



Spotlight on Advocacy: Meet Our Board Member Making a Difference

Introducing Dulce Garcia, PASC Board Officer and Advocate

Dulce Garcia's path to becoming a dedicated board officer with PASC is one marked by personal resilience and an unwavering commitment to her community. After becoming permanently disabled, Dulce found herself in need of continuous care, a challenging reality for her and her family. At that time, her parents, who also faced their own health struggles, were her primary caregivers. Without a viable alternative, the family faced difficult decisions until they discovered IHSS.

"IHSS came at a time when my family and I felt we were drowning," Dulce recalls. "It changed our lives for the better."

The IHSS program not only provided the necessary support but also enabled Dulce to remain at home, integrated into her community, and close to her family. The program offered supplemental income that allowed her parents the flexibility to care for her while still managing their financial responsibilities, ultimately sparing her from institutionalization at a young age.

"If it wasn't for IHSS, I would've had to been institutionalized," Dulce explains. "I was able to stay in the comfort of my own home with my loved ones and have quality of life." For Dulce, IHSS meant more than practical support—it was a lifeline that allowed her family to be present and actively involved in her life.



Dulce Garcia with her mother and father



Dulce Garcia at the CA for ALL Ages and Abilities Day of Action in Sacramento, October 2024

Dulce's experience opened her eyes to the broader impact IHSS has on families and communities, inspiring her to become an advocate. She has since dedicated herself to highlighting how the program supports not only individuals with disabilities but also the caregivers who rely on its flexibility to maintain their loved ones' comfort and dignity. *"IHSS allows parents to grow up with their children, nieces, nephews, and even grandchildren," she says. "The alternative is just a visit to the nursing home on a weekend. It's now daily dinner time and sharing one's day with each other."*



Dulce Garcia also dedicates time to translating with a women's group for women with disabilities

Advocating for the Future of IHSS

In her role as a PASC board officer, Dulce is a powerful voice for IHSS recipients and providers, representing their concerns, challenges, and successes. Her advocacy underscores the urgency of securing continued support and funding for IHSS, a program she describes as *"crucial in saving many lives."* Dulce challenges those who may question IHSS's importance: *"If you were in an accident and were told you're completely disabled and require around-the-clock care, how would you feel not having the option to stay at home and be cared for versus being institutionalized for the rest of your life?"*

Today, Dulce remains steadfast in her mission to elevate the voices of IHSS participants and advocate for a program that has profoundly shaped her life. Through her work on the PASC board, she continues to champion the value of IHSS, supporting the mission to keep families together, promote community inclusion, and ensure dignity for all individuals living with disabilities.



This month, Dulce and the PASC Interim Executive Director Luis Bravo attended the CA for ALL Ages and Abilities Day of Action in Sacramento to advocate for IHSS recipients statewide. While there, she met with several California senators and assembly members, dedicating her time to urging the retention of California's statewide back-up program, which is set to end in 2025. Dulce's efforts highlighted the essential nature of this program, emphasizing how it enables families to remain whole and prevents vulnerable individuals from being forced into institutional care due to a lack of in-home support.



Dulce Garcia filmed a testimonial and advocated for the importance of provider trainings with the Homebridge organization