

Alicia Bryant
Carmel

I work for a company who supports people with intellectual disabilities. Right now, we are so under staffed, partially due to the pay rate that we can provide. Reimbursement is \$11.21 an hour although minimum wage is \$12.15. Starting rate for our DSP's is \$12.15-\$14.16 an hour. Right now fast food restaurants are offering \$14.00 or higher. We can't compete with that. DSP's provide care and assistance so a person can live in their own home and allow them to be a part of the community. DSP's also provide medical care, such as administering medication and insulin. I, myself, once had to care for a person during their last days. It was I who had to make the decision with hospice when to increase morphine doses. That is a lot of responsibility for someone making minimum wage. If we are lucky enough to hire staff, they don't stay long if they are given an opportunity to earn more somewhere else with less responsibility. Currently our DSP's have to work overtime to ensure our consumer's are properly cared for. They deserve an increase in pay.