

## RON YOST PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES FUNDING (RYPAS)

The Fair Shake Network (FSN) supports maintaining funding for the Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services (RYPAS) Program at \$400,000 (a line item in the budget for the Division of Rehabilitation Services). The waiting list for the program continues to grow. Funding should be maintained at least at a level which will continue to serve current recipients.

There are currently 22 recipients on the **RYPAS** program who use an average of 47 hours per week of PAS at an **average cost of \$17,625 per year**. The WV Health Care Association reports the **average cost of nursing home care** is \$188 per day or **\$68,620 per year**.

- Without the RYPAS program current recipients and those on the waiting list are at risk of being forced into nursing homes or other institutional settings.
- There are currently 15 individuals on the waiting list for the RYPAS program and an additional \$206,379 is the estimated cost to meet their needs.
- Maintaining funding for this program is essential to maintain the independence of the current recipients.
- Currently, individuals on the waiting list are only moved onto the program when a current recipient dies or experiences a change in their living situation which eliminates their need for services.

**The FSN strongly supports maintaining funding for RYPAS at \$400,000. Any reduction in funding would result in loss of services for current recipients and placement in institutional settings.**

### Why are Personal Assistance Services (PAS) Essential?

RYPAS provides funding for people with disabilities to hire personal assistants to help with their personal care and other daily activities of independent living. Recipients of RYPAS are people with severe disabilities who are in need of **support and assistance to enable them to live in their own homes and communities** instead of nursing homes or other restrictive, segregated settings. These services can include, but are not limited to, assistance with bathing, cooking, dressing, and housekeeping.

### Characteristics of the RYPAS Program:

- ❖ The person with a disability is the employer of their personal assistant(s) and has the employer responsibilities of hiring, training, supervising, scheduling, paying, terminating (if necessary) their assistant(s), and managing all the employer tax responsibilities. They may also designate an individual to manage these responsibilities for them.
- ❖ Eligibility is based on functional need rather than on medical diagnosis.
- ❖ Individuals are eligible for RYPAS only if they are **not receiving PAS from a Medicaid program** and they must apply for Medicaid programs and take them if they are eligible.
- ❖ A **sliding fee schedule** requires recipients to contribute to the cost of services based on their ability to do so.