



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 8-14, 2024

Direct Support Professional Recognition Week

During Direct Support Professional Recognition Week, California honors the many individuals providing essential services to Californians with Autism, Down Syndrome, and other developmental disabilities. California is the only state in the nation that promises individuals with developmental disabilities the services and supports they need to thrive in their communities across their lifespan. Direct Support Professionals deliver on this promise to more than 440,000 Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families every day, providing services coordinated by 21 non-profit regional centers and delivered by hundreds of local organizations.

Every Californian with disabilities deserves to be included as a valued member of their community. Working toward that reality is the fundamental role of a Direct Support Professional. Direct Support Professionals provide expert caregiving and build close, respectful, and trusting relationships, becoming integral in the day-to-day lives of the people and families they serve. They provide consistent support for Californians with disabilities to access education, work, transportation, and other services.

Direct Support Professionals are the foundation of disability service, working with Californians with disabilities and their families in every geographic and demographic community. With women and people of color at the forefront, the direct support workforce reflects the diversity of our state. Direct Support Professionals are creating a more inclusive and accessible California for all through their skills, knowledge, and expertise.

As California celebrates Direct Support Professionals and their invaluable contributions to our families, communities, and state, we remain committed to strengthening the Direct Support Professional workforce serving people of all ages and abilities in California.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Gavin Newsom.

Gavin Newsom