



February 23, 2015

## **Personal Care Services (and More) for Children and Adults with Disabilities**

Are you or your child with a developmental disability currently waiting for waiver services to assist you in your home and community? Could you benefit from receiving personal care or other services while you wait? The Louisiana Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities recently reviewed the more than 13,000 people on the waiting list for the New Opportunities Waiver and found that the overwhelming majority have a Medicaid card; however, most are not accessing support services for which they may be eligible. Medicaid card holders who meet certain eligibility criteria may be able to access these services through Medicaid without waiting for the waiver.

### **Children (Age 0-21)**

Children with disabilities who are Medicaid eligible may qualify for Personal Care Services if these services are medically necessary (a physician's prescription is required). This program, sometimes called EPSDT-PCS, provides a personal care attendant to children who need assistance with eating, bathing, dressing, and personal hygiene due to physical limitations. This service does not include medical tasks such as medication administration, tracheostomy care, feeding tubes or catheters, but those medical services are covered under the Medicaid Home Health Program or Extended Home Health. If you think your child may be eligible for Personal Care Services you can contact a PCS provider that will assist you through the application process. [Click here](#) for a list of providers by parish. If you cannot find a provider, contact the Department of Health and Hospitals toll free at (888) 758-2220.

Children with disabilities who are Medicaid eligible and are on the waiver waiting list can receive Support Coordination by calling SRI toll-free at (800) 364-7828. Children who are not on the waiting list may also qualify for this service if it is medically necessary (a physician's prescription is required). A support coordinator works with you and your child to develop a comprehensive list of all needed services (such as medical care, therapies, personal care services, equipment, social services, and educational services) and then assists you in obtaining them for your child.

Many "medically necessary" services are available to Medicaid recipients under the age of 21. Your child's primary healthcare provider should be able to assist you in accessing these services. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Adults (Age 21+)**

Adults with disabilities who are Medicaid eligible may qualify for Long Term – Personal Care Services (LT-PCS). This program provides qualifying individuals help with activities of daily living such as eating, bathing, dressing, grooming, transferring, light housekeeping, shopping, and preparing meals.



Louisiana Developmental  
Disabilities Council

## *LaDDDC NEWS*

If you are 21 years of age or older, have a Medicaid card, and need assistance with activities of daily living due to your disability, call Louisiana Options in Long Term Care toll-free at (877) 456-1146 (M-F between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.) to find out if you qualify for Long Term – Personal Care Services.

The Advocacy Center provides free legal services to people with disabilities in Louisiana. If you have trouble getting Medicaid services, the Advocacy Center may be able to help. Call (800) 960-7705 (Voice or via 711 Relay) or email [advocacycenter@advocacyla.org](mailto:advocacycenter@advocacyla.org).

