



Montana Healthcare Programs Provider Notice

April 19, 2024

Developmental Disabilities Program (DDP) Providers

Developmental Disabilities Workforce Capacity Development Near-Term Initiative

Governor Greg Gianforte signed [House Bill 872](#) into law on May 22, 2023, providing a generational investment to reform and improve Montana's behavioral health and developmental disabilities service systems.

A central component of the Governor's Budget for Montana Families, the \$300 million investment will expand intensive and community-based behavioral healthcare and developmental disabilities services across Montana.

The Behavioral Health System for Future Generations (BHSFG) Commission passed the Developmental Disabilities Workforce Capacity Development Near-Term Initiative (NTI) on January 11, and the NTI was subsequently approved by the Governor on January 30, 2024.

The Workforce Capacity Development NTI will provide up to \$350,000 to pilot a Direct Support Professional (DSP) credentialing structure to test best practice approaches to stabilizing the DSP workforce by providing career ladders. [The complete BHSFG Commission Recommendation for Consideration document is available on the DPHHS website.](#)

The DSP Workforce Capacity Grants provides one-time grants to 5 Developmental Disabilities service providers with a goal of 1 per DDP region. On average, 25 DSPs will become credentialed through the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) platform eBadge Academy, a web-based credentialing platform.

Funds will cover staff time for DSPs participating in the credentialing program as well as "backfilled" staff to cover the shift time of staff enrolled in the credentialing program; payroll processing, grant reporting and tracking and other administrative costs incurred by selected provider agencies; technical support provided by the NADSP to support providers in implementation; and one-time incentive bonuses to DSPs once they reach credentialing tiers as modeled below:

- Tier 1 – \$1,000
- Tier 2 – \$1,500
- Tier 3 – \$2,000

Eligibility

To be eligible for this grant, programs must ensure the following:

- Provider is actively enrolled as Medicaid provider type 82.
- Provider is actively listed on at least one prior authorization for a Developmental Disabilities Waiver service.
- Provider is in good standing with DDP and the Office of Inspector General, including no unresolved Quality Assurance Observation Sheets.
- Attest that the organization has the administrative support infrastructure to meet the grant criteria; and that selected DSPs will be provided the time needed to complete credentialing activities.

Providers must commit to reporting requirements including, but not limited to:

- Narrative description of progress on project implementation
- Project budget, by month
- Project impact
- DSP Level Reporting
- Post Intervention Focus Groups

The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) will be accepting proposals beginning April 19 through May 17.

All proposals must be submitted via [Submittable through the Montana Grants Application Portal](#). On the DD Workforce Capacity Grant announcement page that opens, scroll to the bottom to create an account or log into your existing account.

Contact and Website Information

If you have questions, please contact Ryan Bonser, Administrative Assistant, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (BHDD) Division at (406) 444-5978 or email Ryan.Bonser@mt.gov.

For claims questions or additional information, contact Montana Provider Relations at (800) 624-3958 or (406) 442-1837 or email Montana Provider Relations Helpdesk.

Visit the [Montana Healthcare Programs Provider Information website](#) to access your provider type page. Choose Resources by Provider Type in the left-hand menu.

Visit the [Contact Us page](#) on the Provider Information website for additional DPHHS contact numbers.