

2011 Legislative Changes to PCA services
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The 2011 session of Minnesota Legislature passed 3 significant changes to PCA services:

- 1) **The Legislature provided a minimal amount of 30 minutes per day of PCA service or 3.5 hours per week for those whose PCA eligibility was to be terminated July 1, 2011.**
This will mean PCA hours cuts for about 3,500 children and adults with only Level 1 behavior and/ or 1 ADL dependency, but they will remain eligible for 30 minutes per day of PCA service. While the amount of service provided is minimal, it will help some of those impacted avoid more expensive alternatives. In addition, it will allow school districts serving children in the mental health system and with behavior issues the option of spending their own resources to obtain federal Medicaid dollars for school-related PCA services. In 2009, schools obtained \$19 million for these services.

- 2) **20% Rate Cut for Non-Legally Responsible Relatives Providing PCA Services to a Family Member.**
Persons who live in rural areas, immigrant/refugee families whose first language is not English, other minority communities will be particularly hurt by this harsh cut. The 20% cut will reduce the modest earnings of many family members, including many women in their 50's and 60's who care for their adult sons and daughters with significant disabilities for many hours beyond those authorized to be paid as PCA services. Families who have cared for a loved one with total and permanent disabilities have all slid down the economic ladder, sacrificed personally and economically, and provided reliable, loving care at a much lower rate and higher quality than would otherwise be available. This cut saves the state about \$23 million and results in a PCA service cut of \$46 million due to the loss of federal Medicaid matching funds.

- 3) **1.5% provider rate cut applies to PCA providers and will be implemented in September 1, 2011 for 2 years.**
The rate cut is reduced to 1%, beginning July 1, 2013 for 2 years. This 1.5% rate cut is in addition to the 20% relative PCA cut for those services provided by specified family members. Another cut of 1.67% is slated to begin July 1, 2012 if DHS is not allowed to implement tightened criteria for nursing facility eligibility.

A bill affecting PCA services, the DHS Continuing Care Policy bill (HF1406, SF 1120), was considered in the House and Senate but did not pass at the very end of the regular session. The bill contained numerous significant changes and clarifications for PCA services. It is possible that many PCA provisions from these bills will be re-introduced during the 2012 session.

[Minnesota Disability Law Center Web Resource for PCA Changes](#)