

## CAREGIVER SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS

This program provides, on a limited basis, **medically necessary products or assistive devices** that complement the care provided by an unpaid, informal caregiver of an individual **aged 60 or over**. Services and products help to increase or maintain the safety and self-sufficiency of the older individual while assisting and enabling the **live-in caregiver** to continue in his/her demanding role.

A variety of services and products are provided that **assist the caregiver in aiding an older person with their normal living skills** such as durable medical equipment, special clothing, installation of grab bars and wheelchair ramps, nutritional supplements and incontinence supplies. Short-term transportation to allow caregivers to attend Respite Support Groups and Caregiver Training Classes is also available.

Services are on a short-term one-time only basis and do not provide routine home maintenance or continuous assistance. **Medical documentation of need is required**. A program maximum of \$1,000 applies to all home adaptations such as construction of ramps, widening doorways, and installing steps, railings and grabs bars. **The older individual must be the owner or co-owner of the home if an adaptation is being made, renters are NOT eligible**. An annual allocation of \$750 applies to nutritional and incontinence supplies.

Priority is given to older individuals who are in greatest social and economic need, with particular attention to low-income minority and rural individuals. **ALTCS (Arizona Long Term Care System) clients are not eligible for these services**. All clients are referred to the Pima Council on Aging which screens, prioritizes and orders the products or services needed from an approved list of vendors. PCOA staff complete a DES Short Form Intake for each client and request supporting medical documentation. When appropriate, clients, families or caregivers may be directed to other community programs that may meet their needs first, reserving the Caregiver Supplemental Provision as a service of last resort. PCOA authorizes all purchases directly with an approved vendor and pays all invoices directly to the provider or business. Under no circumstances are recipients reimbursed for costs they have already incurred. PCOA maintains individual client files and enters required information into the State AIMS system. PCOA provides each caregiver with a confidential opportunity to comment upon the quality of the service they have received and to also monitor the quality of vendors.

**Referrals for service using the DES Short Form Intake Document are also received from case managers within the Pima County Community Services System**. PCOA staff verify program eligibility and compare requests with prior client utilization data and other community resources to establish that every other avenue of assistance has been exhausted prior to authorizing service from this source.

PCOA staff routinely participate in monthly Brown Bag Aging Network Meetings and Quarterly Family Caregiver Support Program Meetings to coordinate with other aging service providers within the planning and service area.