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## Direct Support Professionals/Certified Nursing Assistants/ and Personal Care Aides (Support Professionals) Coronavirus Response Needs

The frontline workforce of this healthcare crisis (COVID-19) has been woefully neglected by local, state, and federal government and private philanthropy for decades. Even before COVID-19 people in the profession of supporting other people have been under-valued culturally, economically, and politically.

### **Some quick facts about our crisis:**

- Average DSP wages are \$10.72 per hour
- Average DSP waged below the federal poverty level for a family of four
- Half of DSPs relying on government-funded and mean-tested benefits
- Most DSPs working two or three jobs
- Average annual DSP turnover rates of 45 percent. Up to 76% percent reported
- Average agency vacancy rates of more than 9 percent

Citation: *Report to the President 2017: America's Direct Support Workforce Crisis (NADSP.org)*

<https://www.nadsp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/PCPID-2017 -Americas-Direct-Support-Workforce-Crisis-low-res.pdf>

### **Immediate Needs to Address the Crisis of COVID-19 and Support Professionals Workforce Restoration:**

- Immediate passage of \$15 an hour for all Support Professionals working in NC;
- A temporary emergency declaration to pay all Support Professionals, in essential healthcare services, making less than \$20 an hour, time and a half for all hours worked during the State of Emergency;
- Reimbursement for providers to offer all employees free healthcare coverage for part-time and full-time employees; waive all co-pays during the State of Emergency declaration;
- In campaigns to thank frontline healthcare workers, include Support Professionals;
- Create a data-base to organize the Support Professionals in NC so that agencies and self-directed service consumers can access emergency staff;
- Offer Free Child Care for Support Professionals;
- Ensure housing and food security, as well as, access to necessary PPE and response information.

Horizons thanks you for supporting our Support Personnel during this time of need! Please add your voice and email the Department of Health and Human Services today! [BHIDD.COVID.Qs@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:BHIDD.COVID.Qs@dhhs.nc.gov)