
OHIO PROVIDER RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

Meet Ohio's Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)

1. We care for Ohio's population of people with intellectual, and developmental disabilities
2. We work alongside these people and provide for their daily and long-term needs. Each DSP fills the role of a teacher, nurse, personal trainer, dietician, crisis counselor, physical and occupational therapist, even chauffeur and accountant!
3. This is a high stress, high-skilled, high-risk job; Ohio families need us!

The Problem: Low Pay is Causing a DSP Workforce Crisis

1. DSP annual salaries are below the poverty level; many full-time DSPs have to rely on public assistance programs to make ends meet
2. Low wages can force DSPs to have to decide between better pay and continuing to provide these necessary supports

An Even Bigger Problem: More and More People Need DSPs!

1. Autism rates are up nearly 400% (Source: CDC)
2. Ohio's opioid crisis has radically increased the number of children born with disabilities
3. Individuals with developmental disabilities may need services for a longer length of time as a result of increasing life expectancy

How Legislators Can Save the Day: Support Ohio's DSPs!

1. Medicaid reimbursement must support a \$15 hourly rate for DSPs
2. Remove or repair overly-complicated, expensive, conflicting agency rules
3. Work with agencies in your district to understand the developmental disabilities field

