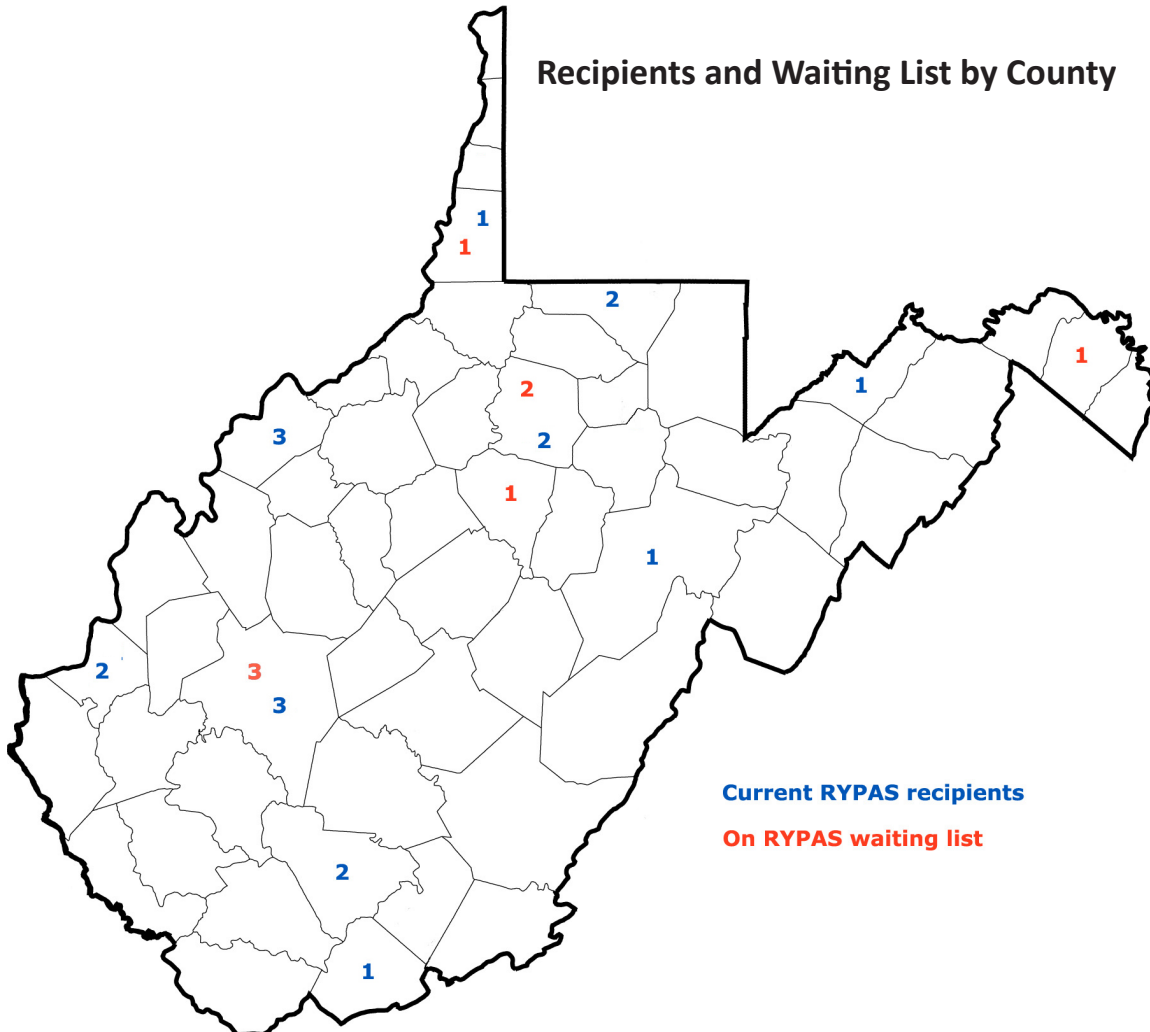
Waiting List – FY 2016

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 the Medicaid waiting list, and those who have not yet provided documentation of applying for Medicaid. 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 in fiscal year 2016 reduced the number of individuals waiting for RYPAS services from thirty-four(34) from sixteen(16) counties, to eight(8) individuals from five(5) counties. Some of the reasons for their removal were: they began receiving other services, passed away, or could not be contacted.

Total number on waiting list: 8
 Average age: 48
 Average hours needed per month per recipient: 151
 Average funding needed per month per recipient: \$1,102

Counties of Residence: Berkeley (1), Harrison (2), Kanawha (3), Lewis (1), Marshall (1)





Satisfaction Survey Results – FY 2016

Of the 17 surveys that were sent to RYPAS recipients, 13 responses were received (76%). The following is what the recipients told us.

The hours I receive are adequate for my needs: Yes – 9 No – 4

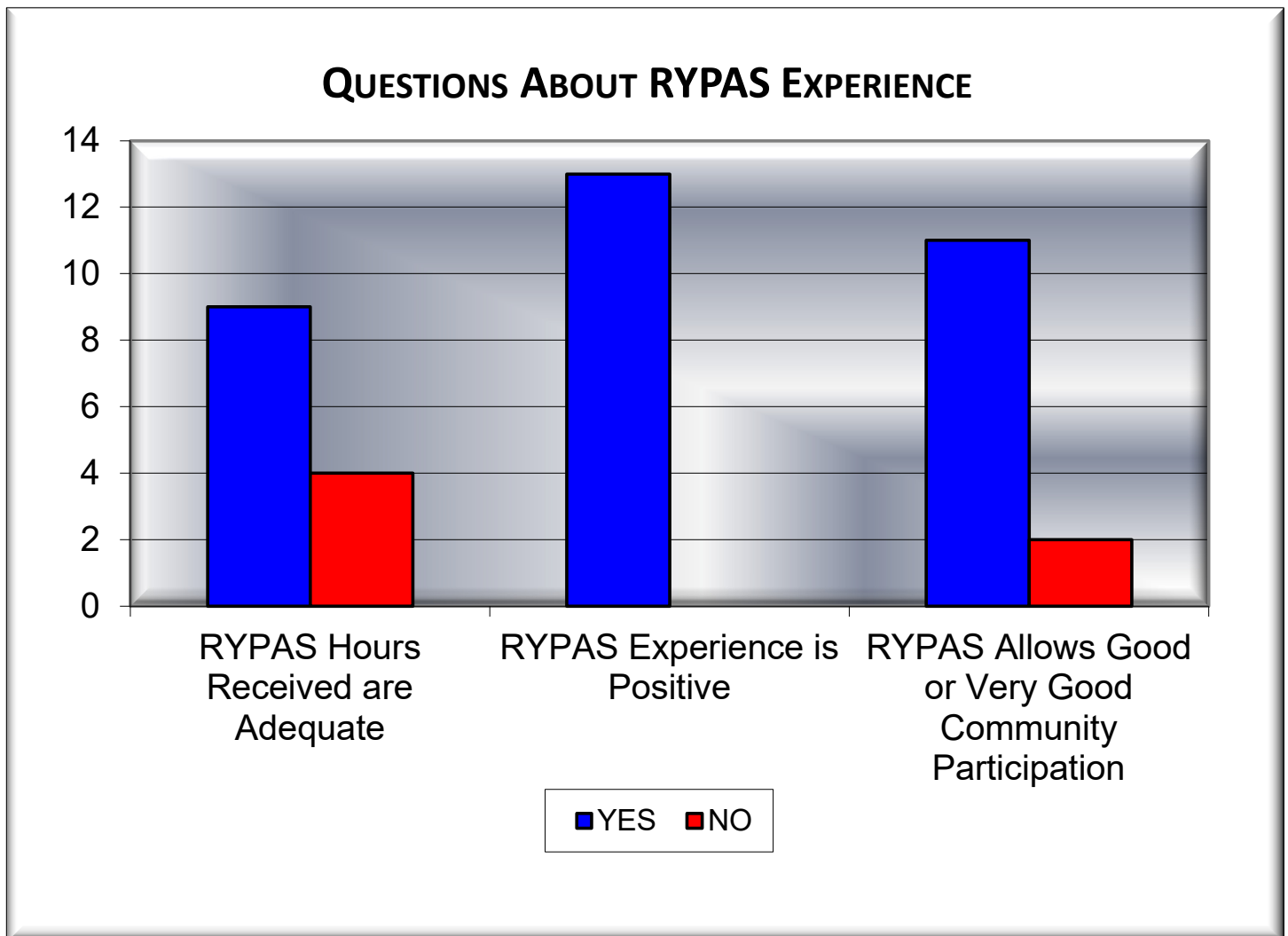
If no, please explain:

- It is hard to go to some places I need to with 12 hours a week
- Have extra health problems that require additional care since I became eligible for RYPAS
- I am very appreciative of the hours I receive, but I could use more help as I am getting worse
- I gave up some [hours]

My experience with the RYPAS program has been:

Very good – 11 Good – 2 Adequate – 0 Poor – 0 Very Poor – 0

I like being able to direct my personal assistance program: Yes – 13 No – 0



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

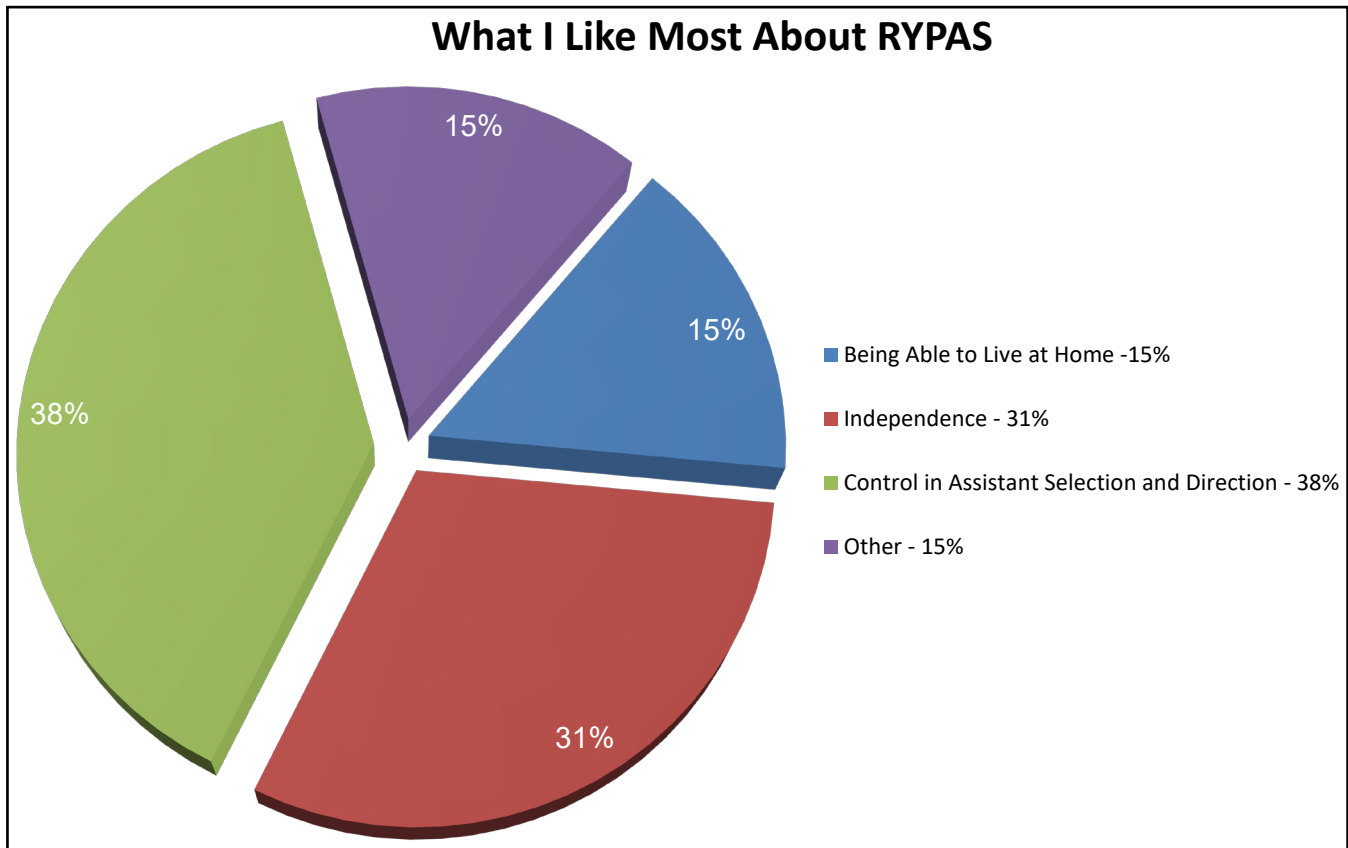
Are not a problem for me – 11 Cause me some concern – 2 Present a real problem for me – 0

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

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

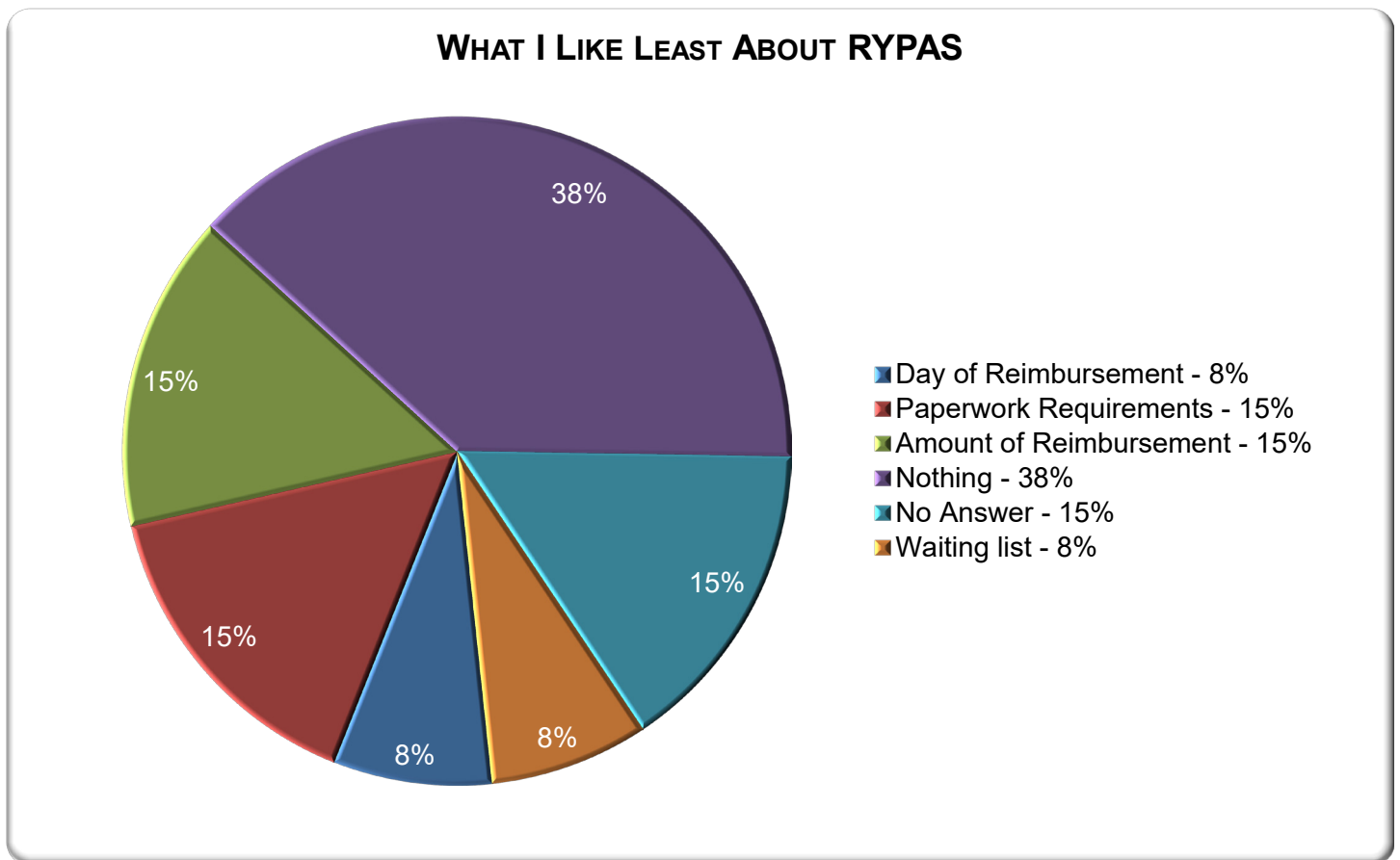
What I like most about the RYPAS program:

- The independence and security it provides
- I wouldn't get out as much since I can't drive myself
- The ability to direct my own personal services and stay active within my home and community
- Being able to self direct my care
- It enables me to be independent living at home (keeps me out of nursing home) and the ability to direct my care
- Being able to live in my own home
- The financial help
- It allows me to avoid injury
- My own management of staff
- The ability to choose my own caregiver
- Allows me to stay out of a nursing home
- Staff deposits checks
- Convenience of paperwork and hiring my own caregivers



What I like least about the RYPAS program:

- The uncertainty of fund availability released from the state
- The inability to expand the program and offer a higher wage to personal assistants
- The waiting list for new recipients
- Cannot increase hours needed
- Nothing
- Paying taxes
- Paperwork
- Would like day of reimbursement to be one day earlier



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

- More training
- Creation of a directory
- Increase pay rate
- More pay and more hours
- Higher wages for caretakers
- Online time sheets

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

- Funding getting cut
- The state canceling the program
- My husband not being able to care for me
- That it won't continue
- Lack of funding to pay caregivers

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

- Could not survive in the community
- I would be unable to afford care in my home, stay at home or be active within my home and family
- Not be able to participate in community activities or take care of my family
- We would have to sell some of our assets
- It would decline
- I don't know
- I would be unable to care for myself
- I would be confined to a nursing home for life
- I would be home bound
- I would have to move in with family

Responses Regarding Medicaid Personal Assistance Services**I was a RYPAS recipient but now I am receiving 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 – 0

The hours I receive from Medicaid are adequate for my needs: Yes – 0 No – 0*If no, please explain:*

- No responses

I am satisfied with my personal attendant services through medicaid: Yes – 0 No – 0**I think the medicaid waiver and other personal assistance programs should be consumer directed:**

Agree – 1 No Opinion – 2 Disagree – 0 No response – 9

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. A different caregiver each day costing \$8,250 per month.

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, costing 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. How do you want to live?



RYPAS Board & Program – FY 2016

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
- 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 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
- 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 board manual
- Make meeting arrangements
- Other duties as assigned by the board

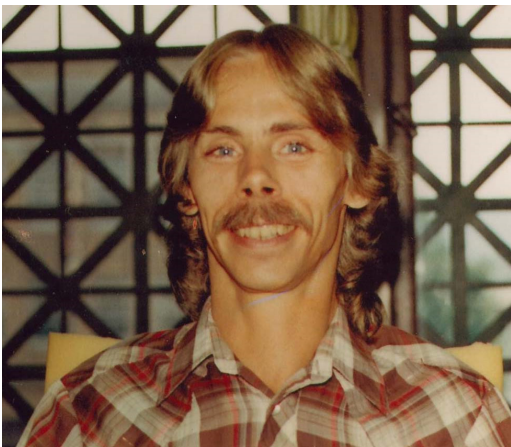
RYPAS Establishment – FY 2016

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.

It is RYPAS's policy to provide 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.

RYPAS Board Members

- Cathy Hutchinson - Chairperson, Charleston, WV
- Beverley Jones - Vice Chair, Hurricane, WV
- Ron Brown - Secretary, Huntington, WV
- Charlotte Roth, Morgantown, WV
- Vicki Shaffer, Morgantown, WV
- Paul Smith, Elkview, 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



RYPAS

P.O. Box 625
Institute, WV 25112-0625

304-766-4624

1-855-855-9743

wvsilc@wvsilc.org

www.wvsilc.org