

Credentialing Opportunity for OPWDD Direct Care Employees

Introduction:

OPWDD and the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA), in partnership with the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP), will offer OPWDD direct care employees (such as the Direct Support Assistant, Developmental Disabilities Secure Care Treatment Aid, and Developmental Assistant) the opportunity to obtain national recognition for their contributions and competencies in providing person centered support to individuals with developmental disabilities.

Requirements:

The NADSP Direct Support Professional certifications include DSP-I, DSP-II, DSP-III and Front-Line Supervisor (FLS). A participant must complete a specified number of hours of NADSP accredited training and earn a series of badges.

Participants prepare “testimonials” or stories for their badge submission online via the NADSP e-badge software application. These testimonials represent how the employee applied what they learned from the training in their work delivering person centered support to individuals.

Participants must earn their certification before they can proceed to the next level as each certification builds on the prior certification. Training hours and badges from the lower level apply to the next level. For example, a participant who completes DSP-1 took 50 hours of training and completed 15 badges, so they only need to complete 50 more hours of training and 15 more badges to earn their DSP-II certification.

CSEA Member Participants who apply and are approved to participate in this grant program are eligible to receive a bonus upon successfully achieving their certification.

The following table summarizes the certification training, badge and bonus requirements.

Certification	DSP-I	DSP-II	DSP-III	FLS
Training	50 hours	100 hours	0	25 hours
Badges	15	30	50	14
Bonus	\$500	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,000

How to Apply:

CSEA members will apply to participate in this grant program by completing the electronic application. CSEA members will receive an approval email with instructions for how to access their NADSP e-badge account. OPWDD Workforce Development Team will hold a kickoff meeting to allow CSEA members opportunities to ask questions and get information. Participation is voluntary and CSEA members will complete certification activities on their own time.

OPWDD will post the application, kickoff meeting materials and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document on the OPWDD Intranet page.