Person Centered Inclusive Supports – Only achievable with a stable, competent and sufficient direct support workforce

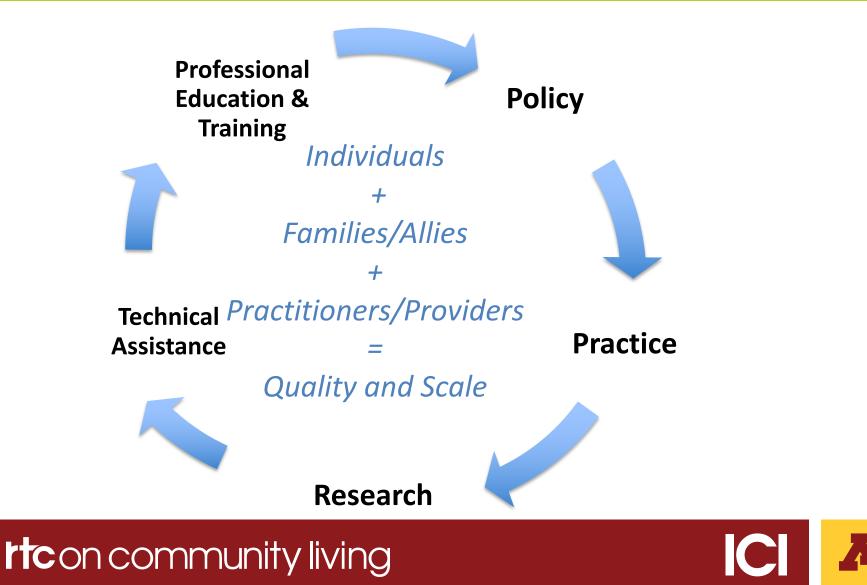
> Alliance Summit, June 13 Breckenridge, CO

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INSTITUTE on COMMUNITY INTEGRATION



My context







Community living and participation



Person centered: One person, one context, one life at a time



Institution closures since 1962

Source: Residential Information Systems Project, University of Minnesota 2018

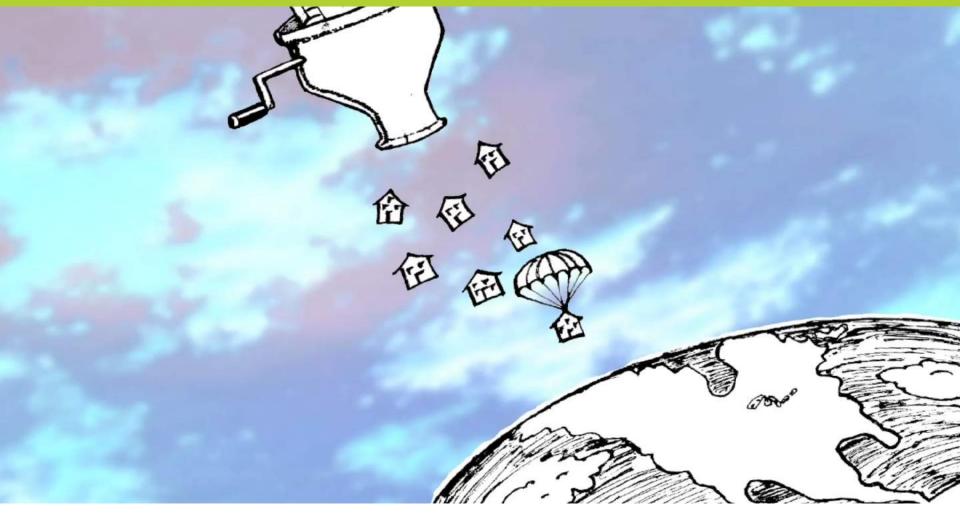


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Northern Wisconsin Ctr. (Chippewa Falls, WI)



"Celebrating" deinstitutionalization



Source: John O'Brien, date unknown



Advocacy and increased expectations









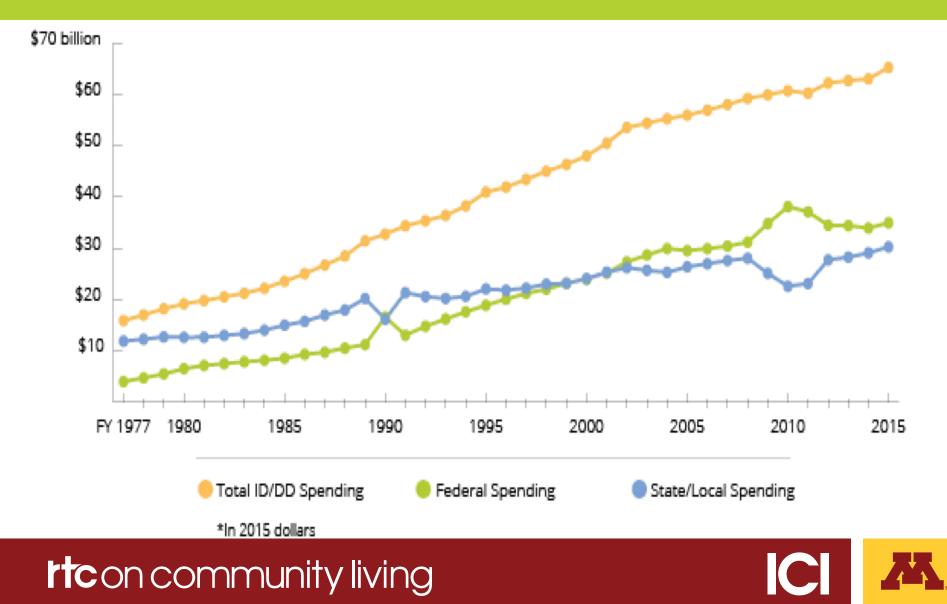




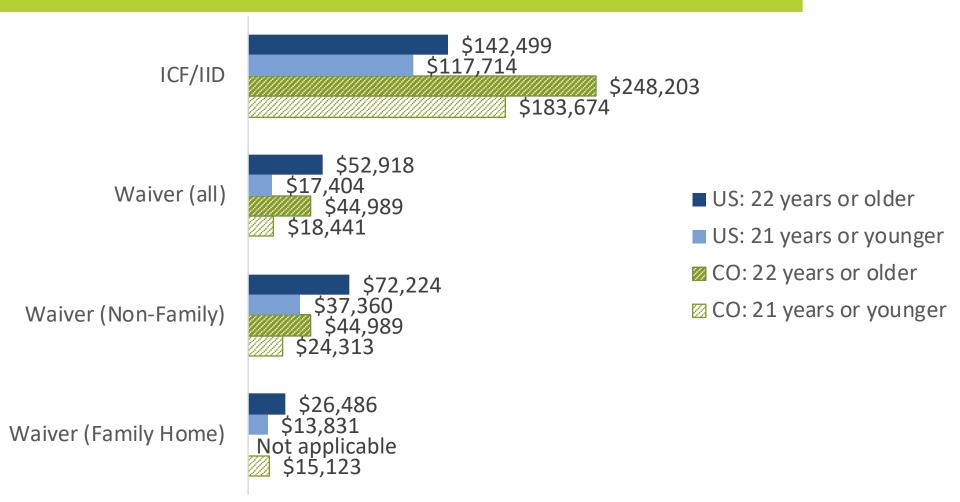




ID/DD expenditures over time, 1977–2015



Per person Medicaid expenditures by age and setting



For US, 51 (50 states and the District of Columbia) reported data, RISP FY 2016

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risp.umn.edu

People With IDD Waiting for Services... risp.umn.edu Colorado United States 29% 33% 24% 3,199 26% 3314 199,641 193,828 19% 19% 43% 1,562 115,059 14% 2,692 17% 10.846 58% 940 9,932 73,828 25% 2,318 8,177 46% 71,922 6,775 6<mark>,3</mark>30 87,187 3,976 1996 2000 2005 2010 2015 2016 1996 2000 2005 2010 2015 2016 Waiver Recipients People Waiting Waiver Recipients People Waiting

% is the amount of growth needed to serve those waiting compared to ICF/IID and Waiver recipients. From 2010 on, people waiting may include people waiting for residential services in addition to the Medicaid Waiver. In 2015-16 people waiting were those waiting in the family home for Waiver Services.

For more charts like this see https://risp.umn.edu/viz/waiver

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OUTCOMES

Quality of services and support that promote community living

A matter of dignity

★ StarTribune



FAILING THE DISABLED

How Minnesota isolates and marginalizes thousands of adults with disabilities

- Dead end jobs, low pay
- Alone and at risk
- Families wait years
- Inclusion pays off
- Intimacy denied

2015

http://www.startribune.com/a-matter-of-dignity-a-five-day-special-report/339820912/







MINNEAPOLIS

In Minneapolis, a 'house of horrors hidden in plain sight

Girls endured years of abuse, neglect; system did little

By Chris Serres Star Tribune MARCH 12, 2018 – 11:15AM



Unshoveled sidewalks in front of the house where Jerry Lee Curry allegedly abused his twin daughters until authorities removed the young women from the home last

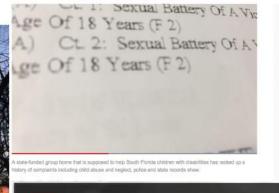
> Chicage Tribune News / Investigations / Suffering in Secret

Children with disabilities abused group home, complaints allege

Ad closed

Repor

Why th





What Are Group Homes Hiding from Public? In One Case, Maggots.



Aug 10, 2017 · by David Klepper

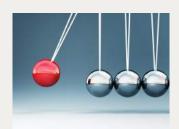
STATE

Beset by rapes, rats, scalding, Florida home for disabled could lose license

BY CAROL MARBIN MILLER AND MONIQUE O. MADAN











Competitive. Sheltered. Day.

EMPLOYMENT



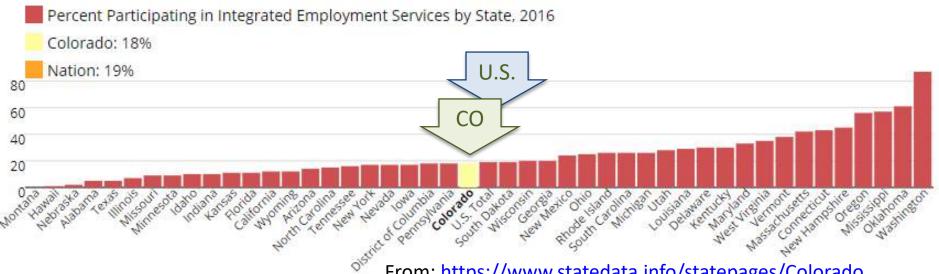


State Employment Snapshot



How many individuals participate in integrated employment services provided by the state intellectual and developmental disability agency? **United States** Colorado

	(2016)	(2016)
Total in day and employment services	638,568	17,026
Total in integrated employment services	120,244	3,078
% in Integrated Employment	19%	18%



From: https://www.statedata.info/statepages/Colorado



Type of setting. Choice. With whom a person lives.

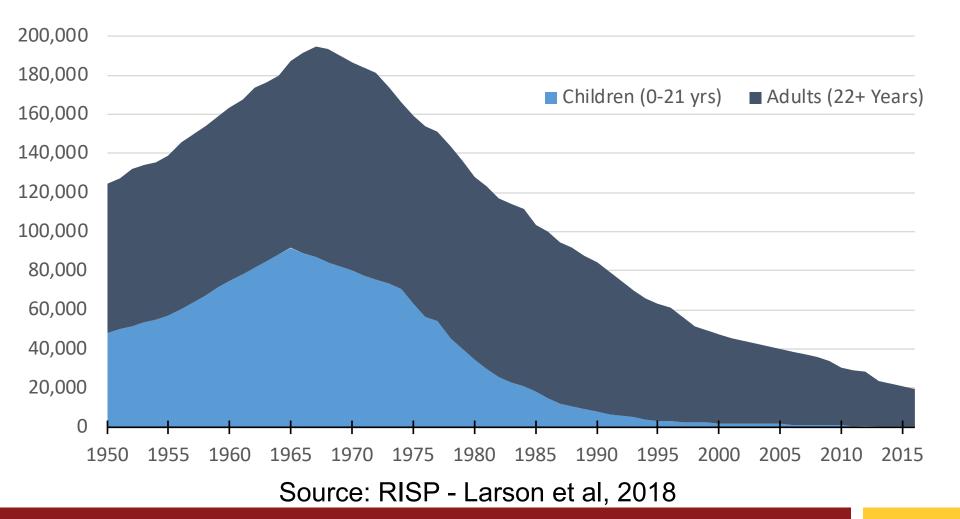
HOME





Children and adults in large state IDD facilities of 16 or more people 1950-2016





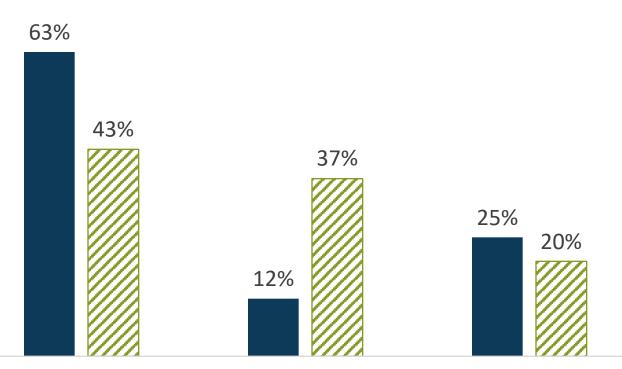
Where did people with IDD live in 2016? (setting type)



7,374,402 (est.) people in the U.S. have IDD (2% of the population)

1,488,732 are on State IDD agency caseloads (20% of the estimated people with IDD)

1,228,700 receive services from State IDD agencies (17% of the estimated people with IDD)



United States Z Colorado

Family, Host Family / Own Home (alone or Foster Care with spouse / housemate) **Group Setting**

RISP FY2016



% people who live outside their family homes with 3 or fewer people and 6 or fewer people with IDD FY 2016



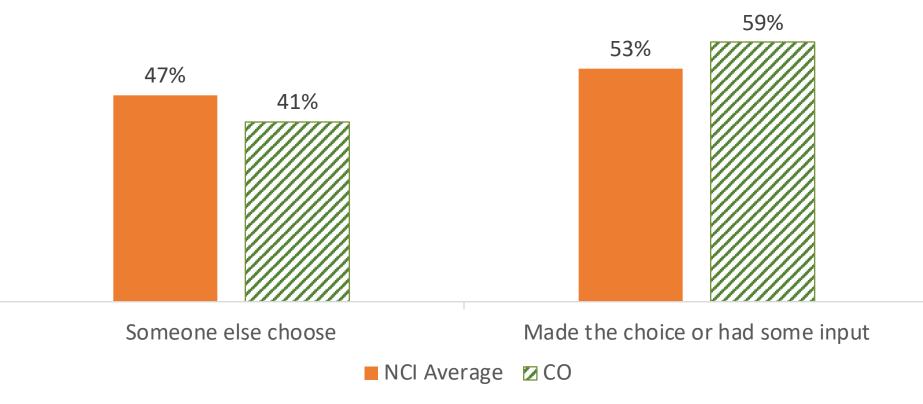


* Imputed values for 1-3 and 4-6 proportions based on national estimates.



Choose Home

The proportion of people who reported they chose or had some input in choosing where they live if not living in the family home

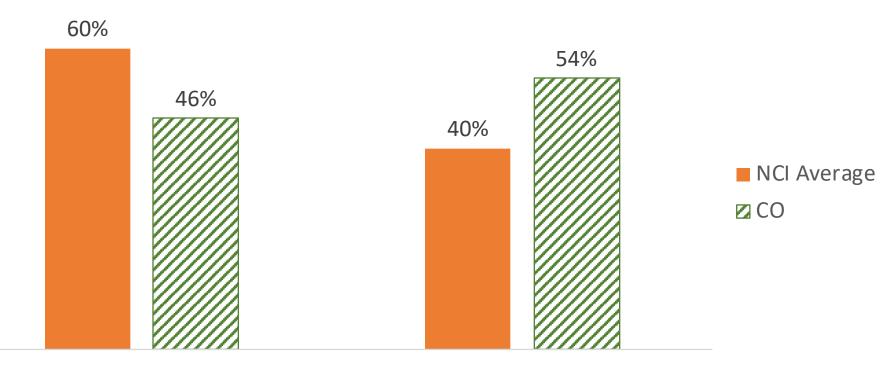


Total respondents Colorado: 189 NCI Average: 11,213

Source: NCI, 2019 Adult Consumer Survey, 2016-17 Final Report

Choose Housemates

The proportion of people who reported they chose or had some input in choosing their housemates if not living in the family home



Someone else choose

Made the choice or had some input

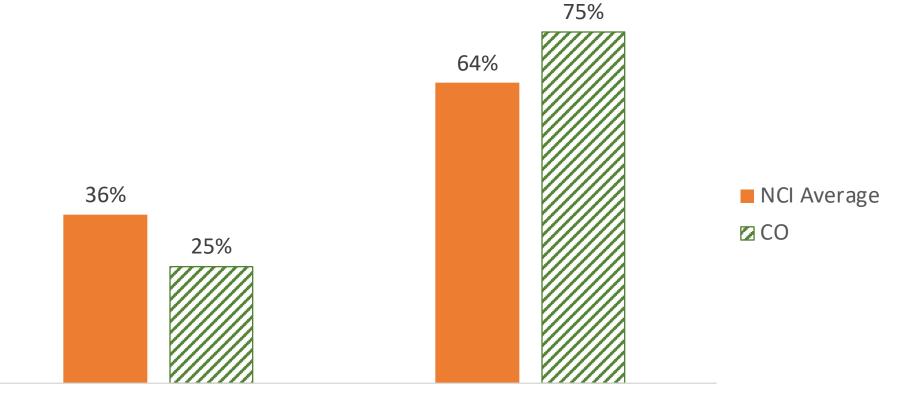
Total respondents Colorado: 185 NCI Average: 11,213

Source: NCI, 2019 Adult Consumer Survey, 2016-17 Final Report



Choose Staff

The proportion of people who chose staff or were aware they could request to change staff



Someone else choose

Total respondents Colorado: 337 NCI Average: 17,282 Made the choice or had some input

Source: NCI, 2019 Adult Consumer Survey, 2016-17 Final Report

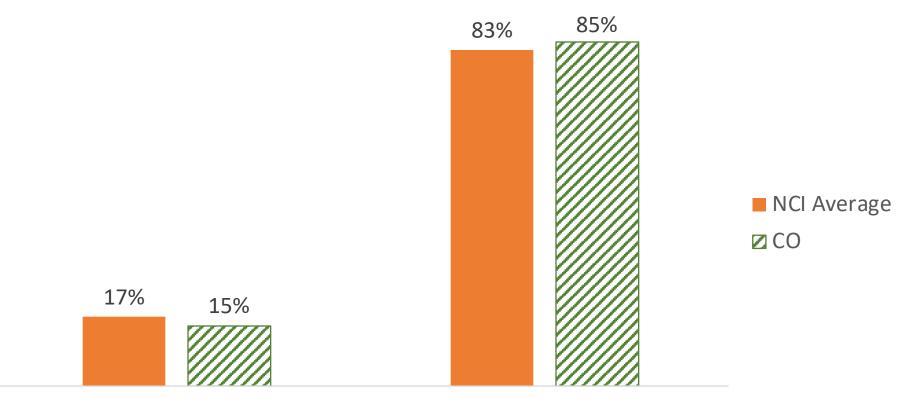
Friends. Family. Love. Fun. Things.

RELATIONSHIPS AND SELF-DETERMINATION



Decides Daily Schedule

The proportion of people who decides or has help deciding their daily schedule



Someone else choose

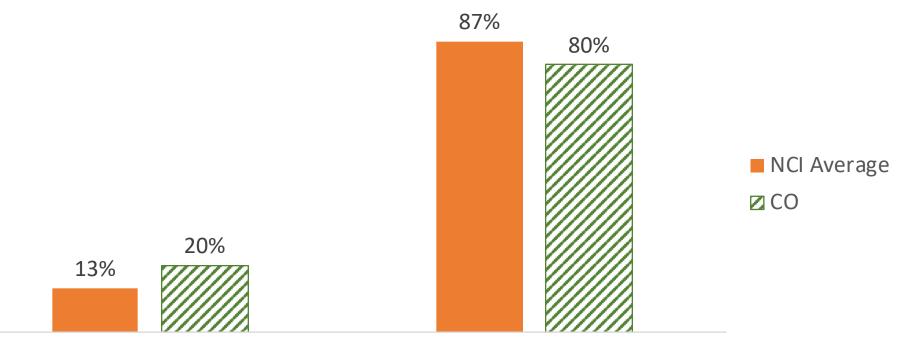
Made the choice or had some input

Total respondents Colorado: 375 NCI Average: 19,420 Source: NCI, 2019 Adult Consumer Survey, 2016-17 Final Report



Chooses What to Buy with Their Spending Money

The proportion of people who has help choosing what to buy or has set limits on what to buy with their spending money



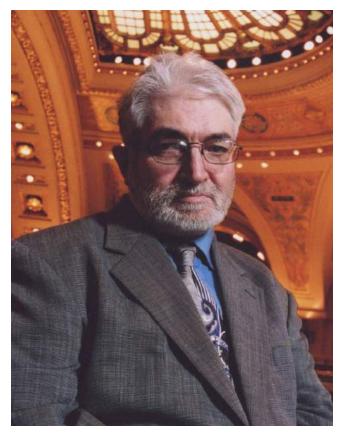
Someone else choose

Total respondents Colorado: 397 Total respondents NCI Average: 19,312 Made the choice or had some input

Source: NCI, 2019 Adult Consumer Survey, 2016-17 Final Report

Workforce Key to Quality

DSP recruitment and retention: A self-advocate perspective



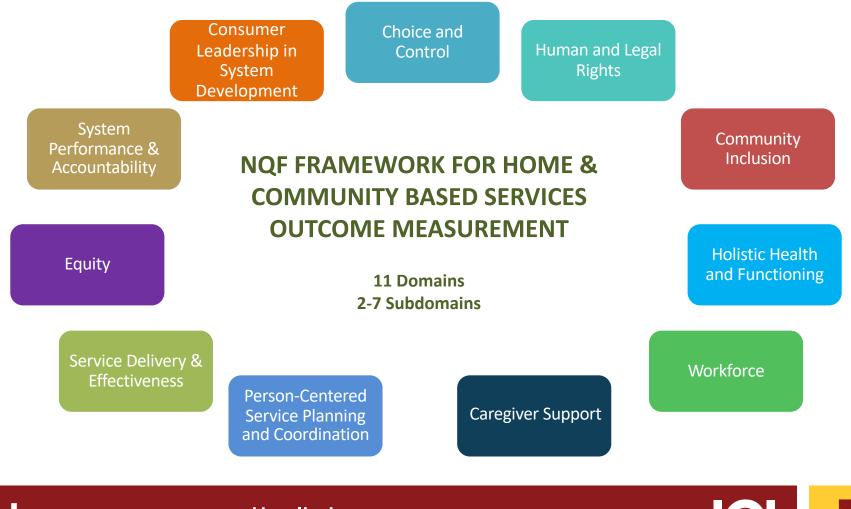
- We want staff who show up on time and help us get the stuff done we need to get done
- We want people who are paid enough to stay so they like what they are doing
- We want people who respect us and are respected for what they do and the pay they earn

Cliff Poetz, Advocacy Leader





National Quality Forum (NQF) framework



NQF HCBS Domains and Subdomains

Human and Legal Rights

- Freedom from abuse and neglect
- Informed decision-making
- Optimizing preservation of legal & human rights
- Privacy
- Supporting exercise of human & legal rights

Service Delivery and Effectiveness

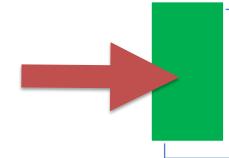
- Delivery
- Person's identified goals realized
- Person's needs met

Person-Centered Planning & Coordination

- Assessment
- Coordination
- Person-centered planning

System Performance & Accountability

- Data management and use
- Evidence-based practice
- Financing and service delivery structures



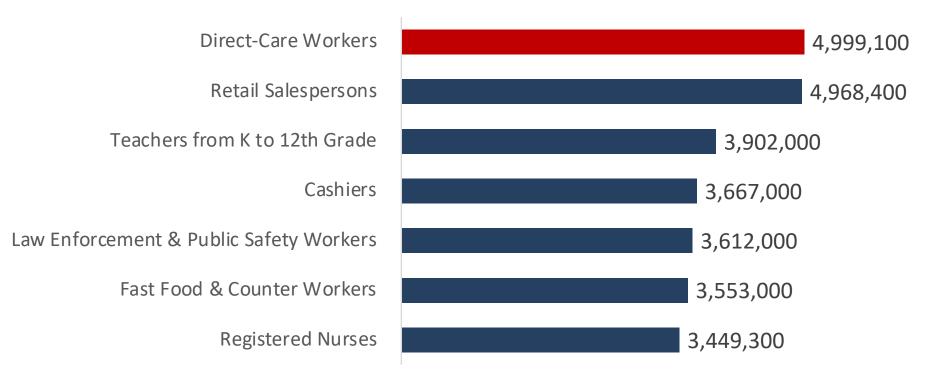
Workforce

- Adequately compensated with benefits Culturally competent
- Demonstrated competencies when appropriate Person-centered approach to services
- Safety of and respect for the worker Workforce engagement and participation
- Sufficient workforce numbers dispersion and availability

Direct Care Workers



Largest Occupational Groups in the U.S., 2020

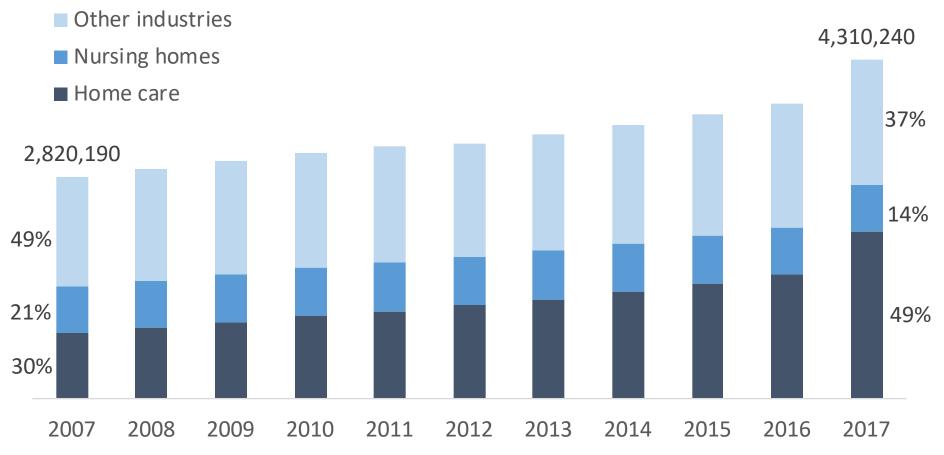


From: Occupational Projections for Direct-Care Workers 2012–2022 https://phinational.org/wp-content/uploads/legacy/phi-factsheet14update-12052014.pdf



Number of DSPs in U.S.





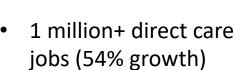
PHI. "Workforce Data Center." Last modified December 17, 2018.

https://phinational.org/policy-research/workforce-data-center/



LTSS and U.S. economy 2007-2017





QUALITY CARE THROUGH

- 1 in 6 new jobs in U.S.
 was in LTSS
- 4/5 new jobs were in home care

From: <u>https://phinational.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/LTC-and-the-Economy-PHI-2017.pdf</u> Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Current Employment Statistics (CES). 2017. Employment, Hours, and Earnings - National. https://www.bls.gov/ces/; analysis by PHI (October 4, 2017).



Projected growth of workforce 2016-2026 (BLS)

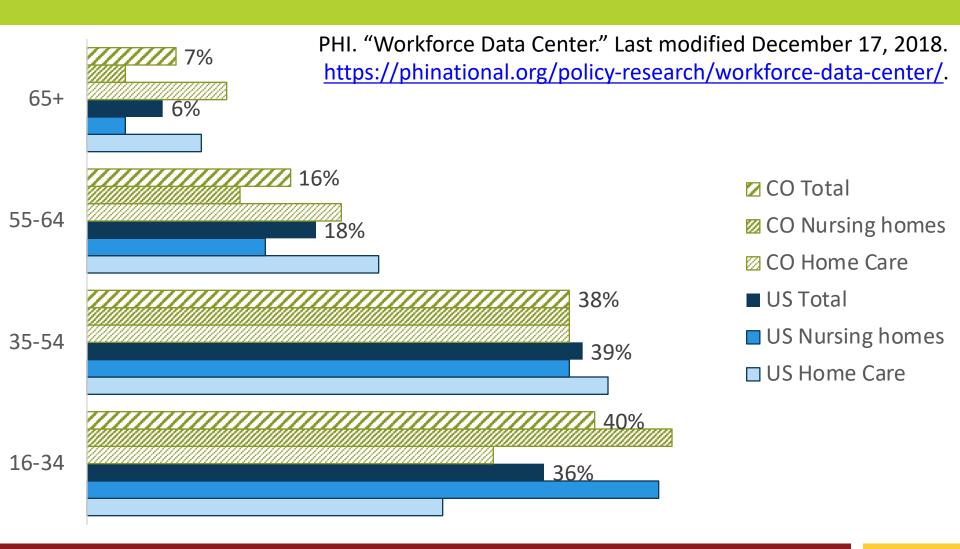




PHI. "Workforce Data Center." Last modified November 10, 2017. https://phinational.org/policy-research/workforce-data-center/.

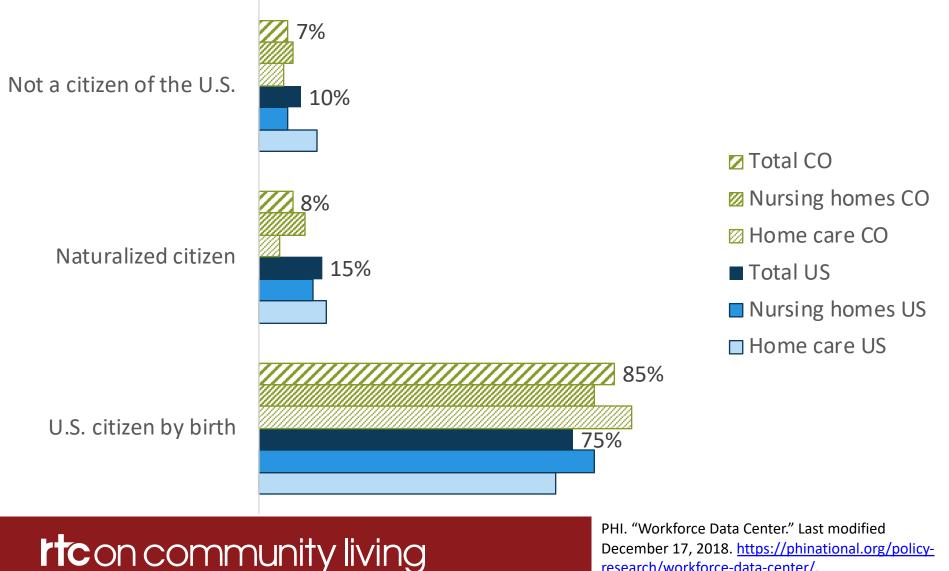
Age of DSPs in U.S. (2016 ACS)





DSP citizenship status in U.S. (2016 ACS)





research/workforce-data-center/.

DSP educational attainment in U.S. (2016 ACS)

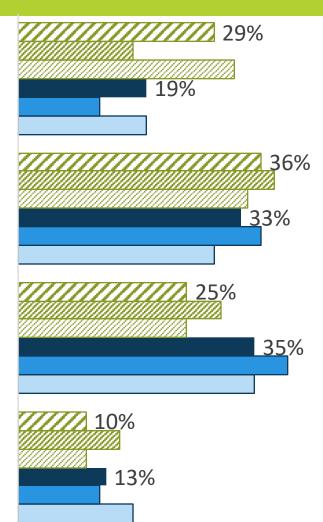


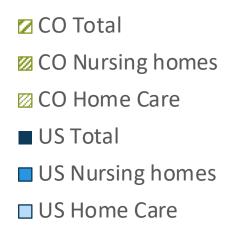
Associate's degree or higher

Some college, no degree

High school graduate

Less than High School



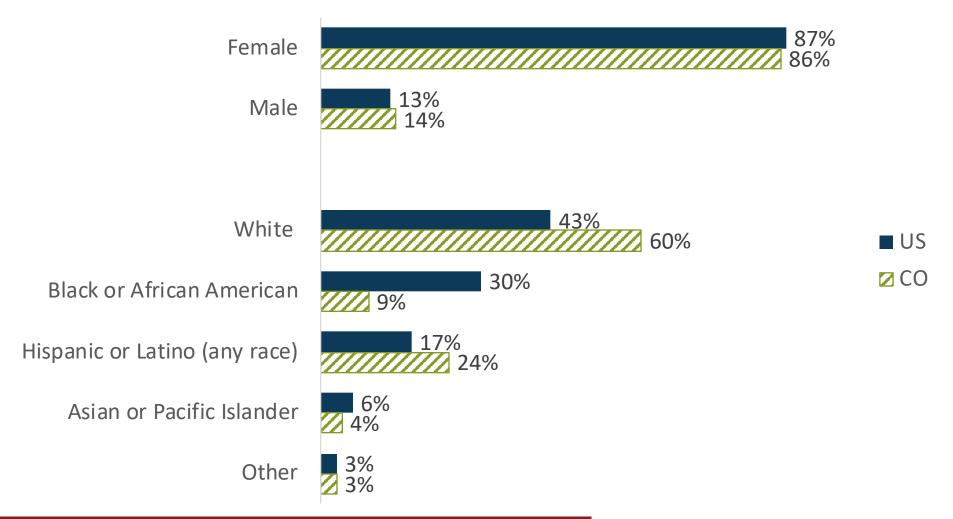


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PHI. "Workforce Data Center." Last modified December 17, 2018. <u>https://phinational.org/policy-</u> <u>research/workforce-data-center/</u>.

Demographics of DSPs (2016 ACS) Gender, Race & Ethnicity



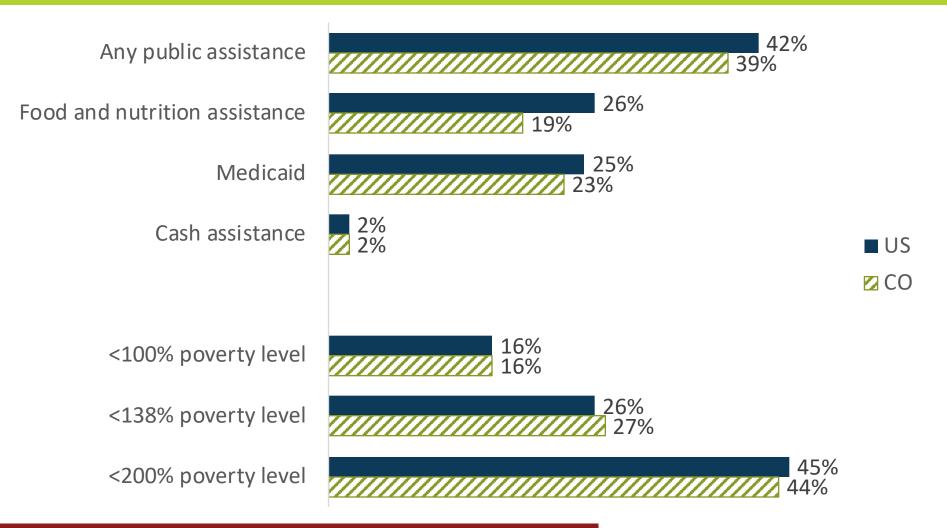


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PHI. "Workforce Data Center." Last modified December 17, 2018. <u>https://phinational.org/policy-research/workforce-data-center/</u>.

Demographics of DSPs (2016 ACS) Public Assistance and Poverty





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PHI. "Workforce Data Center." Last modified December 17, 2018. <u>https://phinational.org/policy-</u> <u>research/workforce-data-center/</u>.

Is there a crisis?

A crisis (from the Greek kploic - krisis;[1] plural: "crises"; adjectival form: "critical") is any event that is going (or is expected) to lead to an unstable and dangerous situation affecting an individual, group, community, or whole society. Crises are deemed to be negative changes in the security, economic, political, societal, or environmental affairs, especially when they occur abruptly, with little or no warning. More loosely, it is a term meaning "a testing time" or an "emergency event".



Definition of CRISIS

plural crises 🐠 \'krī- sēz\

cri·sis Google

/'krīsis/ +)

noun noun: crisis; plural noun: crises

a time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger. "the current economic crisis" synonyms: emergency, disaster, catastrophe, calamity; More

 a time when a difficult or important decision must be made. "a crisis point of history"

synonyms: critical point, turning point, crossroads, watershed, head, moment of truth, zero hour, point of no return, Rubicon, doomsday; More

 the turning point of a disease when an important change takes place, indicating either recovery or death.



a : the turning point for better or worse in an acute disease or fever

b : a paroxysmal attack of pain, distress, or disordered function

c : an emotionally significant event or radical change of status in a person's life - a midlife crisis

- : the decisive moment (as in a literary plot) The crisis of the play occurs in Act 3. 2
- a : an unstable or crucial time or state of affairs in which a decisive change is impending; 3 especially : one with the distinct possibility of a highly undesirable outcome • a financial crisis • the nation's energy crisis

b : a situation that has reached a critical phase • the environmental crisis • the unemployment crisis

NOUN

crisis 🔹

1 A time of intense difficulty or danger. 'the current economic crisis' [mass noun] 'the monarchy was in crisis' + More example sentences + Synonyms



1.1 A time when a difficult or important decision must be made [as modifier] 'the situation has reached crisis point'

(+ More example sentences) (+ Synonyms)

1.2 The turning point of a disease when an important change takes place, indicating either recovery or death.

This is NOT a new issue.....for 25+ years.....

- Larson, S.A, Hewitt, A., & Lakin, K.C. (1994). Residential Services Personnel: Recruitment, Training and Retention. In M. Hayden & B. Abery (Eds.), *Challenges for a Service System in Transition: Ensuring Quality Community Experiences for Persons with Developmental Disabilities*. Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes.
- Hewitt, A., Larson, S.A., & Lakin, K.C. (1994). A guide to high quality direct service personnel training resources. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, Research and Training Center on Residential Services and Community Living.
- Hewitt, A., Larson, S.A., & Lakin, K.C. (1994). Policy Research Brief: Training Issues for Direct Service Personnel Working in Community Residential Programs for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. Minneapolis: Institute on Community Integration (UAP), University of Minnesota (College of Education).
- Hewitt, A., O'Nell, S., & Larson, S.A. (1996). Overview of Direct Support Workforce Issues. In Jaskulski, T. & Ebenstein, W. (Eds.), *Opportunities for Excellence: Supporting the Frontline Workforce*. Washington, D.C.: President's Committee on Mental Retardation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Hewitt, A., Larson, S.A., & Lakin, K.C. (1997). *Resource guide for high quality direct service training materials, 2nd Edition*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, Center on Residential Services and Community Living.
- Larson, S.A., Sauer, J., Hewitt, A., O'Nell, S., & Sadlezky, L. (1998). SOS Training and Tutorial Assistance Project for Direct Support Professionals, Training, and Frontline Supervisors: Final Report. Minneapolis: Research and Training Center on Community Living, Institute on Community Integration, University of Minnesota.
- Larson, S.A., Hewitt, A., & Anderson, L.L. (1999). Staff recruitment challenges and interventions in agencies supporting people with developmental disabilities. *Mental Retardation*, *37*, 36-46.
- Test, D., Flowers, C., Hewitt, A., & Solow, J. (2003). A Statewide Survey of the Direct Support Workforce. *Mental Retardation, 41, 276-285.*
- Larson, S.A., Hewitt, A.S., & Lakin, K.C. (2004). A multi-perspective analysis of the effects of recruitment and retention challenges on outcomes for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. *American Journal on Mental Retardation, 109*, 481-500.
- Larson, S.A. & Hewitt, A. (2005). *Staff recruitment, retention and training for community human service organizations*. Baltimore: Brookes Publishing Company.





A Systemic Failure

Around the country people are pushing for changes that address the direct support workforce crisis. Among them are those rallying in New York City (pictured here). Photo courtesy of http://facebook.com/BFair2DirectCare.

By Amy Hewitt, Joseph Macbeth, Barbara Merrill, and Barbara Kleist

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) provide daily support to people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) so they can live and participate in their communities as friends, neighbors, co-workers, students, family members, volunteers, voters, and taxpayers. Increasingly these supports are provided inside the individual or family home, allowing other family members to work and have respite from their daily caregiving

Root of DSP workforce challenges

- No good planning
- Departments of Labor allowed "off the hook"
- Changing demographics
 - Aging of Americans
 - Fewer younger Americans
- Shifts in laws and expectations



Evolution of Supports and Services

Traditional Disability Services



Integrated Services and Supports



Types of Supports Leveraged



Other factors influencing reality

- Growth # of People with ID/DD Receive Services
 - 390% increase in last 2 decades
- People with IDD live longer (age 66)
- Growing diversity
- Economic stability and growth
 - Impact of Great Recession on momentum



DSP workforce reality is a **public health crisis**

- **Primary public health concern** due to:
 - size of the workforce and increases in demand to support need
 - support provided is essential to the health, safety and overall well-being of seniors, people with disabilities
 - substandard work conditions undermine the ability to recruit and retain DSWs threatening the future supply

(Hewitt, A., Larson, S., Edelstein, S., Seavey, D., Hoge, M. A., & Morris, J., 2008).



Workforce conditions that deter entry into the profession

Low wages Meager benefits Physically challenging work (high rate of injury) High accountability for actions Isolation from other workers and supervisors Lack of a career ladder Insufficient training and professional development



DSP Average Tenure



AVERAGE TENURE OF DSPs

Of DSPs employed within reporting organizations, as of December 31, 2017:

20%	16%	65%
have been there fewer than 6 months	have been there 6-12 months	have been there 12 or more months

National Core Indicators. (2019). National Core Indicators 2017 Staff Stability Survey Report. Retrieved from the National Core Indicators website: <u>www.nationalcoreindicators.org/resources/staff-stability-survey/</u>

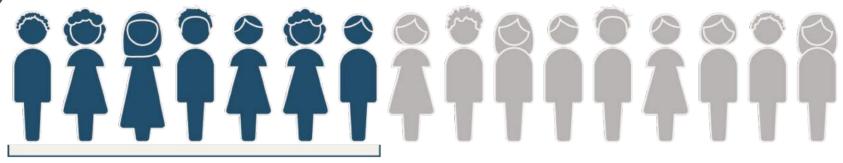


DSP Average Turnover Rate



AVERAGE TURNOVER RATE FOR DSPs

44% state average turnover rate for DSPs



Of those DSPs who left positions in calendar year 2017*:

40%	21%	39%
left in fewer than	left between	left after
6 months	6 & 12 months	12 months or more

[NOTE: CO Alliance Survey 2016 was 37.8%

National Core Indicators. (2019). National Core Indicators 2017 Staff Stability Survey Report. Retrieved from the National Core Indicators website: <u>www.nationalcoreindicators.org/resources/staff-stability-survey/</u>







DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL (DSPs) VACANCY RATES

Of responding providers:



17.3% of part-time positions were vacant

8.1% of full-time positions were vacant



[NOTE: 2016 CO Alliance Member Survey 10%]

National Core Indicators. (2019). National Core Indicators 2017 Staff Stability Survey Report. Retrieved from the National Core Indicators website: <u>www.nationalcoreindicators.org/resources/staff-stability-survey/</u>

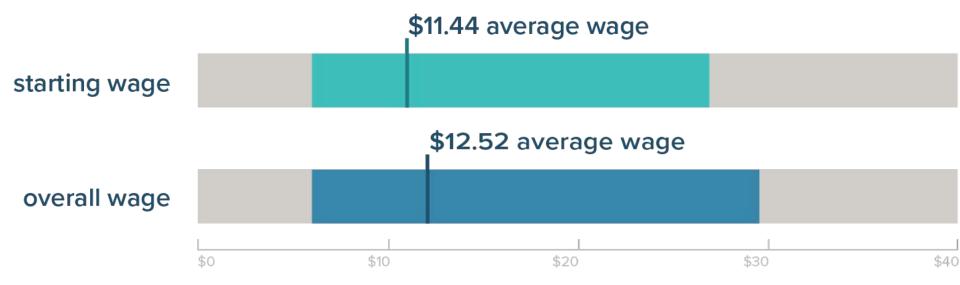






HOURLY WAGES

Wages paid by responding providers

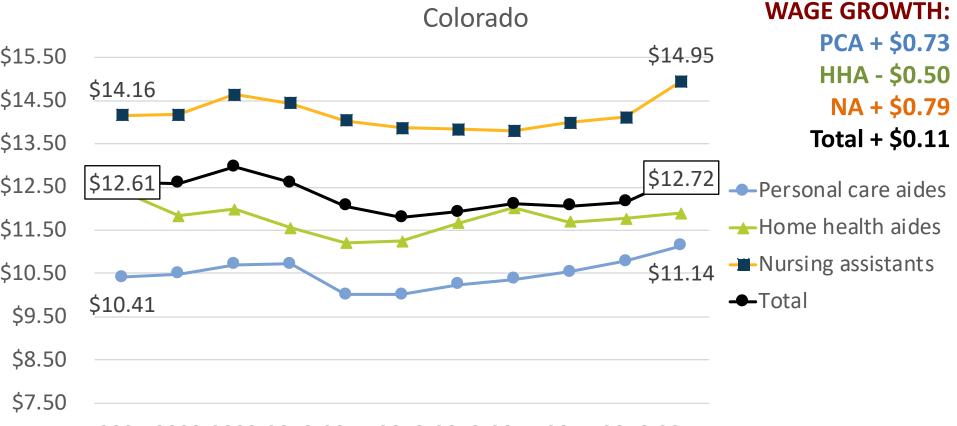


National Core Indicators. (2019). National Core Indicators 2017 Staff Stability Survey Report. Retrieved from the National Core Indicators website: <u>www.nationalcoreindicators.org/resources/staff-stability-survey/</u>



State DSP wages over time (2016/17 BLS)





2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017

[NOTE: CO Alliance Survey 2016 \$12.74

PHI. "Workforce Data Center." Last modified December 17, 2018. https://phinational.org/policy-research/workforce-data-center/.

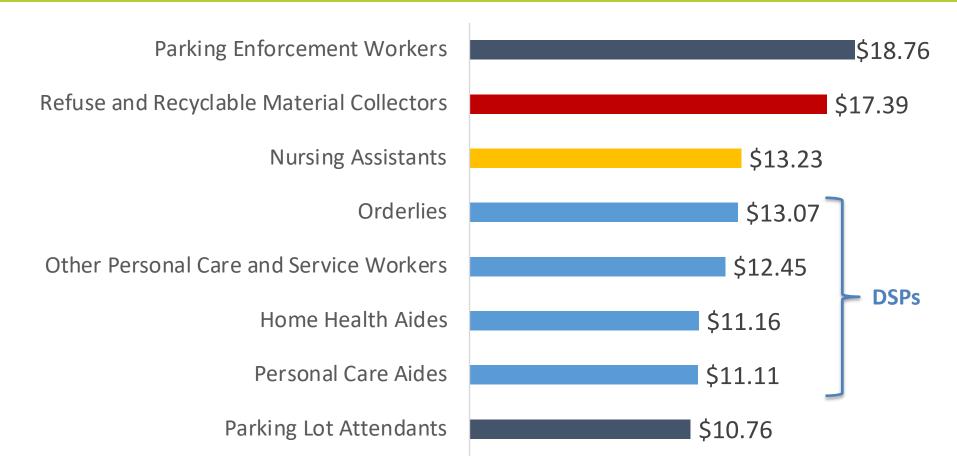




PHI. "Workforce Data Center." Last modified December 17, 2018. https://phinational.org/policy-research/workforce-data-center/.



Direct Care Worker Median Hourly Wage Comparison in the United States, 2017



U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics: <u>https://www.bls.gov/oes/</u>





WAGES ARE IMPORTANT BUT..... They aren't the only thing

- Of all staff who leave
 - 45% leave in first 6 months
 - 23% leave between 6-12 months
- 15% of new hires fired in the first year

Larson, Lakin, Bruininks, 1998



WORKER – Why do DSW leave their job? [MN worker survey 2019]

90% - Found another job that pays more

64% - Found another job that offered better benefits

43% - Found another job with hours that worked better for their family

38% - No opportunity for promotion

36% - Supporting people is a difficult job

33% - Not recognized for the work they did

33% - Found another job closer to home

18% - Could not get along with co-workers

17% - Too little time with and/ or poor quality from supervisors

16% - Training and support were inadequate and/or poor

15% - Other reasons



DSP health insurance (2016 ACS)

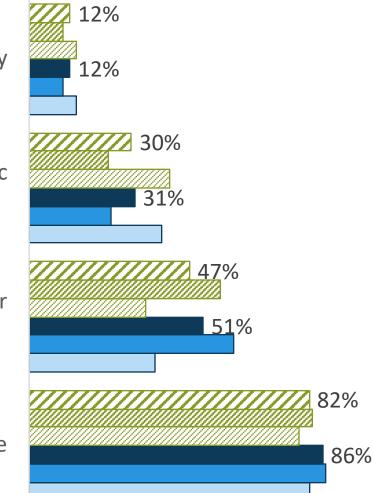


Health insurance purchased directly

Medicaid, Medicare or other public coverage

Health insurance through employer / union

Any health insurance



CO Total

CO Nursing homes

CO Home care

US Total

US Nursing homes

□ US Home care

rtc on community living

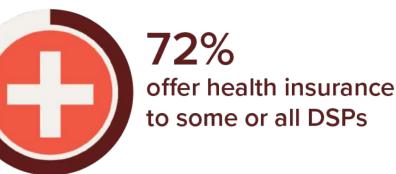
PHI. "Workforce Data Center." Last modified December 17, 2018. https://phinational.org/policy-research/workforce-data-center/.

Health Insurance for DSPs



HEALTH INSURANCE

Of responding providers



Of responding providers who offer health insurance

69% offer health insurance to only full-time DSPs



require DSPs be employed at the agency for a certain length of time to be eligible for health insurance



National Core Indicators. (2019). National Core Indicators 2017 Staff Stability Survey Report. Retrieved from the National Core Indicators website: www.nationalcoreindicators.org/resources/staff-stability-survey/

Limited Health Insurance Access [MN organization survey 2019]

56% of organizations offered health insurance to full-time DSWs

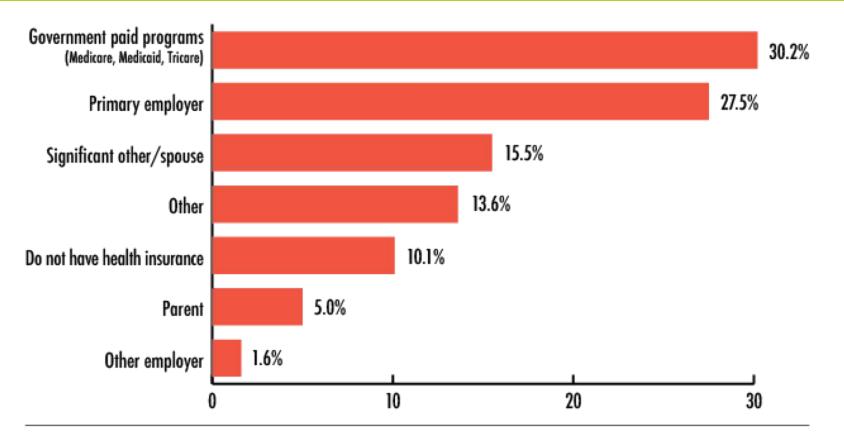
10.6% of organizations offered health insurance to part-time DSWs



Average monthly cost to DSW for individual coverage: \$142



WORKERS – DSW Source of Health Insurance [MN worker survey 2019]



N = The number of DSW endorsing response options and the total.

% = The percent out of the total.

Percentages add to more than 100 because participants were allowed to check more than one option.

Three primary advocacy messages past 30 years....

- DSPs deserve increase wages because they do critical and important work for vulnerable citizens
- Private sector DSPs deserve increased wages because it is unfair that they make on average \$2-3/hr less than DSPs who work in public run facilities
- 3. Increase provider rates so they can increase wages



Not just in IDD field

SECTIONS P Gabberts

🖈 StarTribune

'Help Wanted' signs go unanswered at some small businesses

Competition for talent has grown with the economy, but companies can do more to help themselves.

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG Associated Press SEPTEMBER 4, 2016 - 8:28PM





Top News

Suburban jobs, need to hire lead firms to shuttle workers in, out

Article by Eric Roper, Star Tribune Saturday, October 28, 2017 | 9:03 PM





Consequences of Crisis





"We're Talking About Lives Here"

- Health, safety and well-being risks
- Lack of growth and development
 - Relationship based profession
- Fewer opportunities for inclusion and participation



Families

- Worried about access and quality
- Unable to keep jobs or accept promotions
- Family member at home longer
- Stress and related health issues





Direct Support Professionals

- High stress/burnout
- Working 2- 3 jobs
- Injury
- Poverty
- Poor health outcomes



Isolated and alone





"I Would Have Done That Forever and a Day" Reflections of a Dad, and Former DSP



Robert with his youngest daughter Morgan, who has an ASD diagnosis.



Organizations

- Focus on getting people in
 - Lowering expectations of qualifications
- Supervisors in crisis management vs mentoring and supervision
- Risks and high costs of injury
 - Employees
 - People supported





NY DSP shortage effect

- Delay, deny or limit services to prospective new individuals
 - 33% yes

(Hewitt et al, 2015)





Wasted Resources





NY overtime (past 30 days)

Descriptive Statistics	Total Sample
N	190
MEAN	2,540.67
SD	7,044.98
RANGE	0 to 67,170.00

* Note – average DSP wage 12.74 + OT 6.37 = **\$19.11** average OT hourly rate \$48,559 month in OT expenditures = \$582,702 annually per org; across 354 orgs = **\$206,276,508.**

Just the half-time extra per hour is \$194,234 annually per org; across 354 orgs = **\$68,758,836.** (\$1,240 per DSP)



Estimated replacement costs related to turnover – U.S.

- 1,276,000 DSPs (est)
- Estimated costs to replace each DSP \$4,073
- 574,200 are replaced each year (45% turnover)
- Costs = \$2,338,716,600
 - Roughly \$2,000 per DSP (\$1 per hour)





Many solutions to consider

Implementation levels

- Organization
- Systems
- Societal





Emerging evidence based of interventions that help!

Kansans Mobilizing for Change (Larson & Hewitt, 2004)

- 12 organizations
- Training on toolkit with RJP, marketing materials, on-line training, org assessment
- 15% reduction in DSP turnover
- 29% reduction in FLS turnover
- Vacancy went from 3.1% in 200 to 2.4% in 2004
- Removing the Revolving Door (Hewitt, Keiling & Sauer, 2008)
 - 14 organizations 2004-2008
 - 13 of 15 organizations I year of reduced turnover; 5 had 2 yrs; 4 had 3 years and 2 across all 4 years
 - All experience FLS turnover reduction
- National Technical Assistance and Training Initiative for FLSs (Taylor, Larson, Hewitt, McCulloh, & Sauer, 2007)
 - 8 providers across 5 states
 - Train the trainer on assessment and mapping to intervention
 - Reduction in DSP turnover of 40% across orgs and FLS in 4/6
- Randomized controlled comprehensive training study (Hewitt, Nord & Bogenshutz, 2015)
 - 11 organizations
 - Comprehensive hybrid training model linked to desired outcomes
 - DSP turnover reduced by 16.4% over 12 month period

Biggest challenge = sustaining and scaling up



Building & Strengthening the DSP Workforce

Recruitment & Selection

- Targeted Marketing
- Realistic Job Previews
- Structured Interviewing
- Status and Awareness (PSAs)

Retention

- DSW Competencies
- Education and Training
- Credentialing and Career Paths
- Recognition
- Membership and Networking





Learn, Lead, Love

The Journey Toward Person Centered Supports is a.... Journey Toward Excellence in Direct Support

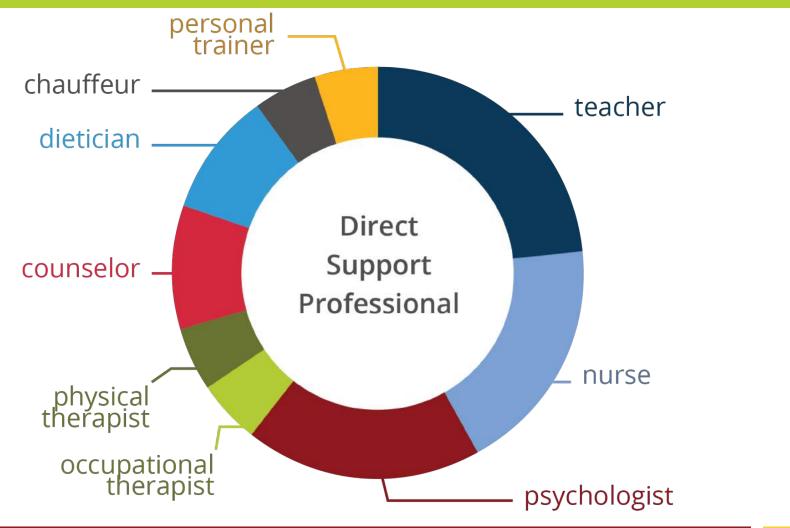


Sarah and Walter

(slow guitar music)



DSP scope of practice - multidisciplinary





Workforce development toolkits



• Tools

- Targeted Marketing Flyers & Job Announcements
- Ready-made PSA's
- Realistic Job Preview for DPS's
- Structural Behavior Interview Guide for Hiring DSP's
- Options
 - ANCOR
 - <u>http://www.nationaladvocacycampaign.org/welcome</u>
 - The Arc of the United States
 - https://www.thearc.org/for-chapters/dsp-toolkit
 - Find, Choose and Keep Great DSPs (self-direction)
 - https://rtc.umn.edu/rtc/index.php?product







"We'll need a million new workers in the next 10 years. Where are they going to come from and how will we keep them?"

THE UNRECOGNIZED PROFESSION OF DIRECT SUPPORT

RED CARPET FILM PREMIERE APRIL 2, 2019, FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC CREST THEATRE, 1013 K STREET, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, (916) 476-3356

6:00 P.M. MINGLE AND MUNCHIES, NO-HOST BAR 7:00-8:00 P.M.

EILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

TUCP

New RTC/CL documentary on the direct support workforce. (43 minutes, captioned). Tim Shriver is recording new narration for film in May. We will officially release *Invaluable* in June.

z.umn.edu/invaluable



We must do something radically different

If we want change.....





DSP voice DSP action!!!!





Step 1: Describe the (your) circumstances

My name is Amy Hewitt and my spouse and I have a brother, Nathan, who is 45 years old and has autism. His life can be difficult because of his disability and he needs help. Supporting him is hard because we often cannot find stable staff. We have chosen to self-direct his services, this means we manage his services and we have to find and manage his staff. We are direct support professionals ourselves and we hire other direct support professionals to deliver support to Nathan.

Nathan has a lot of strengths, he works at Home Depot, he has a great sense of humor, he knows our neighbors and he helps us in many ways. He also has challenges. He often misunderstands things because his communication and social skills are compromised. He can get upset easily and when that happens he hurts himself and others. Complicating his support needs due to his autism, he has a number of other mental health disabilities such as anxiety and depression. He is also an alcoholic. His emotional needs are significant.

We love Nathan and have worked hard to ensure and manage supports for him since he was 16. Yet his challenges become our challenges too and have affected our sons in positive and negative ways.

As a family we rely on direct support professionals and we are worried that the low pay and lack of professional recognition puts us and Nathan at risk.



Step 2: Describe the (your) services or supports DSPs provide

We provide the majority of support Nathan needs in order to keep him happily living in an apartment attached to our family home. We are pleased that he receives Medicaid-funded home and community-based program called the: "DD waiver" This support has provided essential financial resources to ensure Nathan can stay in his community and not have to live in a group home which would cost a lot more money and place restrictions on him that likely would trigger challenging behavior. It is very hard for him to share living space. Financial allocations from the DD waiver have enabled us to also train and compensate Direct Support Professionals to support his well-being and participation in community through employment, social activities and training. Nathan's direct support professionals are essential in his life. We need the flexibility to pay them livable wages. They are highly skilled and this is critical to supporting Nathan. They implement complex DBT interventions, identify triggers that escalate his behavior and work with him to use DBT skills so that he is not explosive. Their counseling and behavioral interventions prevent him from being institutionalized and keep him out of jail. Our biggest fear is that in the wrong situation, without support Nathan would end up in very high risk situations.



Step 3: Describe the (your) concern

In Minnesota the turnover rate for staff that support Nathan is very high – almost 50%! Families like ours have trouble relying on staff and that results in us being taken out of the labor market because we have to stay at home and not work. There is no required licensure process for these workers and thus no opportunity for career advancement. Wages are only \$10.50 for the average DSP. You cannot live on \$10.50 an hour in Minneapolis. We think it is wrong to exclude DSPs from \$15 minimum wage legislation. These are highly skilled jobs and we need to pay DSPs a living wage. But in every city that has moved a \$15 minimum wage proposal forward, these workers get carved out because there is no guarantee funding will increase to make higher wages possible. This is going to make it even harder to find staff because these workers will be paid so much less than all other workers in these cities. This is wrong – direct support professionals are highly skilled. Ours use highly complex skills to de-escalate behavior , others perform complex medical interventions. All pass medications and not all LPNs are allowed to do this.

The demand for these workers is increasing – there are not enough of them. The MN Department of Labor and Minnesota department of Education are doing nothing to find solutions. We need their help to develop career paths.



Step 4: Describe the benefit and make "the ask"

The ability to compensate DSPs at a higher rate would improve the retention of the workforce. This will allow us and many other families to get back into the full time labor market. Paying DSPs a livable wage will also assist in reducing the percentage of these workers that rely on other public benefits such as housing, energy assistance, Medicaid assistance and food assistance,

Please provide incentives to employers of DSPs to ensure we are well trained and compensated fairly for the complex skills required of us in our work. Demand that the MN Departments of Human Service, Education and Labor work together to find solutions to this growing crisis in Minnesota related to finding and keeping direct support professionals. It is going to take a significant investment and we are asking you to support that investment.



Step 5:

Include contact information and a photo

- Name: Amy Hewitt
- Address: 1400 University Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN
- E-mail: hewit005@umn.edu
- Senate District and Senator Name: # 60 Kari Dziedzic
- Representative District and Representative Name:
 # 60A Diane Loffler



The Direct Support Workforce Crisis **A Call to Action**

- 1. Ensure that who DSPs are, what they do and why they are important is know to community members
- 2. Improve DSP identity, respect and recognition
- 3. Create an occupational title in BLS
- 4. Fund use of competency based training models that result in credentialed or certified staff with wage increase
- 5. Develop industry specific pipeline programs
- 6. Gather comprehensive data at site, org, state and nat'l levels
- 7. Provide and use evidence based interventions
- 8. Promote increased use of self-directed options
- 9. Increase use of technology-enhanced supports

Source: Amy Hewitt (UMN RTC/CL), Joe MacBeth (NADSP), Barbara Merrill (ANCOR) & Barb Kleist (UMN RTC/CL), 2018



Other information

Research and Training Center on Community Living

Institute on Community Integration (UCEDD) University of Minnesota, Twin Cities 214 Pattee Hall, 150 Pillsbury Drive SE Minneapolis, MN 55455

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Amy Hewitt

I AM DRIVEN TO PROFESSIONALIZE THE DIRECT SUPPORT WORKFORCE EAM DRIVEN TO RETHINK WHAT ACCESSIBILITY MEANS

> I AM DRIVEN TO MAKE HOME OWNERSHIP A REALITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Cliff Poetz

Pho