

## EDGE & DSPU Webinar FAQs

The Department's new Learning Management System (LMS) called EDGE stands for *Employee Development, Growth, and Education*. EDGE is a centralized place where training for professionals who support individuals with developmental disabilities can be found. Trainings will be delivered, organized, and tracked to support a more educated workforce.

Direct Support Professional University (DSPU) is a competency-based training and certification program specifically for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). The DSPU is designed to have three tiers of enhanced training aimed at promoting services that are person centered, culturally and linguistically sensitive, and that improve outcomes for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

This FAQ is designed to provide answers to the questions that were asked during the informational webinars held between May 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 2026.

For more information, please contact us at: [Workforce@dds.ca.gov](mailto:Workforce@dds.ca.gov)

### General Information

#### **Q1. What is EDGE?**

A1. EDGE is the Department's LMS that hosts Department-sponsored trainings, including DSPU.

#### **Q2. What is DSPU?**

A2. DSPU is a voluntary training and professional development program for DSPs hosted within EDGE.

#### **Q3. Will DSPU replace Regional Center's trainings like Direct Support Professional Training (DSPT)?**

A3. No. DSPU is separate from DSPT. DSPT remain required for DSPs working in licensed community care facilities. DSPU is voluntary and competency based.

#### **Q4. Will EDGE replace The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Learn, Relias, PAVE, or other LMS systems?**

A4. No. EDGE does not replace or currently integrate with other LMS systems, including ARCA Learn or Life Outcomes Improvement System (LOIS).

#### **Q5. Will EDGE include trainings besides DSPU?**

A5. Yes. The Department plans to use EDGE for additional trainings and future learning pathways.

**Q6. Is DSPU mandatory?**

A6. No. DSPU is free and voluntary.

**Enrollment & Access**

**Q7. When does enrollment open?**

A7. DSP enrollment opened May 6, 2026.

**Q8. How do DSPs enroll?**

A8. A DSP must complete the [EDGE enrollment form](#) to enroll into DSPU. If eligible, the DSP can complete the form.

**Q9. Can prospective DSPs enroll?**

A9. Yes. Prospective DSPs may access the platform and trainings. Please note, anyone can access the material, but only trainings completed by DSPs will be tracked and only DSPs will get access to Mandated Reporter Training.

**Q10. If I'm no longer employed but still a DSP, can I enroll?**

A10. Yes. You may access EDGE directly once the non-DSP pathway becomes available.

**Q11. Is there a registration deadline?**

A11. No. Enrollment remains open.

**Q12. Do users need a separate EDGE account from DSPT?**

A12. Yes. EDGE requires a separate account from DSPT. DSPT is a competency-based training program that is mandatory for all DSPs working in licensed community care facilities vendored by regional centers. DSPU is a free, voluntary, statewide, competency-based training and certification program.

**Q13. Can guests access trainings?**

A13. Yes, however, guest progress is not saved.

**Q14. Do I need DSPT before enrolling in DSPU?**

A14. No. DSPT is separate from DSPU. DSPU is competency-based training and certification program. While some topics may overlap with DSPT, DSPU includes expanded content, and structured tiers that are not part of DSPT.

**Q15. I only completed DSPT 1. Can I still apply?**

A15. Yes. You may still create an EDGE account and begin DSPU courses.

**Q16. Do I need a California ID or driver's license to register?**

A16. A valid state-issued ID card or driver's license is required. IDs from states other than California is accepted.

**Q17. Is a vendor number required?**

A17. Yes, for DSP enrollment tracking purposes.



**Q18. What if a provider’s vendor number is pending?**

A18. The Department recommends waiting until the vendor number is issued to ensure records align correctly.

**Eligibility & Participation**

**Q19. Who can access EDGE?**

A19. Anyone may access EDGE content through the general learner pathway.

**Q20. Who qualifies as a DSP?**

A20. Participation in the DSPU is voluntary. To be eligible, DSPs must meet the [definition](#) and all requirements identified below.

DSPs are paid workers whose responsibilities include:

- Primarily providing direct support to children and/or adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).
- Providing support and supervision.
- Supporting people to learn new things, or to continue, to do as much as they can on their own.
- Ensuring optimal health and safety and help with the upkeep of a person’s home to encourage that it is clean, safe, and hazard free.
- Assisting individuals with IDD with skills development, guidance, and personal assistance.
- Spending at least 50% of their hours doing direct support tasks.
- Being funded by the regional center.

**Q21. Can supervisors and administrators access trainings?**

A21. Yes. Anyone may access the material, but only DSP completions are officially tracked in EDGE.

**Q22. Can IHSS workers access EDGE?**

A22. Yes. IHSS workers may access EDGE content but are not eligible for DSPU enrollment through the DSP-specific process. You may access EDGE directly once the non-DSP pathway becomes available.

**Q23. Can respite workers participate?**

A23. Yes, if they meet [DSP eligibility requirements](#).

**Q24. Can (Supported Living Services) SLS/ Independent Living Skills (ILS) staff participate?**

A24. Yes, if they meet [DSP eligibility requirements](#).

**Q25. Can licensed staff such as Licensed Vocational Nurses, Certified Nursing Assistants, Registered Behavior Technician., or Board-Certified Behavior Analyst participate?**

A25. Possibly, if they meet the [DSP eligibility definition](#) and spend at least 50% of their time performing direct support work funded through the Regional Center system.

**Q26. Can employment specialists participate?**



A26. Yes. Please note, anyone can access the material, but only trainings completed by DSPs will be tracked and only DSPs will get access to Mandated Reporter Training.

**Q27. Can DSPs hired through Self-Determination Program (SDP) participate?**

A27. Yes. Individuals connected to SDP may access DSPU through EDGE, but their training may not be officially tracked, and they may not receive access to Mandated Reporter Training. You may access EDGE directly once the non-DSP pathway becomes available.

## **Training Structure & Courses**

**Q28. Are courses self-paced?**

A28. Yes. All DSPU courses are self-paced online.

**Q29. Can courses be paused and resumed?**

A29. Yes.

**Q30. Do tiers need to be completed in order?**

A30. Yes. Tiers must be completed sequentially. Courses within a tier may usually be completed in any order.

**Q31. Can Tier 3 be accessed before completing Tiers 1 and 2?**

A31. No. Tiers must be completed sequentially.

**Q32. How long is each tier?**

A32. Each tier is approximately 48 hours.

**Q33. What are the DSPU tiers?**

A33. Tier 1 focuses on foundational knowledge regarding health, safety, and wellness. Tier 2 strengthens DSP practices to improve quality-of-life outcomes and includes Mandated Reporter Training. Tier 3 is for advanced specialization and deeper practice competencies.

**Q34. What topics are included in DSPU?**

A34. Topics may include:

- Communication
- Person-Centered Practices
- Positive Behavior Supports
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Health & Wellness
- Cultural Competency & Diversity
- Documentation
- Community Inclusion
- Professional Ethics
- Understanding Developmental Disabilities
- Dual Diagnoses
- Crisis Prevention
- Relationship Building
- Vocational & Educational Support



- Safety & Wellness
- Individual Rights & Choice

**Q35. Can previously completed trainings count toward DSPU?**

A35. No. The only certificates we are accepting within the last 12 months are for the [Department of Social Services Mandated Reporter Training](#).

**Q36. Will EDGE include behavioral/de-escalation or Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule training?**

A36. Not currently, though The Department indicated future specialized trainings are planned.

## **Assessments & Progress Tracking**

**Q37. Are assessments included?**

A37. Yes.

**Q38. What score is required to pass?**

A38. A passing score of 80% must be achieved for DSPU content; however, DSPs have unlimited amounts to attempt to pass an assessment.

**Q39. Can assessments be retaken?**

A39. Yes. Retakes are unlimited.

**Q40. How is progress tracked?**

A40. EDGE tracks completion of lessons, courses, and tiers.

**Q41. Can learners view their own progress?**

A41. Yes. Learners can view progress details in the EDGE gradebook.

**Q42. Can employers or administrators monitor DSP progress?**

A42. No. Provider/admin access is limited due to privacy protections and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act considerations, though future provider pathways may be explored.

**Q43. Can providers assign DSPU trainings?**

A43. Yes. Employers may internally assign trainings even though The Department does not require participation.

**Q44. Can providers pull employee certificates?**

A44. No, currently DSPs can provide certificates to employers if requested.

## **Certificates, Continuing Education Units (CEUs) & Renewal Hours**

**Q45. Are certificates provided?**

A45. Yes. Certificates are issued after completion of DSPU tiers.

**Q46. What information appears on certificates?**

A46. Certificates may include training topic, hours completed and completion

verification/status.

**Q47. Do certificates expire?**

A47. No, tier certificates do not expire.

**Q48. Are CEUs offered?**

A48. No, CEUs are not currently available through EDGE or DSPU.

**Q49. Will DSPU count toward administrator renewal hours, Certified Nursing Assistant credits, or CEUs?**

A49. Not currently.

**Q50. Will CEUs be available in the future?**

A50. CEU options are being explored.

**Cost, Funding & Payments**

**Q51. Is EDGE/DSPU free?**

A51. Yes. EDGE and DSPU are free for learners and providers.

**Q52. Is there a cost for Mandated Reporter Training?**

A52. No. The Department covers the certification cost the first time it is completed.

**Q53. Will DSPs be paid for completing DSPU trainings?**

A53. The Department will share any updates regarding funding if and when it becomes available.

**Q54. Are providers required to pay DSPs for training time?**

A54. No. The Department does not currently require provider-paid DSPU participation time.

**Q55. Could future stipends or incentives become available?**

A55. The Department will share any updates regarding funding if and when it becomes available.

**Languages & Accessibility**

**Q56. What languages are available?**

A56. Content is available or planned in: English, Spanish, American Sign Language support and additional languages such as Tagalog may be added.

**Q57. Is EDGE accessible on multiple devices?**

A57. Yes. EDGE is compatible with computers, laptops, tablets, mobile devices, screen readers and other assistive technologies.

**Mandated Reporter Training**

**Q58. Is Mandated Reporter Training included?**

A58. Yes. It will be included in Tier 2 of DSPU.



**Q59. Who receives access to Mandated Reporter Training?**

A59. Only eligible DSPs receive official access and tracking for Mandated Reporter certification.

**Privacy & Data**

**Q60. What personal data does EDGE collect?**

A60. Only the minimum information required to deliver training and track completion.

**Q61. Can users review collected information?**

A61. Yes. Users may review the [enrollment guide](#) or contact [EDGE@dds.ca.gov](mailto:EDGE@dds.ca.gov).

**Webinar & Resources**

**Q62. Was the webinar recorded?**

A62. Yes. Webinar recordings, slides, and materials are posted on the [DSP University webpage](#).

**Q63. Will attendees receive webinar certificates?**

A63. No. The webinar was informational only.

**Q64. Where can providers submit feedback?**

A64. Feedback may be sent to [EDGE@dds.ca.gov](mailto:EDGE@dds.ca.gov)

