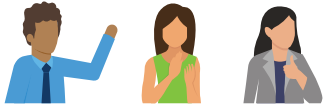


STATE OF THE DISABILITY WORKFORCE

2024

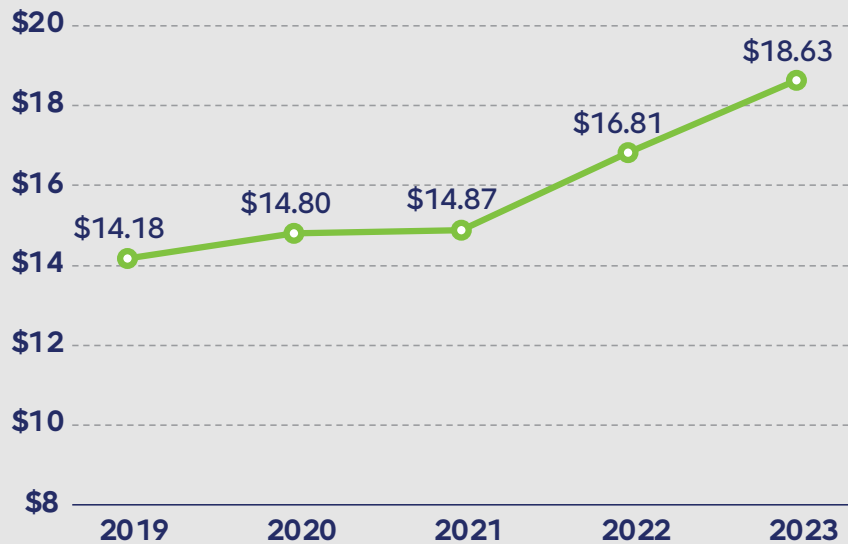


A **Direct Support Professional (DSP)** supports people with disabilities to live the lives they want to live. Every day, 7,810 DSPs across Rhode Island empower others.

Your work over the last three legislative sessions has made a **difference**. In 2022 you passed rate reform, in 2023 invested in staff and in 2024 you funded rate reform. As you can see, much of this investment went directly to frontline staff.

We are starting to see a broken system slowly repair due to the legislators' work.

RHODE ISLAND WAGES FOR PERSONAL CARE AIDS



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

RI CATCHES UP WITH NEIGHBORS

1.		Rhode Island	\$18.63
2.		Massachusetts	\$18.54
3.		Connecticut	\$18.09

Average wage for personal care aids.

9 OUT OF 10



DSP's still don't earn enough to cover the typical living expenses of a single adult with no children in RI.

1. Restaurant Cooks

2. Waiters & Waitresses

3. Personal Care Aides

4. Fast Food

5. Retail

Out of nearly 500 occupations present in Rhode Island, personal care aids are the **third highest**-growth occupation. 12,000 openings are expected in Rhode Island between 2020 and 2030.

Legislative leaders have prioritized Medicaid services over the last several years. Those investments have brought a system in despair to a system in repair. **As you can see to the left, our work isn't done.** Disability and the people who work everyday to empower must be at the top of our minds every legislative session. Let's continue to work together.

- Jenna Husted | Program Director