



## Partners in Personal Assistance

PPA is a not-for-profit organization that:

- Offers empowering solutions for people with disabilities who want to exercise independence and self-determination in managing their personal care.
- Enables people with disabilities to determine the level of personal assistance and family involvement they think is appropriate.
- Offers a competitive wage, with benefits, and opportunities for professional growth to Personal Assistants who are dedicated to providing high quality in-home care.
- Advocates for self-directed in-home care as an alternative to costly institutional care so that people with disabilities can live in their own homes and remain active in their communities.
- Advocates for positive working conditions and living wages and benefits for Personal Assistants and other in-home care givers.

**PPA's mission is to empower people with disabilities to live self-directed lives by enabling them to determine, in partnership with their family and personal assistants, the support they need to live in their own homes.**

PPA's innovative approach to personal assistance is designed to foster a highly cooperative relationship between our consumers and Personal Assistants (PAs) that benefits both. Our consumers are able to exert a greater degree of control over their lives by taking a more proactive role in determining the level of support they receive. Knowing that they will receive high quality personal assistance services also adds to the stability in their lives. PAs can make an adequate income and enjoy the peace of mind that comes with having access to group health insurance.

Self-determination and cooperation are not just ideals that PPA promotes. They become real as a result of a process PPA facilitates, which includes the following:

- Conducting a thorough assessment of each consumer's situation and then helping the consumer to customize PPA's personal assistant job description template to meet the consumer's unique needs.
- Involving the consumer's family and/or friends as directed by the CE.
- Matching the consumer with a PA based on a thorough understanding of the consumer's unique needs and the PA's capabilities and interests.
- Arranging for a "job interview" between the consumer and PA, during which time they can jointly determine whether they are a good match.

PPA believes strongly that this model improves the lives of both CEs and PAs, while helping to reduce the cost of care for people with disabilities by enabling them to live in their own homes until they are medically unable to live independently. We can point to many examples where these goals have been achieved.

## Why would I choose Partners in Personal Assistance?

### As a Consumer Employer, you:

- have access to carefully screened, trained and bonded personal assistants
- exercise self-determination in your life
- have flexible services that meet your needs

### As a Personal Assistant, you:

- are respected as a professional
- have the opportunity for benefits and comprehensive training
- receive a competitive wage

### As Consumer Employers and Personal Assistants, you:

- create a mutually agreeable schedule
- work cooperatively
- empower one another

PPA is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of interested members of the community with a variety of backgrounds. We keep our overhead down by limiting our paid administrative staff to an Administrative Assistant and a Finance Manager.

We accept private pay and third-party reimbursement through the Area Agency on Aging, Macomb-Oakland Regional Center, Washtenaw Community Health Organization, the Department of Human Services, and some private insurance providers.





**How do I get involved with Partners in Personal Assistance?**

PPA invites anyone who is interested in finding out more about our unique organization to visit our website and call our office at the NEW Center in Ann Arbor.

We welcome the opportunity to set up an appointment to meet to determine if working with PPA is right for you.

**Partners in Personal Assistance @ NEW Center**

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**A Comparison of In-Home Help Services**

Traditional Model of Home Health Services

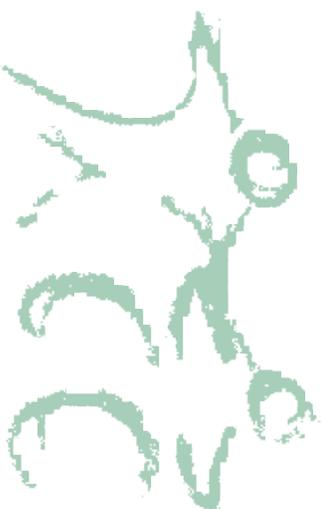
- Doctors plan treatment with nurse supervision
- Agency hires, trains, pays and can dismiss workers
- Agency limits user’s role in assessment and care plan development
- Agency limits available services
- Agency requires a minimum number of service hours

Self Determination Model

- No medical supervision required
- Consumer interviews and chooses their own personal assistants
- Consumer is a partner in determining what services are needed
- A broad range of services is available
- Service hours can be flexible

**Partners  
in**

**Personal Assistance**



***Empowering Lives  
and Promoting  
Self Determination***