



**LIFE. YOUR WAY.**  
**Department on**  
**Disability Services**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

*September 13 – 19, 2020*

### **DDS Celebrates Direct Support Professionals Week**

#### **Monday, September 14, 2020**

Washington, DC— Mayor Muriel Bowser has issued a proclamation designating September 13 - 19, 2020 as Direct Support Professional Week in Washington, DC. The annual event celebrates front line professionals who provide essential supports to people with intellectual disabilities. This year due to the pandemic, various organizations will host virtual events to highlight and strengthen the skills and talents these dedicated workers bring to their chosen field.

In May, the American Network of Community Options and Resources ([ANCOR](#)) hosted a virtual awards ceremony for the **2020 DSP of the Year**. Fifty-five DSPs out of 300 nominees were recognized for their commitment to helping people with disabilities live life their way. Jason McGaughey of RCM of Washington is the 2020 DSP of the Year for the District of Columbia. Learn more about him and DSPs around the nation in the digital publication [Recognizing Excellence 2020](#).

For more information about Direct Support Professionals Week, click [here](#). A copy of the Mayoral Proclamation follows this press release.

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For more information, contact Jocelyn Harris, Public Information Specialist at [Jocelyn.Harris2@dc.gov](mailto:Jocelyn.Harris2@dc.gov) or 202-664-2162

The Department on Disability Services is a dynamic organization serving people with disabilities through the services of the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). This comprehensive collaborative approach provides innovative high quality services that enable people with disabilities to lead productive lives as vital members of their families, schools, workplaces, and communities. Learn more at: [www.dds.dc.gov](http://www.dds.dc.gov) and follow us on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

# Proclamation



## DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WEEK

SEPTEMBER 13 - 20, 2020

**WHEREAS**, by assisting with employment, social inclusion, and daily living, Direct Support Professionals partner with and support people with intellectual disabilities to help them lead productive lives as vital members of their families and communities; and



**WHEREAS**, during an unprecedented global pandemic, Direct Support Professionals have remained on the frontlines, providing a broad range of services that are individualized and tailored to meet each person's needs and goals; and

**WHEREAS**, Direct Support Professionals are essential for ensuring the health and well-being of the people they serve, making a crucial difference in the quality of life for many individuals and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, Direct Support Professionals Week is designed to increase public awareness and appreciation, and recognize the positive impact Direct Support Professionals make on a daily basis in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Washington, DC:



**NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR of WASHINGTON, DC, do hereby proclaim** September 13-20 as "DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WEEK!"

A handwritten signature of Muriel Bowser in black ink, written over a horizontal line.