

The Best Life Alliance is working to pass legislation in 2020 that takes steps to address the severe workforce shortage impacting critical supports accessed by over 30,000 Minnesotans with disabilities to live and work in their communities.

* The average hourly wage of a DSP is $13.15, 17% less than jobs requiring similar skills and experience.
* Our current DSP turnover rate is 43.9%.
* With 18,500 current openings in Minnesota within our workforce of 93,000, the disability services profession has a 19.3% vacancy rate, one of the largest in the state.
* 50% of DSPs stay in their position for less than a year.

The community-based disability services system is built on the work of Direct Support Professionals, who provide critical support to individuals with disabilities by supporting persons with disabilities to live, learn and work independently as possible. The workforce shortage must continue to be addressed by the Minnesota Legislature this 2020 session.

Minnesota must show we value disability services and the workers who help people with disabilities thrive.

The Minnesota House, Senate and Best Life Alliance have all put together the following legislative proposals that:

* Continue to refine the Disability Waiver Rate System so it is an accurate reflection of market costs.
* Implement regular adjustments to the Competitive Workforce Factor to reduce wage disparities between DSPs and other comparable professions.
* Establishes a tax credit for DSPs to promote recruitment and retention within the disability services profession.

Please prioritize passing the legislation this session that aims to move Minnesota forward by increasing retention rates, increasing wages, and gaining workers in the disability services workforce.



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