



COUNTY OF BERGEN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION ON DISABILITY SERVICES
Providing Programs and Services for over 35 Years
One Bergen County Plaza • 2nd Floor • Hackensack, NJ 07601-7076
(201) 336-6500 • TTY (201) 336-6505 * FAX (201) 336-6510

James J. Tedesco III
County Executive

Jane Linter
Department Director

James R. Thebery, M.A., CSW
Division Director

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROGRAM
FACT SHEET

What is the Personal Assistance Services Program?

The Personal Assistance Services Program, (PASP) established under N.J.S.A. 30:1-12; P.L. 1993, c. 215 is designed to provide personal assistance services to individuals with permanent physical disabilities. These services enable adults with disabilities to be employed, prepare for employment and/or live independently. Personal assistance services differ from traditional home services in that they are consumer directed and supervised and are considered to be a non-medical model of assistance, rather than a home health care service.

Which counties have the Program?

The law establishes the program in each of the 21 counties in the State of New Jersey. County government has the responsibility for designating an office of county government, or another community based agency, that has experience in providing information and services for persons with disabilities, to administer the program locally.

Who will administer this program?

The law established the Personal Assistance Services Program in the State Division on Disability Services housed in the New Jersey Department of Human Services. **The program for Bergen and Hudson is administered through the Bergen County Division on Disability Services.** The county Division is responsible, under the supervision of the state Office on Disability Services, for consumer selection, assistant recruitment and local operation of the program.

What are Personal Assistant Services and who provides them?

Personal assistants are individuals with training or related experience in providing in-home services, who directly assist a person with a disability in carrying out routine non-medical tasks such as bathing, dressing, transfer to a wheelchair, meal preparation, laundry, shopping, household management and transportation.

Who is eligible to receive these services?

Consumers served under the program are subject to the following eligibility criteria.

- * **Permanently physically disabled**
- * **Between the ages of 18 and 70**
- * **Capable of self-direction and able to supervise a personal assistant**
- * **Resident of the State of New Jersey**

In selecting consumers for participation in the program, preference is given to those individuals who are in paid employment, in a program preparing them for employment (school/job training) volunteering, or using services to support community based independent living.

Are there financial eligibility criteria?

No, under the law there are no financial eligibility criteria for consumers. Those persons who qualify under the current Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) guidelines receive the service at no cost; those with incomes in excess of those guidelines are expected to contribute toward the cost of their services based on a sliding scale (Cost-share).

How are the hours and type of service determined?

Consumers selected for the program receive up to 40 hours of service per week, based on their individual needs. A "Plan of Service" specifying the type of service required and the hours requested, is completed by the applicant in the assessment process conducted by a registered nurse, social worker or rehabilitation professional. A professional assessment will be conducted to determine the person's capacity for self-direction, and the appropriateness of the requested plan of service to meet their needs. A recommendation will be made to the county division regarding the person's suitability for the program and award of hours. Additional services that a consumer may be eligible to receive through other funding sources (Medicaid, private insurance, etc) must be accessed first and are taken into account in formulating the final consumer Plan of Service.

Where can I get further information about the program?

Further information on the Bergen / Hudson Personal Assistance Services Program may be obtained by contacting:

**Bergen County Division on Disability Services
One Bergen County Plaza 2nd FL.
Hackensack, NJ 07601-7076**

**Liliana Zorrilla, PASP Coordinator (201) 336-6508
Anna Alpine, PASP Assistant Coordinator (201) 336 6502
TTY (201) 336-6505**

**IN-HOME CAREGIVER EDUCATION
& SUPPORT PROGRAM**

The Caregiver Education & Support Program provides in-home professional instruction and support to caregivers entrusted with the responsibilities of caring for someone with a chronic illness, disability or disease. As there are no income guidelines to qualify, the service is free to Bergen County residents who are over 18 years of age. Among the services available are a registered nurse; occupational, physical and speech therapists; nutritionists; and a social worker.

Please contact Daniel Kotkin At:
201-336-6504

**THE BERGEN COUNTY
DIVISION ON DISABILITY
SERVICES ASSISTS COUNTY
RESIDENTS WITH
DISABILITIES: ACHIEVE
THEIR FULL POTENTIAL;
REALIZE THEIR FULL
INVOLVEMENT AND/OR
INCLUSION IN ALL ASPECTS
OF EVERYDAY LIVING; AND
PROMOTE COMMUNITY-
BASED INDEPENDENT LIVING**

ADVISORY BOARD

Composed of 25 volunteer members, the board convenes 6 times per year, and is comprised of a majority of individuals with a Disability, those with distinguished records working in the field of disability, and are representatives of persons with disabilities.

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COUNTY OF BERGEN



James J. Tedesco III
Bergen County Executive

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Bergen County Executive

**BERGEN
COUNTY
DIVISION ON
DISABILITY
SERVICES**

Established 1978

Celebrating 35 Years of Service

**SERVING PEOPLE
WITH ALL DISABILITIES**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

One Bergen County Plaza

Hackensack, New Jersey 07601-7076

VOICE: (201) 336-6500

TTY: (201) 336-6505 *(Telephone Communicatio
For the Deaf and Hard of Hearing)*

FAX: (201) 336-6510

WEB SITE: www.co.bergen.nj.us

SERVICES

GENERAL INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE:

Comprehensive resources and listings are available on disability-related matters and requests for appropriate program and agency referrals. This service is available to private and public sector entities and the community-at-large.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) ASSISTANCE PROJECT:

Qualified individuals with disabilities safeguards against discrimination based on disability in employment, state and local government, public accommodations, telecommunications and transportation. ADA-related information and assistance is provided, at no cost, to private and public sector entities and the general public.

Disability Resource Center:

A myriad of Disability related publications are available, e.g., pamphlets, periodicals and catalogues on such topics as: demographics, legislative updates, advocacy groups, assistive-technology, federal and state civil rights laws, and basic data/research updates on specific disabilities.

James R. Thebery, M A, CSW
Division on Disability Services, Director

ADRC (AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CONNECTION):

There is a coordinated system to simplify access to health and human services for individuals with disabilities over the age of 18, their family members and caregivers. Care Management services are available, as well as information and assistance with: PAAD, Lifeline, Medicare, Medicaid, referrals, nutrition, education, recreation, volunteer opportunities, health outreach, adult day care, benefits screening, in-home assistance, Meals-on-Wheels, respite, among others. Please contact Daniel Kotkin at 201-336-6504.

PROGRAMS

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROGRAM (PASP):

Personal assistants provide up to 40 hours per week of services such as light housekeeping, shopping, meal preparation, bathing, dressing, correspondence and shopping for self-directed individuals age 18 thru 70 with permanent physical disabilities in the following categories: salaried employee, student pursuing educational/training opportunities related to employment or persons involved in a verifiable volunteering activity contributing 20 or more hours a month. Consumers will be assessed using a sliding scale cost-share fee. Please contact:

Liliana Zorrilla at 201-336-6508 or
Anna Alpine at 201-336-6502

POST STROKE & DISABLED ADULT SUPPORT GROUPS:

The Post Stroke & Disabled Adult Support Group Program sponsors four (4) support groups that meet weekly. Group functions include group discussions in the round; activities geared to promote personal fitness; arts & crafts; ceramics; guest speakers; entertainment groups; trivia games; parties; and occasional leisure and recreational outings. The groups meet in the following municipalities: East Rutherford-Thursday, Englewood-Friday, Maywood-Thursday, and Ridgewood-Tuesday. There is no fee to participate.

Contact Daniel Kotkin 201-336-6504.

MEALS-ON-WHEELS:

Meals are delivered daily to adults with a severe permanent or temporary disability who are homebound and incapable of basic meal preparation. Individuals, age 18 thru 59, must be on a regular diet. Weekend and Kosher meals can be arranged in some cases. A donation of \$1.25 for each meal is suggested to assist in the cost of providing meals to individuals with disabilities who are in need of meal delivery.

Contact Bertha-Nora Acosta at 201-336-6501.

STATEWIDE RESPITE CARE PROGRAM:

Provides services to over-burdened caregivers who need an occasional break from the stressful demands by constant ministering to the needs of frail elderly and/or individuals with a disability. Services offered include: home care, social and medical day care, temporary nursing home stay, and both day and residential camp. Special consideration may be given for emergency respite services. Participants may be assessed a sliding scale cost share fee. For further information and eligibility requirements, contact: Cathie Smithward at 201-336-6511
Fonda Diamond-Levine at 201-336-6503 or
Sabrina Garris at 201-336-6506.

