



2019 Policy Initiatives

Establish a PCA Rate Framework

Minnesota's Personal Care Assistance (PCA) program—accessed by 43,000 people—is one of the most cost-effective Medicaid programs in our state, helping older adults and people with disabilities live and work as independently as possible in their communities.

The service provided by PCAs, who help with a wide range of personal supports, has been a critical lifeline for thousands of our neighbors, family members, and friends since the 1970s.

Today, Minnesota's PCA program—and the people who depend on it—are in crisis.

Over the last ten years, the program's reimbursement rate has only been increased by \$1.16 per hour—an average increase of less than 12 cents per year.

The average PCA makes just \$11.78 per hour—resulting in high turnover, reducing quality, and creating instability in the lives of people with disabilities and older adults.

Some Minnesotans have died in their homes due to the PCA staffing shortage. Others have moved into more costly, restrictive settings like nursing homes.

To ensure sustainability and improve the quality of Minnesota's PCA program, we must:

- establish a data-driven rate reimbursement framework
- increase wages for PCAs and the Qualified Professionals who supervise them
- increase the enhanced rate for individuals with the highest support needs
- consistently collect statewide service provider data



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