

“The most rewarding part of this job is helping people achieve their goals—be it learning to dress, cook, or take care of their home—seeing their pride in what they’ve accomplished.”

*Direct
Support
Professional*



The New York State Association of Community and Residential Agencies (NYSACRA) is a catalyst and leading advocate for people who have developmental disabilities and organizations that support them. Visit us at www.nysacra.org.

04/2009

**YOU CAN MAKE
A DIFFERENCE**

**As a Direct
Support Professional**

*Come
join us*



*and support
individuals with
developmental
disabilities.*



Careers in Developmental Disabilities Direct Support Professionals



Direct Support Professionals assist individuals with developmental disabilities live life to the fullest in many ways, including:

- Teaching community-living skills;
- Monitoring their health and safety;
- Providing assistance in activities of daily living;
- Promoting independence and use of community resources;
- Being a role model and mentor; and
- Advocating for additional services.

Direct Support Professionals work in:

- Small group homes;
- Day programs;
- Vocational, educational , or recreational settings; and
- The homes of people with disabilities.

REQUIREMENTS

Service agencies require that Direct Support Professionals have a High School Diploma/ GED; clean criminal and child abuse histories; ability to complete the agency's core training; and good health, with no lifting restrictions. Some require a driver's license. Prior experience in the field of human services, although helpful, is not always necessary. Training will be provided.

TRAINING & SUPPORT

Direct Support Professionals are provided on-the-job training on topics including: medication administration and management; first aid and CPR; health and safety issues; community integration practices (helping people with disabilities become an active part of their communities); problem solving; the general behavioral and medical needs of individuals with developmental disabilities; the specific needs of the individuals they will support; and record keeping and documentation practices.

As members of teams including nurses and other clinicians, Direct Support Professionals are supported in their work. They receive continual guidance carrying out service plans which they, the other team

members, and the individuals they support or their families have developed.

SALARY & BENEFITS

Service agencies offer competitive salaries, which increase with training and experience; flexible hours; benefit packages which include insurance and retirement options; paid vacation, holiday, and sick leave; opportunities for continuing education; and career ladders.

ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Working in a variety of program settings, Direct Support Professionals can advance to frontline supervisors, assistant managers, and program directors as they gain additional experience, continue their education, or partake in training programs offered by service agencies.

NEXT STEPS

For more information about careers as a Direct Support Professional supporting individuals with developmental disabilities, contact a service agency near you. For a directory of agencies supporting individuals with developmental disabilities visit: www.cqcapd.state.ny.us/dddirectory/ddintro.htm