



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 10-16, 2023

### ***Direct Support Professional Recognition Week***

This Direct Support Professional Recognition Week, California honors the many Direct Support Professionals providing essential caregiving services to Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities. California is the only state that promises individuals with disabilities the services and supports they need to participate in their communities, coordinated by Regional Centers and fulfilled by service provider organizations. Direct Support Professionals deliver on this promise to more than 400,000 Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families every day.

Every Californian with disabilities deserves to be included as a valued member of the community. Working toward that reality is the fundamental role of a Direct Support Professional – which extends far beyond caregiving. Direct Support Professionals build close, respectful, and trusting relationships, becoming integral in the day-to-day lives of the people and families they serve. Whether it is working at a job, finding transportation, or accessing community life, Direct Support Professionals provide consistent support for Californians with disabilities to meet their goals and become more independent.

Direct Support Professionals are at the heart of disability services, and the Newsom Administration has advanced investments in recent years to support this foundational workforce. This includes \$127.8 million for training and development stipends, \$22.5 million to fund paid internships in the field, and \$11.9 million to establish a competency-based training and certification program to foster a more sustainable and professional workforce. With women and people of color at the forefront, the direct support workforce reflects the diversity of our state, making it possible to meet the unique needs of Californians with disabilities and their families in every community. Direct Support Professionals are creating a safer, more accessible California for all through their work.

As California celebrates Direct Support Professionals and their invaluable contributions to our state, we renew our commitment to strengthening the Direct Support Professional workforce and all direct caregiving jobs serving people of all ages and abilities in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gavin Newsom