

Support Those who Support People with Disabilities

Services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are a unique marriage of the private sector and the public good. Providers, who range from small, family-operated agencies to multi-state organizations, offer services funded by the government so that individuals with IDD can live full lives in the community instead of institutions. These services are delivered through a dedicated workforce called Direct Support Professionals (DSPs).

A DSP is a worker who assists a person with disabilities to lead a fulfilling life in the community through a diverse range of services like helping him or her get ready in the morning, take medication, go to or find work, and participate in social activities.



MEET A DSP...

"My name is Tim, and I am 64 years old. I have done many jobs in my life. I moved to Colorado 7 years ago. I have been a paratransit driver and have enjoyed working with the elderly and people with disabilities. I didn't like the driving that much, but I was paid a lot more. I wanted to work alongside people with disabilities so I got a job with Mosaic. The salary was just on the edge of what I could afford. Over the years, I have had several talks with my wife about making more money. She is understanding, but complains about how little money I make. She works part-time and still makes more money than I do, but we get by. I have accepted what I have to do to keep this job since I do not have kids and can get by. I see other employees whom I work with that receive Medicaid and food stamps, so that they can put food on the table for their children and have their kids see a doctor. I do not want to do anything that I don't love, and I love this job. I am rewarded by helping those who cannot live in this community without some help. I can help give them as much freedom and control as possible. And I see the joy in their eyes. A little more money would help with the job turnover. The salary really does not cover a lot, just enough for the bare necessities."

- Tim Grove, Direct Support Professional