

Who is a Direct Care Worker?

Direct Care Work (DCW) is one of the most in-demand and essential jobs in the U.S., but few people know what Direct Care Work is or who Direct Care Workers (DCWs) are. DCWs provide a range of care to members, or people who need assistance with daily living tasks due to physical, mental, medical, or other conditions.

Personal Care Worker / Home Health Aide

Personal care workers and home health aides provide non-medical support with daily tasks in members' homes. Examples of their work include cooking meals, assisting with hygiene needs, cleaning, and running errands.

Direct Support Professional

Direct Support Professionals provide support, mentorship, and companionship to members. Examples of their work include administering medication, supporting daily living needs, and providing transportation.

Caregiver

Caregivers provide supervision, behavior support, and assistance with activities associated with daily living. Examples of their work include providing medication reminders and food preparation.

Job Coach

Job Coaches provide on-the-job training and support for members. Examples of their work include helping members to learn and perform job tasks and build positive relationships.

Nursing Aide

Nursing Aides provide skills care with activities associated with daily living. Examples of their work include monitoring a member's health status, assisting them with transfer, hygiene, and meal preparation.

DCWs work in people's homes, the community, and medical settings. People may voluntarily provide direct care support to their family and loved ones. Taking care of an older parent, running errands for a neighbor in needs, or helping a friend organize their medication are all examples of commonly unpaid Direct Care Work.

DCWs, providing support that improves lives.

Learn more about DCW, its impacts, and how to become one.

Visit HCPF.Colorado.gov/Direct-Care-Spotlight

Source:

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. Division of Labor Standards and Statistics. Healthcare. Direct Care. Accessed September 2023.

<https://cdle.colorado.gov/dlss-home-page/healthcare/direct-care>