



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 14, 2026

Direct Support Professional Recognition Week

This week, California honors the dedicated individuals who are the backbone of essential services to Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities. California is the only state that continues to promise individuals with disabilities the services and support they need to participate in their communities. Direct Support Professionals deliver on this promise to more than 500,000 Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families every day.

Direct Support Professionals consistently show up day in and day out for the individuals and families they care for and serve. They are more than caregivers — Direct Support Professionals build close, respectful, and trusting relationships, becoming integral in the lives of the people and families they serve by helping with daily living, health, community connection, and independence. As advocates, they have become a fundamental part of ensuring every Californian with disabilities is able to meet their goals, become more independent, and be included as a valued member of the community.

Direct Support Professionals are the foundation of disability services. California continues to foster a more sustainable and professional workforce, investing in and developing programs, systems, and opportunities to better support Direct Support Professionals. With women and people of color at the frontline, the direct support workforce reflects the diversity of our state, making it possible to meet the unique needs of Californians with disabilities and their families in every community. Through their efforts, Direct Support Professionals have and continue to create a safer, more accessible California for all through their work.

As California celebrates this week, we recognize Direct Support Professionals and their many invaluable contributions to our state, and we renew our commitment to strengthening the Direct Support Professional workforce and all direct caregiving jobs serving people of all ages and abilities in California.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Gavin Newsom".

Gavin Newsom