

6-702.

(a) (1) The Secretary shall establish a program of financial assistance for attendant care services for eligible disabled individuals.

(2) The Department shall adopt rules and regulations for the operation of the Program.

(3) The Secretary shall designate an individual from the Department to serve as Director of the Program, and shall provide appropriate support services to the Program from existing budgets.

(4) Financial assistance shall be given in accordance with a sliding payment scale established by the Department.

(5) The Department shall review on an annual basis the eligibility of individuals receiving financial assistance.

(b) (1) The Department shall ensure that at any given time at least 50 percent of the individuals receiving financial assistance under the Program are:

(i) Gainfully employed; [or]

(ii) Actively seeking employment; OR

(III) ATTENDING AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY OR HIGHER EDUCATION, AS DEFINED IN § 10-101 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.

(2) The remainder of the eligible disabled individuals assisted under this Program shall be individuals who currently:

(i) Reside in a nursing home or similar institution licensed to provide chronic or intermediate care and who will be deinstitutionalized as a result of this Program; or

(ii) Are on an approved waiting list of an institution.

(c) Financial assistance provided under this Program may not duplicate any other State or federal assistance for attendant care that the eligible disabled individual is receiving.

(d) The Department shall limit participation in this Program to the number of eligible disabled individuals who can be served using the total amount of funds provided for the Program in the State budget.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1995.

May 24, 1995

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.