



State of Rhode Island
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week

WHEREAS, direct support professionals, including direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in home support workers, and paraprofessionals, are key to providing publicly funded, long-term support and services for millions of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals provide essential support that ensures that individuals with disabilities are—

- included as a valued part of their community;
- supported at home, at work, and in the communities across Rhode Island;
- empowered to live with the dignity that all people of our state deserve; and

WHEREAS, all communities have a stake in ensuring that individuals with disabilities thrive through the connections of the individuals to their families, friends, and communities, fostered by the direct support professionals of those individuals, so as to avoid more costly institutional care; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals assist individuals with disabilities by helping those individuals make person-centered choices that lead to meaningful, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals must build close, respectful, and trusting relationships with individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals provide a broad range of individualized support to individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, most direct support professionals are employed in home- and community-based settings and that trend will increase over the next decade.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daniel J. McKee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim September 12 – September 18, 2021 as: ***Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week*** in the state and encourage all residents to recognize the contributions of direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families.

Given under my hand and the great seal
of the State of Rhode Island,
this 8th day of September, 2021.



Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State