



FLORIDA INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL, Inc.

Volume 1, Issue 5
May 2006

Personal Care Attendant Program

June Calendar

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Tallahassee, FL 32303-6271
Toll Free (877) 822-1993
(850) 488-5624 V/TDD
(850) 488-5881 Fax

What is a Personal Care Attendant?

A Personal Care Attendant (PCA) is an individual who assists persons with significant disabilities perform activities of daily living, such as dressing, bathing and eating. The availability of personal care for people with disabilities can make the critical difference between independent living in the community or institutionalization. Because personal care services are the cornerstone of inclusion in the community, the Personal Care Attendant Program may assist qualified individuals maintain employment.

How Does the Personal Care Attendant Program Work?

The program was established to lessen the financial difficulties faced by individuals with high level spinal cord injuries (*such as losing social security benefits*) that prevent them from returning to work or maintaining their substantial gainful employment.

The program will provide eligible individuals with financial assistance to help pay for their personal care attendants who help them perform activities of daily living that enable them to maintain substantial gainful employment.

How is the Program Funded?

Funding for the Personal Care Attendant Program is generated by the Tax Collection Enforcement Diversion Program and a percentage of revenue from the Motorcycle Specialty License Plates. The funds are deposited into the operating account of the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation (The Able Trust) that issues the payments to the PCA Program participants.

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June 2, 2006
Executive Committee 1:30—3:00 p.m.
Teleconference

June 6, 2006
Personnel Committee 2:00 p.m.
Teleconference

June 7, 2006
Planning Committee 2:00 p.m.

Evaluation Committee 3:00 p.m.
Teleconferences

June 14, 2006
Finance Committee 10:45 a.m.
Teleconference

June 15, 2006
Standards Taskforce 10:00 a.m.
Teleconference

Advocacy Committee 2:00 p.m.
Teleconference

June 22-23
Technical Assistance
Visit to Disability
Resource Center
Panama City, FL

JUNE
CONFERENCE
DATES

June 5-6, 2006
New Law—New
Rides—New Freedom
for People with
Disabilities in Rural
America
Orlando, Florida

Activities initiated/hosted by the Florida Independent Living Council are open to the public. For information about these or any other FILC events please contact the FILC office @ (850)488-5624.

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Please submit information you would like to contribute to this publication to Molly Gosline at mg@polaris.net

2006 NATIONAL COUNCIL ON INDEPENDENT LIVING

In May, several board members and staff from the Florida Independent Living Council attended the 2006 National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) Conference held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C. The essence of NCIL is to empower individuals to exercise their right to live independently. The theme of the annual conference “Ending the Institutional Bias” could not be more relevant to who we are and what we do. The State Independent Living Councils and the Centers for Independent Living have supported and taken an active role in ending the forced institutionalization of people with disabilities nationwide. There are thousands of people attempting to escape nursing homes and institutions and the current Medicaid and Medicare systems do not have a viable mechanism to fund persons with disabilities to live in the community. It has been demonstrated that it is more cost effective for the health care service delivery system. The three day conference opened with a presentation by attorney and civil rights activist Steve Gold and ended with a rally and march to the Capital that included visits to Congressional leaders by all attendees.

Personal Care Attendant Program

"Independence Worth Preserving"

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ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be a citizen of the United States of America
- Must be a resident of the State of Florida
- Documented spinal cord injury with functional level between Cervical 1 and 6
- A completed PCA Program Medical Eligibility Form or a High-Priority PCA Program Medical Eligibility Form
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must require personal assistance for bathing, dressing, bowel and bladder management, eating and/or transportation
- Must require personal assistance to maintain gainful employment
- Must be able to hire and manage a personal care attendant
- Must not be eligible for SSDI or SSI (unless in a trial work period)
- Must be gainfully employed and working a minimum of 32 hours per week (Employment will be verified by Program Administrator)
- Must be earning a minimum of \$9,960 annually and no more than a maximum of \$60,000 per year for up to a two-person family. An additional \$10,000 is allowed for each dependent.
- Must be gainfully employed a minimum of six (6) months prior to applying; however, for residents currently living in a nursing home, there is no minimum requirement.

To find out more about the program, please contact Dan Casady, PCA Program Administrator, by phone at (813) 855-0125 or by email at dcasady1@tampabay.rr.com

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Florida Independent Living Council, Inc.
 Full Council Meeting
 July 12-14, 2006
 Radisson Resort Orlando—Celebration
 Kissimmee, Florida

TRAINING

Bill Milzarski (Michigan SILC, Civil Rights Attorney, Disabled Veteran) will be conducting a one day training on how Centers for Independent Living can better serve their veteran populations.
 When: Tuesday, July 11, 2006
 Time: 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
 Where: Radisson Resort Orlando—Celebration
 2900 Parkway Boulevard
 Kissimmee, FL 34747
 1-800-634-4774

Centers for Independent Living

- Suncoast Center for Independent Living** serving Sarasota and Manatee Counties, (941) 351-9545
- Coalition for Independent Living Options** serving Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Martin, and Palm Beach Counties, (561) 966-4288
- Center for Independent Living of Broward** serving Broward County, (954) 722-6400
- Disability Resource Center** serving Holmes, Jackson, Washington, Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Liberty, and Franklin Counties, (850) 769-6890
- Center for Independent Living of the Florida Keys** serving the Florida Keys, (305) 453-3491
- Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida** serving Hamilton, Suwanee, Columbia, Lafayette, Dixie, Gilchrist, Union, Bradford, Alachua, Levy, Marion, Putnam, Citrus, Sumter, and Hernando Counties, (352) 378-7474
- Self Reliance, Inc.** serving Hillsborough County, (813) 375-3965
- Center for Independent Living of South Florida** serving Dade County, (305) 751-8025
- Independent Living Resource Center of Northeast Florida** serving Baker, Nassau, Duval, Clay, and St. Johns Counties, (904) 399-8484
- Center for Independent Living of Southwest Florida** serving Charlotte, Glades, Lee, Hendry, and Collier Counties, (239) 277-1447
- Center for Independent Living of Northwest Florida** serving Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton Counties, (850) 595-5566
- Caring and Sharing Center for Independent Living** serving Pasco and Pinellas Counties, (727) 577-0065
- Ability 1st** serving Gadsden, Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson, Madison, and Taylor Counties, (850) 575-9621
- Victory Lane Center for Independent Living** serving Flagler and Volusia Counties, (386) 671-1960
- Space Coast Center for Independent Living** serving Brevard and Indian River Counties, (321) 784-9008
- Center for Independent Living of Central Florida** serving Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Lake, Seminole, Orange, and Osceola Counties, (407) 623-1070

Please feel free to distribute this letter to any other persons/organizations that may be interested.

It is the mission of the Florida Independent Living Council to assist and advocate for people with disabilities in achieving equal opportunities. Our vision is to foster change via leadership, collaboration and visibility.