The ALS Association Western Pennsylvania Chapter provides the following services to eligible individuals at no charge and does not bill insurance companies. The Chapter does not base eligibility on income.

**Consultation with Healthcare Professionals**
Those living with ALS, their families, friends, caregivers, and health care professionals have the opportunity to speak with a Social Worker, Speech-Language Pathologist, and Occupational Therapist regarding many aspects of ALS care, available community resources, and services. Home visits by these professionals are also available for consultations, evaluations, and recommendations.

**Equipment Program**
The Chapter offers a program to assist those living with ALS to obtain needed medical equipment and assistive technology. This includes:

- **Loan Closet**: in partnership with several medical equipment suppliers and facilitates an equipment loan closet makes it possible to provide equipment free of charge for those living with ALS. The loan closet offers a wide range of smaller adaptive equipment to help with daily care to power wheelchairs and speech generating devices. All items are subject to availability.

- **Financial Support**: through a Chapter Grant Program, to assist with co-pays. The Norma Simon Equipment and Nutritional Supplement Program will reimburse patients up to $250 a year for equipment, personal emergency response systems, or nutritional supplements.

- **Assistive Technology /Environmental Access**: provides help with computer access, communication, and obtaining equipment that assists individuals in managing their home environment.

**Chapter Grant Program**
The Chapter offers a grant assistance program for home modifications, speech generating devices, power wheelchairs or respite/home care that meets the needs of those living with ALS. This program is subject to the availability of funds and includes assistance for the following:

- **Home Modifications**: A one-time only grant that provides full or partial payment of such items as stairglides, ramps, or bathroom modifications.

- **Speech Generating Devices/Power Wheelchairs**: This grant is meant to supplement insurance coverage where the Chapter will provide 20% of the co-pay, up to $2,000, towards the purchase of a speech generating device or a power wheelchair.

- **Respite/ Home Care Program**: This program provides periodic short-term relief to those living with ALS to help a primary caregiver have a break from full time care responsibilities, to help when there is no caregiver available to assist with care or while waiting for state funded programs to start.

*Eligible primary caregivers will be considered for a respite home care grant once every six months unless other notification is provided. Home Modification, Speech Generating Devices or Power Wheelchair are one-time only grants. Home Modifications grants cannot be awarded after the work has been completed and is paid directly to contractor/provider.
Transportation Program
The Chapter collaborates with transportation companies to provide efficient and accommodating transportation for ALS patients. Patients can utilize the transportation service for clinic appointments, medical appointments relating to ALS diagnosis and any other Chapter-related events.

Caregiver Programs
Caregivers provide a tremendous amount of care for their loved ones living with ALS. The chapter recognizes the importance of supporting family caregivers; therefore, the following programs are available to informal caregivers.

**Powerful Tools for Caregivers Class** - A national program designed for caregivers offered several times throughout the year. The 6 weekly classes provide information to caregivers to develop a wealth of self-care tools. Class participants also receive a copy of “The Caregiver Helpbook”, developed specifically for the class.

**Care Connection** - Many times when friends and family learn about someone with ALS, they want to help. The Chapter can assist in organizing this network of volunteers from your community of friends, neighbors, members of community organizations, through the Care Connection Program. The program provides a plan for organizing help, training and information about what approaches tend to be most effective. The Care Connection uses a website – lotsahelpinghands.com – that allows volunteers to sign in and see the community calendar where tasks have been posted by a volunteer coordinator.

**Caregiver Appreciation Weekend** – Each year the Chapter holds a Caregiver Appreciation Weekend which provides caregivers with a relaxing break to replenish their minds and bodies. It’s also a great opportunity to meet other caregivers and informally support one another.

Educational Material and Programs
As a service to the ALS community we provide various educational resources, including The ALS Association’s “Living with ALS” manuals and videos as well as other related materials regarding care and information. The Chapter also provides the following:

**“ALS Bulletin... Keeping you Posted”** - A monthly e-newsletter sent to those living with ALS, their family and caregivers providing information about ALS, upcoming Chapter events, and webinars.

**Resource Groups** - Resource group meetings are a time for patients, caregivers, family members and friends to learn, ask, share and grow throughout their ALS experience. Individuals can also participate virtually via computer.

**Educational Symposia** - The Chapter’s symposiums are excellent learning opportunities and cover a variety of subjects from patient care, research, and advocacy, to new approaches to assistive technology and care giving. Several educational symposia are held throughout the year and at various locations in our service area.