



## General Speaking Points

The following language may be used when explaining the impact of Ohio's Developmental Disability Crisis upon people with developmental disabilities, their families and those who care for them. As this issue is quite complex, the language below is intentionally straightforward.

Ohio presently has a developmental disability workforce crisis.

We need your help!

### **What is the crisis?**

Ohioans with disabilities cannot get the care and support they desperately need because of the unprecedented workforce shortage of skilled Direct Support Professionals caused by extremely low wages.

### **What is the impact of the crisis on people with developmental disabilities?**

Without Direct Support Professionals, many people with developmental disabilities cannot eat, go to the bathroom, bathe themselves or do the things we take for granted. Without Direct Support Professionals, people with developmental disabilities suffer!

### **What is the impact on Direct Support Professionals?**

Direct Support Professionals who support people with developmental disabilities can't feed their families with what they are paid, and they are quitting the field every day at an alarming rate. Efforts to retain current support professionals and attract new ones to the field are greatly impacted by low wages caused by current reimbursement rates.

### **How is Ohio's Developmental Disabilities workforce crisis different from other workforce shortages?**

Developmental disability providers are locked into reimbursement rates set by the State of Ohio. Only action by state officials can resolve this issue.





### **People with Developmental Disabilities are suffering.**

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### **Family members are quitting their jobs to provide 24/7 care.**

- The need for 24/7 care for people with developmental disabilities from families means that many people are quitting their jobs. This also means that many struggling Ohio families are sliding into poverty.
- Negative impact of Family members forced to quit jobs:
  - Families don't have enough income to live.
  - Families are forced to rely upon other expensive social services.
  - Local communities are deprived of the labor and talents of otherwise willing and able working people.
  - Increased pressure on the family structure itself.

### **Direct Support Professionals are leaving the field every day at an alarming rate.**

Many Direct Support Professionals for people with developmental disabilities can't feed their families with what they are being paid. This is because developmental disability providers are locked into reimbursement rates set by the State of Ohio. Only action by state officials can resolve this issue.

### **Ohio Businesses that support people with Developmental Disabilities are closing.**

Businesses throughout Ohio that are dedicated to supporting people with developmental disabilities are presently closing due to this crisis. Many more will close.

When these Ohio businesses close:

- Thousands of Ohioans lose their jobs.
- Thousands of people with developmental disabilities and their families lose life-saving support.
- Developmental disability providers are locked into reimbursement rates set by the State of Ohio. Only action by state officials can resolve this issue.





## What can you do to help?

### Share your story!

Remember... *Only* action by state officials can resolve this issue!

- A powerful way for people with developmental disabilities to advocate for themselves is through their own personal stories that come from the heart.
- Also, stories from those who are advocating on behalf of someone with developmental disabilities are persuasive in their genuineness and authenticity.

We are hoping Ohioans will tell their own stories about how Ohio's Developmental Disability Crisis has impacted them.

Will you commit to reaching out with your own personal story about how Ohio's Developmental Disability Crisis is impacting you?

**There is a simple way to do so! Visit [OhioDDCrisis.com](http://OhioDDCrisis.com).**

You'll find an easy-to-use web portal where you can share YOUR story! That story may then be shared with key legislators, so they can understand the very real and immediate human impact of this crisis. Simply follow the prompts in the online survey tool and fill in your information and story.

