

Chris Marshall
Bangor

My name is Chris Marshall,

It is very challenging for me to stay in this field when the pay is so low. I have been at my current place of employment for 3 years and still do not make enough money to be able to pay all my bills in a timely manner.

If i work overtime I am able to get the money I need but the emotional and physical strain is not worth it in the end because I don't have the time to spend with my family.

As i am right now with the state only requiring a percentage of the actual hours I have no opportunity for overtime and most of my shifts are just me on staff having to look after three consumers.

I see a lot of turnover from the DSP side of things, before and after the pandemic started, it also affects us more because with the consumers at program we have more chances of being exposed to the virus.

Also I don't feel like the state of Maine values DSP's at all. It is evidenced in the pay we receive and the benefits of working in the role.

In summary I seriously hope you consider raising the rate of pay for all DSP's. I feel like that would be a huge step forward for Maine and a huge step forward for DSP's being a more desirable career.

Chris Marshall

DSP at Branches LLC

Winterport