

THE MISSION OF IOWA CAREGIVERS:
IS TO ENHANCE THE CARE AND SUPPORT OF IOWANS BY PROVIDING EDUCATION, RESEARCH, RECOGNITION, AND ADVOCACY FOR THOSE WHO PROVIDE DIRECT CARE.



1. **To ensure those in direct care have access to the education, skills, tools, and support to serve the needs of all Iowans.**
2. **To ensure a stable direct care workforce by supporting quality jobs to attract and retain people in the caregiving field.**
3. **To ensure all Iowans have access to high quality direct care, supports, and services.**

Who Are Direct Care Workers/Professionals (DCWs/DCPs)?

Direct Care Worker/Professional (DCW/DCP) is an umbrella name for one of the largest sectors of the workforce in Iowa. Direct care professionals are defined as individuals who provide supportive services and care to people experiencing health conditions, illnesses, or disabilities and receive compensation for such services. They work in home-based, community-based, or facility settings. They may have job titles such as direct support professional, supported community living worker, home health aide, universal worker, hospice aide, personal assistant, patient care technician, consumer directed attendant care provider, senior helper/companion, and certified nursing assistant.

What Kinds of Services Do Direct Care Workers/Professionals (DCWs/DCPs) Provide?

Direct Care Workers/Professionals (DCWs/DCPs) are often those who are closest to the individual served and their family. Depending upon where they work, they may assist with some of the most important and personal daily tasks, such as bathing; dressing; preparing meals; eating; oral hygiene; grooming; using the toilet; providing transportation to appointments and events; running errands and shopping; monitoring medications and vital signs; assisting with physical and psychological rehabilitation; managing behaviors; and offering care and comfort through end-of-life.

Direct Support Professional (DSP) is the title often used for those who serve people with disabilities. DSPs may also help persons served develop life skills such as personal care, job coaching, nutritional planning, employment skills, and financial management.

Who Do Direct Care Workers/Professionals (DCWs/DCPs) Serve?

Direct Care Workers/Professionals (DCWs/DCPs) serve Iowans of all ages and abilities in various settings or locations. They serve older Iowans, individuals with disabilities, Veterans, individuals with chronic disease, those recovering from acute illness or injury, and children with special needs to name a few.

Where Do Direct Care Workers/Professionals (DCWs/DCPs) Provide Assistance?

Direct Care Workers/Professionals (DCWs/DCPs) provide services in peoples' homes, assisted living and nursing facilities, adult day centers, hospitals, group homes, residential facilities for people with disabilities, hospices, and non-medical senior services. Some find opportunities to work privately for a family or individual needing support.

Iowa CareGivers

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