Get Ready for DSP Recognition Week 2016!

September 11-17, 2016

Throughout New Jersey, there are more than 25,000 Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) helping people to live in, be part of, and work in their communities. National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week is around the corner. This week, September 11-17, is a time to acknowledge and honor the dedication, contributions, and achievements of DSPs as they support people with disabilities in New Jersey and across the country. Staff recognition activities are important and widely-accepted ways to show DSPs how much they are valued and appreciated. They also highlight the vital role DSPs play in providing quality support to people with developmental disabilities.

Some ideas for recognizing the accomplishments of DSPs this September include:
• Celebratory breakfast, lunch, or dinner
• Nominating and awarding outstanding DSPs of the Year
• Thank you cards from those receiving support, their families, and the agency they work for
• A letter to the editor or advertisement recognizing DSPs
• Gifts and giveaways

More information about and ideas to celebrate DSP Recognition week are available from ANCOR’s National Advocacy Campaign.

Professional Development & Recognition Opportunities for DSPs

Professional development provides an opportunity for DSPs to learn new information and develop skills that will help them to be successful in their work. Along with professional development, recognition of a job well-done can improve retention and quality of supports. Conferences provide a venue for high-quality training presented by national experts, supportive environments for skill-building, and recognition of professionalism through continuing education and awards.

NADD Annual Conference Scholarship for DSPs

Two Direct Support Professionals will be chosen to receive free conference registration to attend the NADD 33rd Annual Conference & Exhibit Show “Weaving Solutions: Research/Policy/Practice in IDD/MI,” held this year from November 2-4, 2016 at The Sheraton on the Falls, ON, Niagara Falls, Canada.

DSPs interested in this opportunity should complete the online Conference Scholarship Application.

NADD DSP Award for Excellence

The NADD DSP 2016 Award for Excellence will be given on November 4, 2016 at the NADD 33rd Annual Conference & Exhibit Show. This award is presented annually to acknowledge a DSP whose contribution to supporting people who live in our communities has resulted in significant improvement in the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental health needs. The award recipient will be provided with two nights at the conference hotel and a cash award of $100. Nominations should be submitted by August 26.

Learn more about nominating a DSP for this award on NADD’s website.
Helping People Realize their Rights & Vote

The time leading up to a presidential election often generates a great deal of discussion about politics, and many people turnout to exercise their right to vote. Direct Support Professionals play an important role in helping people with developmental disabilities realize their rights as citizens of the United States. This includes voting, and also helping people to understand their rights and how to advocate for what they want.

The College of Direct Support (CDS) course entitled Civil Rights and Advocacy was developed to help DSPs understand what they can do to support individuals with disabilities in standing up for their rights. The lessons in this course include:
- Your Role in Effective Advocacy
- History of the Disability Rights Movement
- Disability Rights and Legislation
- Challenges and Strategies for Exercising Civil Rights.

In addition to this course, New Jersey specific information on helping people with disabilities through the voting process is also available on the CDS through a module titled *Voting: It’s Our Basic Right*. The module can be supplemented by additional information included in a companion guide for self-advocates, *Voting: It’s Your Right*.

This guide is available on The Boggs Center’s website and was developed through a collaboration between Disability Rights New Jersey, The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities, and The Boggs Center. The guide was recently revised and reprinted. DSPs are encouraged to download it and review it with the people they support as they prepare to vote.

CDS Administrator Tip: Running Reports

College of Direct Support (CDS) Agency Administrators can run reports for specific training modules in the system to determine which of their staff have completed assigned training. Running reports will help CDS Agency Administrators keep up-to-date on required and ongoing professional development training for agency staff. A report will provide a listing of each lesson in the bundle that was assigned to a learner in your agency. It will include the due date, a completion date and test score. The report contents can be sort alphabetically by clicking the up/down arrows next to the column heading.

Instructions
- Click on the report tab on the menu bar
- Click “online learning”
- A pop-up window will appear from the left side
- Click on the plus sign (+) next to the “Module Reports”
- Click “Module Lesson Assignment Detail”

- Enter filter information/look up options
- Select the module (name of the course), facility (NJ DHS/DDD OR Support Coordination), department (name of your agency) and learners
- Click “Go”

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