

Service and Workforce Initiatives

Direct Support Professional Training Stipend

The Direct Support Professional (DSP) Training Stipend Program dispersed up to two payments of 625 dollars before taxes to DSPs who finished approved training videos in the ARCA Learning Center. This program ended on August 31, 2024. DSPs cannot get stipend payments anymore, but they can still watch the approved training videos for free. The videos are on the Department of Developmental Service (Department) [Training Stipend Program page](#).

Direct Support Professional University

DSP University is a training program for Direct Support Professionals. It helps them learn important skills. The program has three levels of training. Each level teaches staff how to focus on each person's needs, respect each person's culture and language, and help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities live better lives.

Direct Support Professional Bi-/Multi-Lingual Pay Differential

This program gives extra pay to DSPs who use another language, not just English, when talking with the people they support and their families. The program values clear and helpful communication between DSPs and the people they serve.

Direct Support Professional Internship

The DSP Internship Program lets new interns learn DSP skills while getting paid. Interns can work up to 30 hours each week for up to three months. They learn by working with an experienced DSP in different places and doing different tasks. The program looks for interns from many backgrounds. It also helps people who may not usually have a clear path to jobs supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

When an intern is hired as a full-time DSP, they can get extra money. After six months of working without a break, they get a one-time payment of \$625 before taxes. After one full year of work, they can get another one-time payment of \$625 before taxes.

Technology Pilot

This program looks at how technology can help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. People can use technology only if they choose to and if it is safe. The Department will study how technology can reduce the need for in-person help, make it easier for people to get services in more than one language, and help people live more independent lives.

Regional Center Staff Tuition Reimbursement

The Regional Center Employee Tuition Reimbursement Program helps regional center workers who are studying for a degree or certificate in health or human services. Workers who qualify can get up to 10,000 dollars each year for up to three years. The application period ended on June 30, 2024. The program is still active, and regional centers can keep paying approved claims until May 15, 2027.