



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Health Care Financing Administration

Center for Medicaid and State Operations
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

April 21, 1999

Dear State Medicaid Director:

In cooperation with the Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation, the Health Care Financing Administration encourages you to participate in the World Institute on Disability's (WID) study about Personal Assistance Services (PAS). In a study funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), WID plans to interview administrators of all the publicly funded PAS programs in the country.

In terms of State Medicaid programs, this study seeks information related to PAS (also referred to as Personal Care Services (PCS)) that includes services covered under a State's Medicaid plan, as well as personal care or attendant care services under home and community-based services waivers. By creating an alternative to institutional care, PAS has become a vital part of the continuum of services for people of all ages with disabilities.

It is difficult to know, however, how these programs operate because of the decentralized nature of the PAS system. This is where the World Institute on Disability's survey comes in. By providing data about your programs' PAS services to WID, you will be helping further our understanding of the PAS system and the people who use it. We believe the value of the data gathered makes this survey well worth the time and effort. Since not all sections of the survey are relevant to all programs, it is difficult to estimate how much time the actual survey interview will take. However, in WID's pilot testing, an hour was more than sufficient. All data collection is scheduled to be completed by late summer/early fall. WID expects to work with the data through the winter and would like to publish results as soon as possible in order for the information to be current and relevant.

It is our hope that the valuable information gained through this survey will enable all of us involved in the policy, design, and operation of PAS programs to provide comprehensive services which meet the needs of all Medicaid beneficiaries who rely on PAS to enrich their lives. We thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Sally K. Richardson

Director

cc: All HCFA Regional Administrators

All HCFA Associate Regional Administrators for Medicaid and State Operations

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