



2021 Legislative Priorities

1

Appropriate
competitive
rates for
community
providers
that serve
Missourians
with
Disabilities



Allocate \$86 million GR for DD Rate Standardization

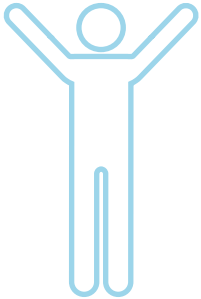
(DMH Budget, Section 10.410)

- Solve the DSP crisis by fixing outdated reimbursement rates to ensure community providers have the resources to **compete for essential direct care staff** by paying wages that reflect the **rising minimum wage**

Fully Fund Employment Services for Individuals with Disabilities

- DMH-DD supported employment services
- DESE-Vocational Rehabilitation employment services

What is a Direct Support Professional?

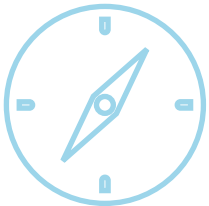


A **Direct Support Professional** (DSP) is an essential healthcare worker who supports people with disabilities to live and work with independence in the community.



Over **15,000 Missourians** work as a DSP.

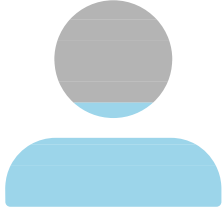
Typical **job duties** include: medical and behavioral supports, hands-on personal assistance, job coaching, skills building, and crisis prevention and intervention.



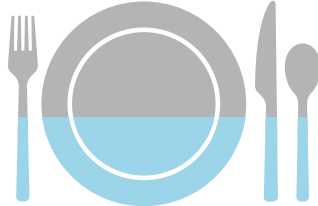
Average starting wage for DSPs as of 2018: **\$9.95/hr.**
Missouri minimum wage in 2021: \$10.30/hr.

Direct Support Professional Crisis in Missouri

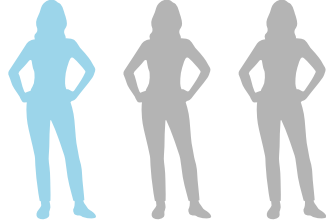
52% access a form of government assistance



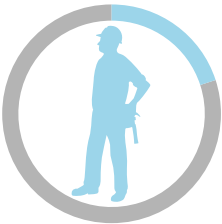
32% utilize SNAP benefits



31% enrolled in Medicaid



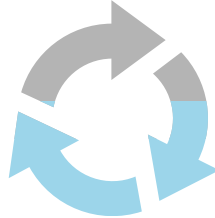
Job vacancy rate is **20%**



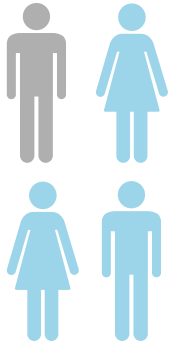
38% leave within first year



DSP turnover is **56%**



Fully Fund Provider Rates in Missouri



25%

1 in 4 DSPs live in poverty



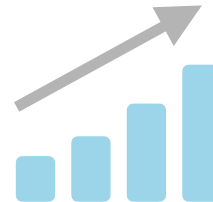
7,500

Missourians with IDD receive *residential* services



800 providers

in Missouri serve more than 15,000 children and adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)

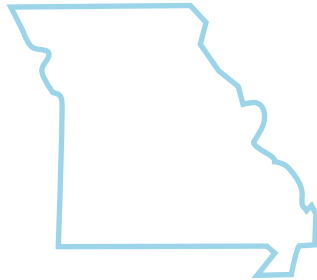


\$4.35

For every \$1.00 of State funding invested into this system, \$4.35 of economic activity is generated

2

Ensure
Missourians with
disabilities have
the opportunity
to **work in a
competitive,
integrated
setting** as the first
and preferred
choice



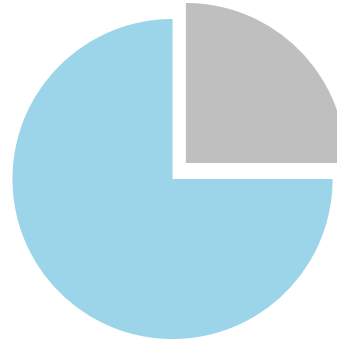
Establish
Employment First
legislation for the
State of Missouri

Maintain
Missouri's status as
a **Model Employer**
for people with
disabilities

Employment of People with Disabilities in Missouri

What is *Employment First*?

Employment first is a concept to facilitate the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workplace and community in which community-based, competitive integrated employment is the first and preferred outcome for employment services for persons with disabilities.

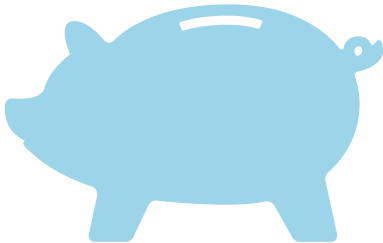


75%

Seventy-five percent of Missourians with cognitive disabilities are unemployed.

\$1.46

For every \$1.00 invested in employment services, Missouri saves an additional \$1.46 and bolsters taxable income



22

Twenty-two other states in the US have passed Employment First legislation



MARF improves the lives of Missourians with disabilities by driving public policy and strengthening member organizations through advocacy, education and collaboration.

www.marf.cc