

BSW 7## Services: Service Animals

DEFINITION

A service animal is trained to do work or perform particular tasks, which benefit a person with a physical disability or a person who is 65 or older. Examples of these tasks may include guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, pulling a wheelchair, fetching dropped items, or other tasks specific to the member. This service animal is intended to increase autonomy, decrease functional limitations, increase access to the home or community environment, and enhance safety.

PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS

To be a qualified provider of service animals, a provider must:

1. Be an enrolled Medicaid Waiver Provider.
2. Complete the Provider Assurance form (DPHHS- SLTC-142) for each service animal contract.

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GENERAL SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

The service may include:

1. Supplies if specifically related to the performance of the service animal to meet the specific needs of the member. If not provided by the training organization, these supplies may include leashes, harness, backpack and mobility cart.
2. Care for the service animal if specially related to the health and maintenance of that animal. These services may include veterinarian care, transportation for veterinarian care, license and/or registration. Grooming may also be included only if member or their caregiver are unable to provide this maintenance.

LIMITATIONS

Service animal supplies do not include:

1. Food to maintain the animal.
2. Any supplies for the following:
 - a. Pets, companion animals, social therapy animals.
 - b. Guard, police, rescue, sled, tracking or any other animal not specifically designated as a service animal.

- c. Wild, exotic or any other animals not specifically supplied by a training program on the approved provider list.

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