



2017 Annual Report

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

This Annual Report is respectfully submitted to:

The Honorable James C. Justice , Governor
The Honorable Mitch Carmichael, 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 such 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 institutional setting.

RYPAS provided funds to 18 individuals during 2017. The average age of recipients was 63 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 \$315,824 annually to continue to function in their own homes and communities. The needs of those on the waiting list are estimated to be \$118,562, 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 \$434,386 in order to continue services to the current recipients and to address the waiting list of 6 people.

As of the printing of this report, we have 16 individuals receiving services as two RYPAS recipients passed away during the fiscal year. Four individuals waiting for this program were removed from the waiting list and two were added, leaving six individuals on the waiting list. 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 \$434,386 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,


Beverley Jones
Chairperson

Financial Overview – FY 2017

The appropriation for the RYPAS Program during FY-17 was \$354,041. 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 2017 Budget Appropriation	\$354,041
Fiscal Year 2016 Carryover	\$55,282
Mid-Year Budget Cuts	\$20,213
Funding available for FY 2017	\$389,110

Expenditures

Recipient Reimbursements	\$314,501
Administrative Costs	\$22,281

Income

FY 2017 Interest Earned	\$0
FY 2017 Donations	\$2,500

Balance June 30, 2017

Carried over for recipient services in FY 2018	\$52,328
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Program Recipients

As of fiscal year end 2017, eighteen(16) individuals from ten(10) counties were receiving reimbursements for their personal assistance services through the RYPAS program. During the fiscal year, a total of eighteen(18) individuals received services. Two individuals died during the fiscal year, but due to the mid-year budget cut, there was insufficient funding to bring anyone from the waiting list to the program.

	<u>Current Recipients</u>	<u>Total Recipients</u>
Total number of recipients	16	18
Average age of recipients	63	63
Average hours per month per recipient	214	201
Average cost per month per recipient*	\$1,552	\$1,457

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

Program Activity

Overview

New Recipients – 0 Applicants Added to Waiting List – 2
 Applicants Removed from Waiting List – 4 Recipients on RYPAS Who Passed Away – 2

*In 2017, according to www.payingforseniorcare.com, the average nursing home cost for an individual in West Virginia was \$8,250 per month. Compared to the average cost of the RYPAS program, that is \$6,745.50 more than the cost to allow someone to live comfortably in their home through the RYPAS program in 2017.



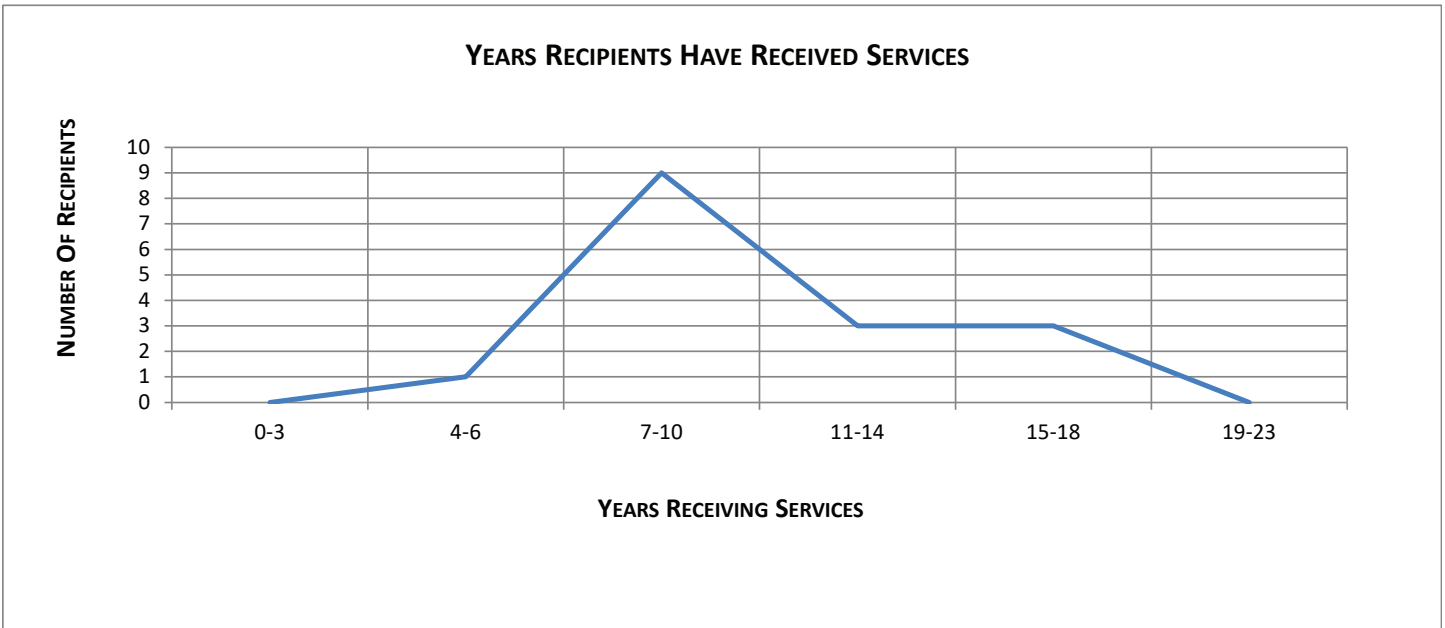
Current Recipients – FY 2017

There are currently 16 RYPAS recipients receiving services.

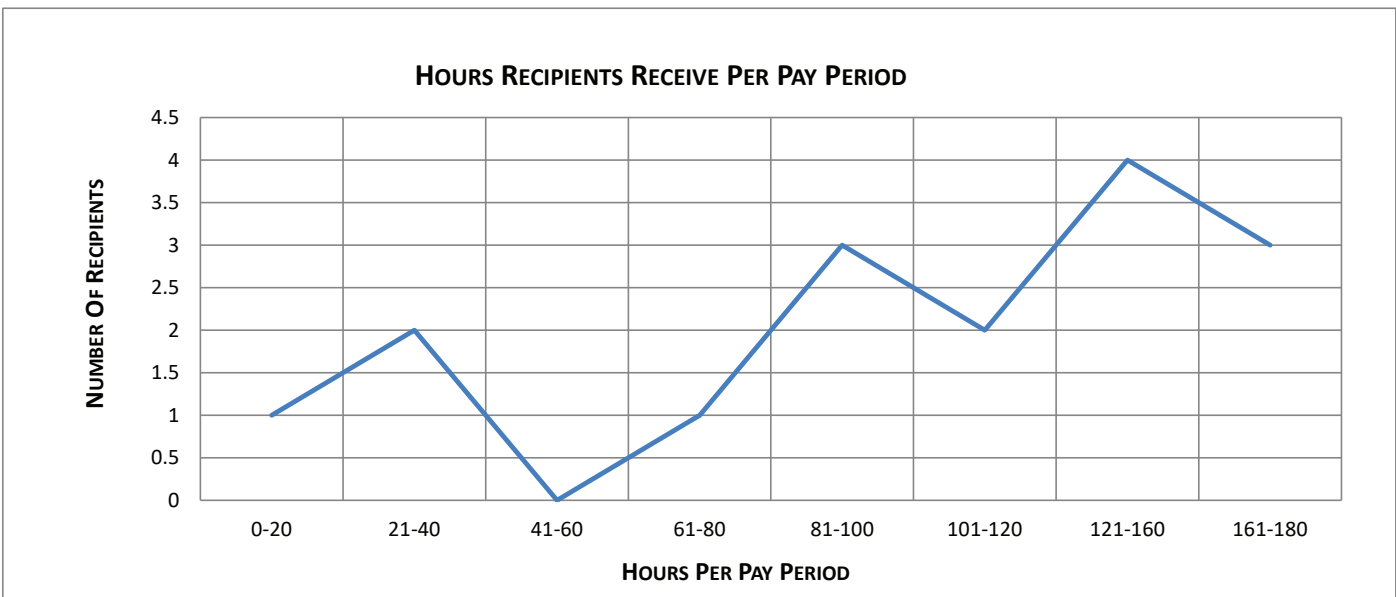
- Age of recipients: 21-30 years – 0 31-40 years – 1
 41-50 years – 2 51-60 years – 4
 61-70 years – 4 71-80 years – 4
 81-90 years – 1

- Gender: Male – 6 Female – 10

- Length of time receiving services: 6 to 17 years



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



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

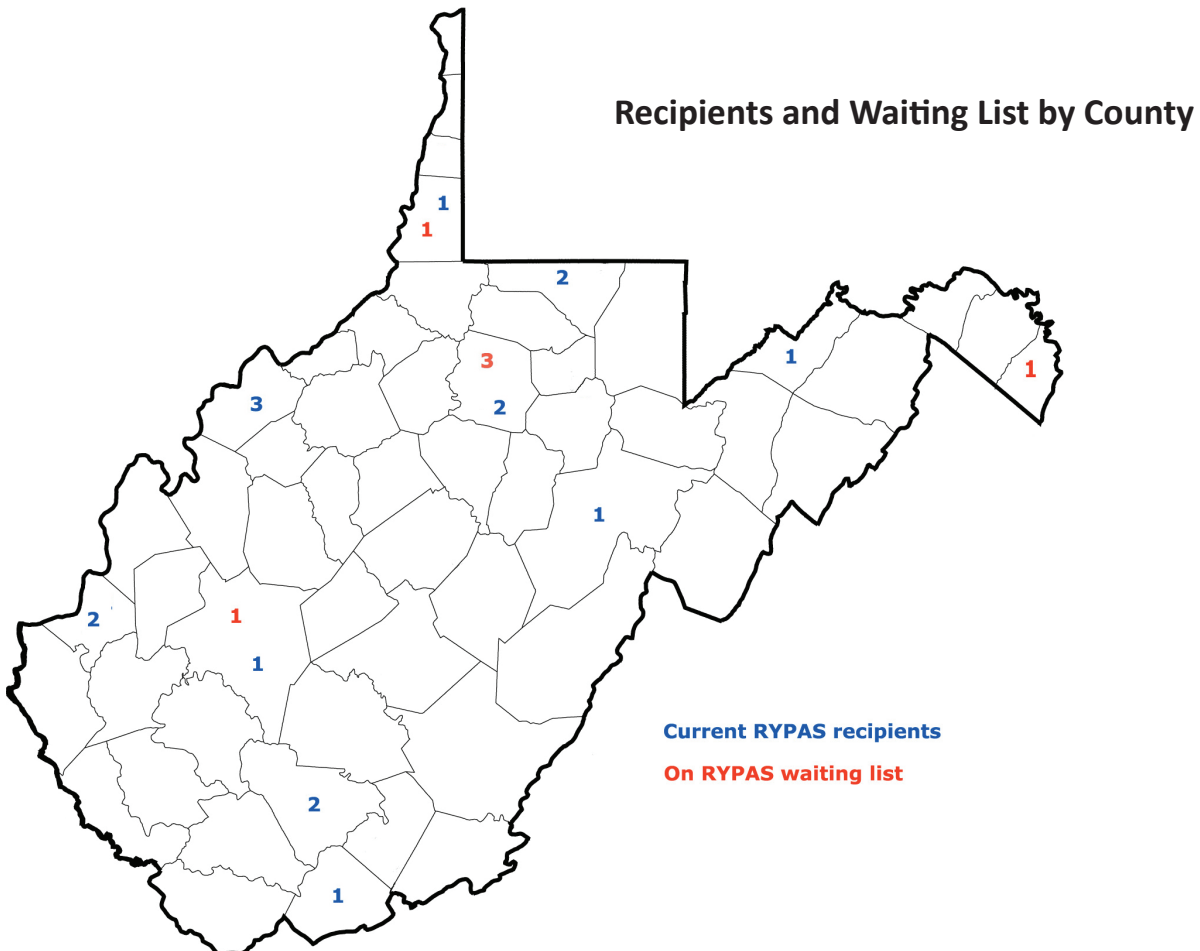
Waiting List – FY 2017

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 2017 revealed the number of individuals waiting for RYPAS services was reduced from eight(8) individuals from five(5) counties, to six(6) individuals from four(4) counties. Four(4) individuals were removed and two(2) individuals were added to the waiting list. Two(2) people began receiving other services and two(2) people could not be contacted. No one on the waiting list began receiving services because of insufficient funding.

Total number on waiting list: 6
 Average age: 57
 Average hours needed per month per recipient: 217
 Average funding needed per month per recipient: \$1,573

Counties of Residence: Harrison (3), Jefferson (1), Kanawha (1), Marshall (1)





Satisfaction Survey Results – FY 2017

Of the 17 surveys that were sent to current and previous RYPAS recipients, 13 responses were received (76%) and the following was reported:

The hours I receive are adequate for my needs: Yes – 10 No – 3

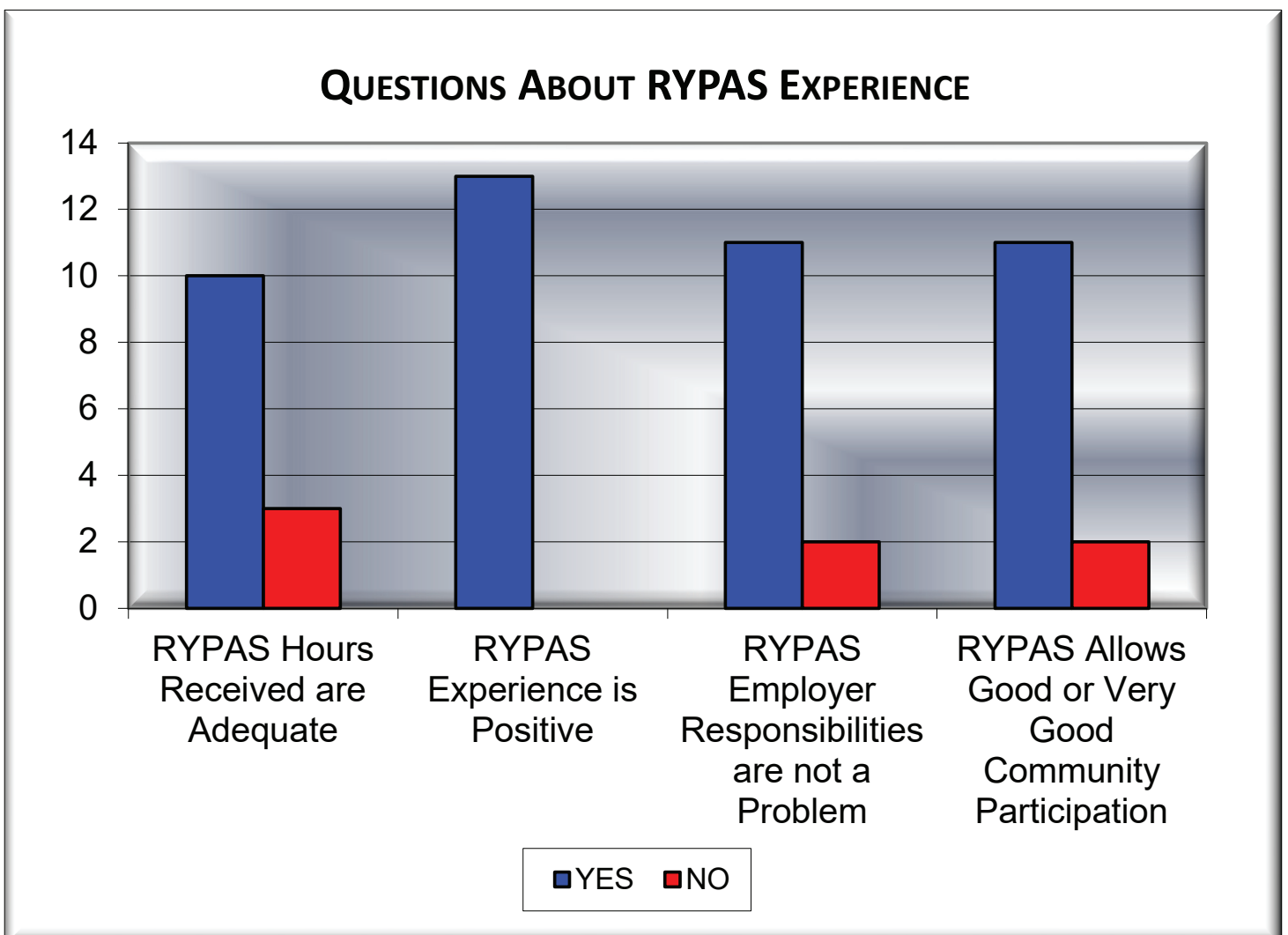
If no, please explain:

- I need a lot of help everyday
- Can't afford additional taxes and wages above \$7.25 per hour

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

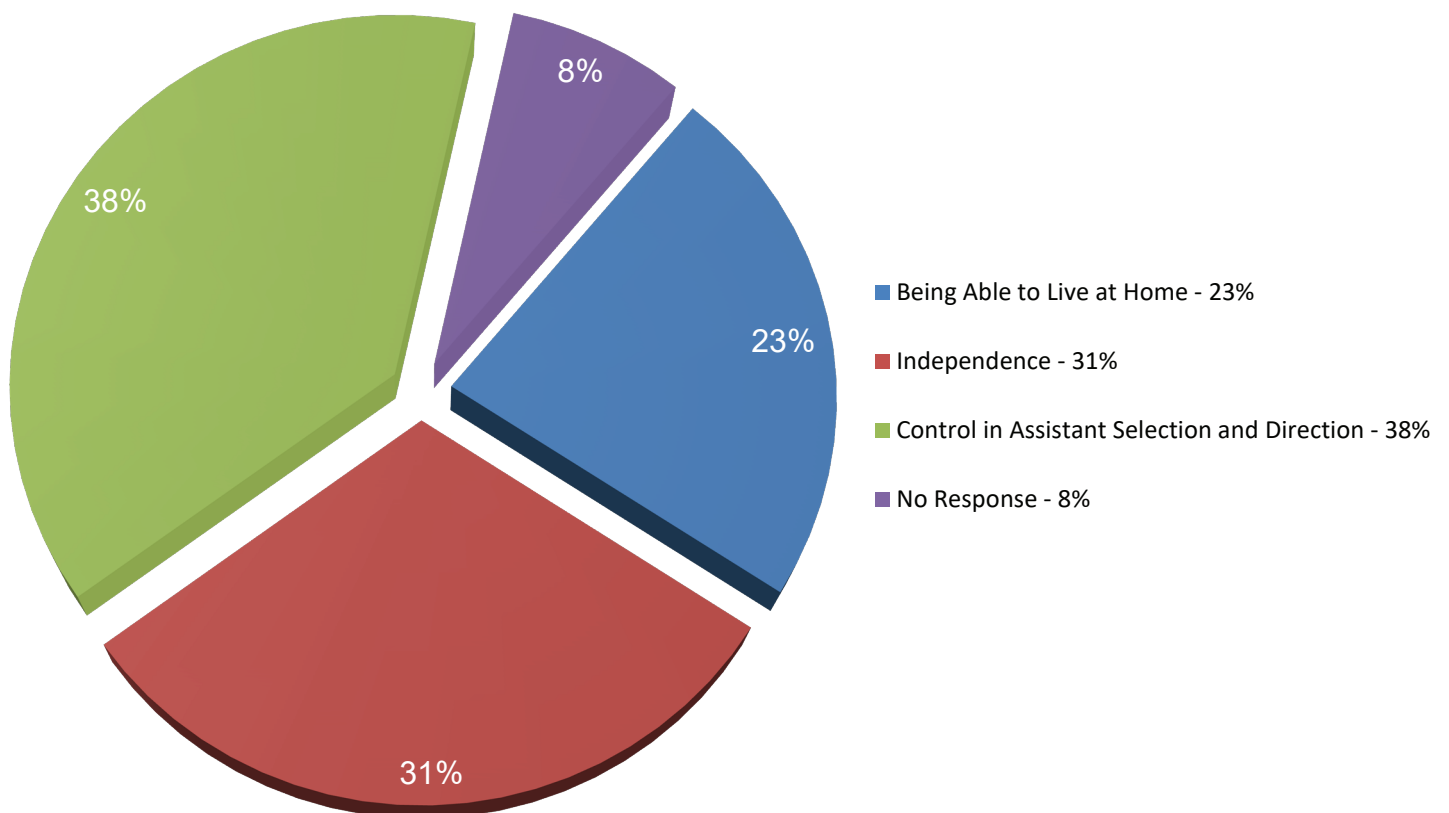
Because of the RYPAS program, my ability to actively participate in the community is:

Very good – 8 Good – 3 Adequate – 2 Poor – 0 No Response – 0

What I like most about the RYPAS program:

- Being able to direct my own care and stay at home with my family
- Getting help with personal care
- It does not have the feeling that “the state” is overly involved in healthcare
- Being able to self direct my care
- The flexibility it gives me
- The ability to choose my own caregiver and ability to be more independent
- Great support team; independence, ability to stay in my own home
- The people I work with and all of CIL
- Directing own services
- I am able to stay in my own home and my husband can take care of me
- Choosing my own caretaker

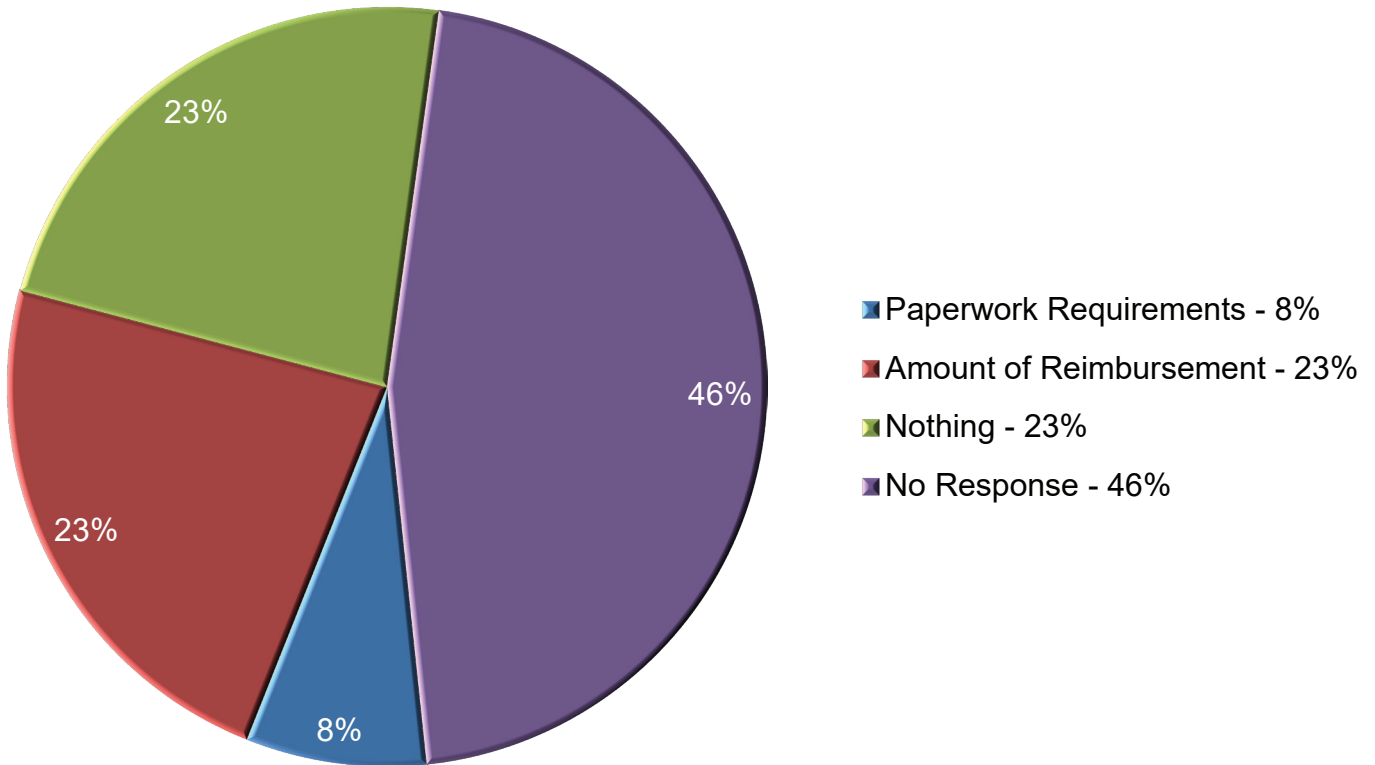
What I Like Most About RYPAS



What I like least about the RYPAS program:

- It would be nice if funding would be increased
- The paperwork
- There is nothing I dislike
- No increase in wages
- Not enough hours, taxes
- Nothing

WHAT I LIKE LEAST ABOUT RYPAS



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

- More hours
- Higher wages for caretakers
- Need more hours and more money to help keep my caregivers
- The government allowing all who need RYPAS to have it

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

- That RYPAS will not always be there to help me
- RYPAS ending
- Not having RYPAS and not getting enough hours and money to help
- Political influence
- RYPAS will lose funding

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

- I would be lost financially
- It would be very hard
- I would have to go to a nursing home
- I would be forced into an expensive nursing home
- I truly don't know, I live alone and have no family
- I would end up in a nursing home
- I could not care for myself properly

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 – 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 – 2 No Opinion – 0 Disagree – 0 No response – 10

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 2017

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.

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

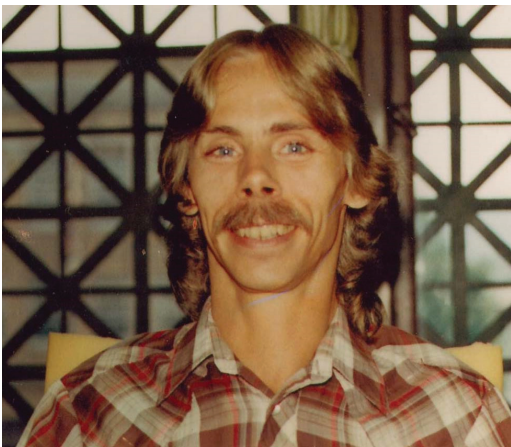
RYPAS Establishment – FY 2017

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.

Current RYPAS Board Members

- Beverley Jones - Chairperson, Hurricane, WV
- Vicki Shaffer - Vice Chair, Morgantown, WV
- Paul Smith - Secretary, Elkview, WV
- Delmar Davis, Charleston, WV
- Nathan Parker, Huntington, 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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