

Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)

Definition: A Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) is an electronic device that enables someone to secure help in an emergency. The participant may wear a portable “help” button. The system is connected to the person’s telephone and programmed to signal a response center once a “help” button is activated. The response center is staffed by trained professionals. PERS services are limited to those who live alone, or those who are alone in their own home for three or more hours of the day/night, and who could be alone with a PERS but otherwise require supervision.

Providers: Companies listed as providers for Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) are located on the Qualified Provider Listing found on DDSN’s website.

Arranging for and Authorizing Services: To receive this service the participant must have a working telephone. The cost covered by this service is limited to the cost for the PERS; it does not include costs for the telephone service. A participant will be assessed to need a PERS when he/she will be alone for three (3) or more hours per day, three (3) or more days per week and otherwise require direct supervision. The participant must also be determined to be capable of using the system if installed. Once it is determined that PERS is needed, the need must be documented in the participant’s plan. A choice of providers must be offered and the offering of the choice documented.

Once a provider is chosen, the budget information can be entered using the State Funded Community Supports Budget Calculator. The **installation** of PERS will be budgeted as a one-time service. The ongoing availability of the PERS called “**monitoring**” will be budgeted as a monthly service. Under no circumstances may the annual cost limit of the State Funded Community Supports be exceeded.

The need for PERS services must be documented in the Support Plan and the plan must be approved by the DDSN Waiver Admin Division before services can be authorized. The service is authorized using **State Funded Community Supports (PERS) authorization**. The **installation** of PERS will be authorized as a one-time service. The ongoing availability of the PERS called “**monitoring**” will be authorized as a monthly service. The **State Funded Community Supports (PERS) authorization** instructs the provider to bill the participant’s Financial Management Agency for services rendered. The **State Funded Community Supports (PERS) authorization** will remain in effect until a new authorization is issued or until a **Notice of Reduction or Termination (Form 1)** is issued.

Monitoring: The plan, which includes PERS, should be monitored in accordance with DDSN Case Management Standards.

Reduction or Termination of Services: When PERS is terminated, the Notice of Reduction or Termination (SFCS Form 4) must be used to notify the participant/representative, the provider and the Financial Management Agency.