

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 10-08
	DATE September 12, 2008

TO: ALL ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER SYSTEM LEADS
ALL STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS

FROM: GAY M. GILBERT /s/
Administrator
Office of Workforce Investment

SUBJECT: Announce and Support Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) Week

- 1. Purpose.** The U.S. Senate Designated the Week of September 8, 2008 as National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week (S. Res. 613) to honor this important group of workers. This resolution is an opportunity to learn more about the work of direct support professionals (DSPs) in your community.
- 2. Background.** Direct Support Professionals serve the ill, elderly, and people with disabilities including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to enable them to live in their own homes or in residential care facilities instead of in health facilities or institutions. Direct support professionals held about 767,000 jobs in 2006, with the majority of jobs in home health care services; individual and family services; residential care facilities; and private households. Most direct support professionals work with the elderly or individuals with physical and/or intellectual disabilities who need more extensive personal and home care than family or friends can provide. Direct support professionals – also called homemakers, caregivers, companions, and personal attendants – provide a variety of housekeeping and routine personal care services. Employment of direct support professionals is projected to grow by 51 percent between 2006 and 2016, adding about 389,000 jobs.
- 3. Action Required.** Here are a few ideas about how the workforce system can promote National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week:
 - Review the Direct Support Worker Career Video on Career Voyages at <http://careervoyages.gov/healthcare-videos.cfm>;
 - Know a Direct Support Professional? Share their success stories with others;

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- Review the DOL Apprenticeship Direct Support Specialist Occupation Model located at <http://www.careervoyages.gov/healthcare-longterm.cfm>;
- Review a white paper entitled “Tapping Into the Public Workforce Network” for lessons learned on developing local partnerships at http://www.ancor.org/issues/dol_pilot_white_paper.pdf.

Recipients are requested to share this Training and Employment Notice with workforce system partners in business, education, and elsewhere who have contact with individuals in the Direct Support profession.

4. **Resources.** For more information on Direct Support Professionals, please visit www.youneedtoknowme.org and www.careervoyages.gov.
5. **Inquiries.** For more information on National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week please visit www.ancor.org.