

TWO TYPES OF CARE

Know the difference. Fund them fairly.

Supports and services provided by home care staff and Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) in OPWDD-certified settings have distinct differences in terms of regulations, training, responsibility, level of care, and the type of support they offer. However, home care staff and DSPs are similar in that they provide complementary services, yet are not paid wages that recognize the training and critical care and supports they provide in the community.

The differences include:

Home Care Staff



Department
of Health

Direct Support Professional



Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities

Oversight

Training in assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs).

Approved Medication Assistive Personnel (AMAP) trained and certified to dispense medications, administer g-tubes, j-tubes, wound care, and more. Also trained in Strategies for Crisis Intervention and Prevention de-escalation, and other behavioral interventions.

Training

Responsibilities

Basic assistance with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, grooming, and meal preparation.

DSPs typically provide a higher level of care such as medication administration, wound care, g-tubes/j-tubes, social emotional support, behavioral interventions, de-escalations, social activities, and other behavioral support.

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Home Care Staff

Direct Support Professional

Setting

Provides care and assistance to individuals with disabilities within their own homes.

Provides supports and services to individuals with I/DD in their homes, in the community, employment settings, day programs, and volunteer settings, and in 24/7 residential settings for individuals with complex needs.

Eligibility

Primarily elderly and disabled individuals who need assistance with ADLs and/or nursing services.

Individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability who are deemed OPWDD eligible.

Agency Status

For-Profit OR Nonprofit

Only Nonprofit Allowed

Reimbursement

Medicaid, Medicare, and Commercial Insurance primarily under managed care.

Medicaid fee for service only, with rates set by OPWDD.

Home Care Staff and Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are different in their responsibilities, training, oversight, and funding streams.

However, both are integral to the support of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and deserve wages that recognize the training and critical care and supports they provide!