

Personal Care Attendant (PCA)

What is the PCA Program?

The PCA Program is a MassHealth program that helps people with permanent or chronic disabilities keep their independence, stay in the community, and manage their own personal care by providing funds to hire personal care attendants (PCAs). The PCA consumer (the person receiving PCA services) is the employer of the PCA, and is fully responsible for recruiting, hiring, scheduling, training, and, if necessary, firing PCAs.

How Do I Get a PCA?

- Anyone with a diagnosis of a chronic, medically disabling condition have the right to a PCA. There is no age requirement.
- Fill out an application for a PCA, available through PCA agencies and MassHealth
- After you apply, the PCA agency will evaluate your need for PCA services through in-home observation, medical history, and assessments by specialists
- After receiving your hours from the insurance company, you will be able to find a PCA
- You can choose a PCA from a PCA agency, or a family member can take on the role of a PCA.
- A PCA cannot be a parent, legally responsible relative, or your surrogate (or parent/foster parent if the MassHealth member is a minor)
- If you decide to hire a PCA from an agency, be sure to interview the PCA and make sure they will work well with your child.

Helpful Links:

- PCA Agencies List: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/personal-care-management-pcm-agency-list>
- More Information on the PCA Program: <https://www.mass.gov/masshealth-personal-care-attendant-pca-program>