

Being a direct support professional has been one of the most rewarding and meaningful jobs I have done. It started out as a job and has turned into a passion. Being the reason someone gets to smile for the first time or seeing someone's face light up when you announce you're there to see them are just two of the many, many reasons I do what I do. Even though the pay isn't enough to pay my bills monthly, I still can't imagine doing anything else with life. It's not the most glamorous job, but it's definitely one of the most rewarding. The relationships I have developed over my 13 years as a DSP are some of my most treasured relationships. Being able to get paid a wage that can allow us DSP's to continue doing what we love while we support our own families will ease a lot of the struggles we face in this field. The staff turn over I have seen over the years has a huge part to do with not being paid enough, so people find themselves either working too much overtime or having to work multiple jobs just to get by and when that happens people get physically and mentally burnt out. Being a DSP is both mentally and physically demanding at times and being able to be financially stable in this job will help so many people put more positive energy and time into serving our individuals more effectively and more meaningfully