

**SECTION
SERVICES**

**SUBJECT
Specially Trained Attendant**

REFERENCES: ARM: 37. 90.436

DEFINITION

This service provides personal assistance by attendants who have been specially trained to meet the unique needs of the individual.

REQUIREMENTS

Personal assistants who serve individuals on the waiver must receive a minimum of 10 hours of training in mental health and recovery. Training and certification must be approved by the Community Program Officer (CPO). The Helena College, University of Montana offers an online certification program for direct care mental health providers. This program meets the mental health training requirement for specially trained attendants.

Personal assistants who serve individuals with physical disabilities must receive 4 hours of disability-specific training. Specially trained attendants who serve individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury must receive an additional 4 hours of TBI-specific training. Training and certification must be approved by the CPO. It is the responsibility of the provider agency to ensure that assistants are appropriately trained under agency based services.

QUALIFICATION FOR SERVICE

Individuals must meet one of the following qualifications to be eligible for a specially trained attendant:

1. Person with a Brain Injury whose needs cannot be met by standard personal assistance services (PAS);
2. Person with a severe physical disability whose needs cannot be met by standard PAS; and
3. Person with a severe disabling mental illness whose needs can't be met by standard PAS.

PAYMENT TO LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS

Payment for this service may be made to legally responsible individuals if program criteria are met.

RETAINER PAYMENTS

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Providers of this service may be eligible for retainer payments if authorized by the case management team. Retainer days are days on which the individual is either in the hospital, nursing facility, or on vacation. Payment for retainer days may not exceed 30 days or 720 hours per Person-Centered Recovery Plan year. Refer to SDMI HCBS 410.