



Home and Community-Based Services

Community Supports (non-residential)

Day Services and Programs
Respite
Supported Employment

Supports to Individuals and Families

Home Health
Hospice
Personal Assistance and Support
Personal Care
Respite
Supported Community Living

Community Residential

Assisted Living
Group Homes
Semi-independent Living

Facility Settings

Hospitals
Intermediate Care Facilities/ID
Nursing Facilities
Residential Care Facilities
State Mental Health Institutes
State Resource Centers

Who are Direct Care Professionals?

Direct care professionals (DCPs) are defined as individuals who provide supportive services and care to people experiencing illnesses or disabilities and who receive compensation for such services. This definition excludes nurses, case managers and social workers. "Direct care professional" is the umbrella name for the workforce. DCPs are commonly called direct support professionals, direct care workers, supported community living workers, home health aides, certified nurse aides, and many other job titles.

What do Direct Care Professionals do?

Direct care professionals provide a wide range of services and supports to individuals with intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities, and aging Iowans, including:

- » Assisting with skill-building and achieving personal goals, including vocational, educational and career support; building and maintaining friendships; crisis prevention and intervention
- » Services that help someone live independently at home or in the community, such as managing money, grocery shopping, cooking, cleaning
- » Services to help someone meet their basic needs, such as bathing; dressing and undressing, eating (includes feeding), toileting, and assistance moving around
- » Medically oriented services to help individuals maintain their health, including catheter care, ostomy care, checking vitals, range of motion exercises

Number of Workers and Where They Work

Current Employment. Direct care professionals are the single largest workforce in Iowa. In 2014, there are an estimated 78,000 direct care professionals providing services. (Direct Care Worker Advisory Council, March 2012 Final Report)

Wide Range of Settings. Direct care professionals are employed in a range of settings: the consumer's or family's home; facility settings such as nursing facilities, hospitals, and large facilities for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities; community-based residential settings ranging from group homes to assisted living facilities; plus a wide range of non-residential day programs and other community support services.

Home and community-based jobs dominate direct care employment. The majority of direct care professionals are now employed in home and community-based settings. By 2018, home and community-based direct care professionals are likely to outnumber facility workers by nearly two to one.