



Establish a PCA Rate Framework *SF 3457, Relph; HF 3654, Lippert*

Minnesota's Personal Care Assistance (PCA) program—accessed by 44,000 people—is one of the most cost-effective Medicaid programs in our state, helping older adults and people with disabilities live and work as independently as possible in their communities.

The service provided by PCAs, who help with a wide range of personal supports, has been a critical lifeline for thousands of our neighbors, family members, and friends since the 1970s.

Today, Minnesota's PCA program—and the people who depend on it—are in crisis.

Over the last eleven years, the program's reimbursement rate has only been increased by \$1.56 per hour—an average increase of 14 cents per year.

The average PCA makes just \$12.00 per hour—resulting in high turnover, reducing quality, and creating instability in the lives of people with disabilities and older adults.

Some Minnesotans have died in their homes due to the PCA staffing shortage. Others have moved into more costly, restrictive settings like nursing homes.

To ensure sustainability and improve the quality of Minnesota's PCA program, we must:

- establish a data-driven rate reimbursement framework
- increase wages for PCAs and the Qualified Professionals who supervise them
- increase the enhanced rate for individuals with the highest support needs
- consistently collect statewide service provider data





Ensure PCA Program Integrity

Minnesota's Personal Care Assistance (PCA) program—accessed by 44,000 people—is one of the most cost-effective Medicaid programs in our state, helping older adults and people with disabilities live and work as independently as possible in their communities.

This year, the Minnesota legislature has an opportunity to develop quality standards for all provider agencies that will add value to program participants, attract and retain PCAs, and ensure the sustainability of this crucial service.

To ensure sustainability and improve the quality of Minnesota's PCA program, we must:

- **Raise the bar for agencies enrolling as Personal Care Assistance providers.**
 - *Require providers to update DHS documents annually (Bond, Insurance, etc.).*
 - *Provide proof of 2 payrolls or a line of credit at enrollment and revalidation.*
 - *Establish policies and procedures for provider operations and programs.*

- **Enhance provider reporting requirements.**
 - *Provide financial statements demonstrating that at least 72.5% of rate was paid to PCAs.*

- **Consistently collect statewide service provider data.**

In formalizing best practices statewide, members of the Minnesota legislature and the general public will be able to trust in the stewardship of Medical Assistance dollars that fund the PCA program.

Greater provider standards will reduce and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse in the PCA program, while improving the quality of service accessed by people with disabilities and older adults.