YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

As a Direct Support Professional join us
and support individuals with developmental disabilities.

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.

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
Careers in Developmental Disabilities
Direct Support Professionals

**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