



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Hickenlooper Proclaims Direct Support Professionals Week (Sept 14th-18th)

Alliance is proud to announce that Governor Hickenlooper has proclaimed September 14th-18th as Direct Support Professionals Week. Alliance would like to join the Governor in honoring all of Colorado's DSPs that work hard to provide excellent care for people throughout Colorado.

In 2015, Alliance members and their DSPs have won awards for their service at the [IDD Awareness Day](#) at the Colorado Capitol and at the [ANCOR](#) national conference in Washington DC. In fact, the 2015 National Direct Service Professional of the Year was Alex Andrews who works for [Imagine!](#) in Boulder. You can learn more about all of the 2015 DSP winners at the links below.

Thanks to our incredible DSPs and IDD agencies, Colorado is at the forefront of IDD service quality and delivery. In fact, [Colorado IDD services are ranked 6th in the nation!](#) However, we remain concerned that the availability and high quality of services is at risk if provider rates remain at unsustainable lows. Thus, on behalf of all Alliance members and the DSPs they employ, Alliance works to increase provider rates throughout the IDD system in order to build community capacity, end the wait list, and strengthen services for people with IDD in Colorado.

We're grateful that Alliance members and their DSPs have elevated Colorado as a leader in providing some of the best IDD services in the country and have been recognized for these successes on a national level. Keep up the good work, Colorado DSPs!

Join Alliance and ANCOR in urging U.S. Senators to sign the DSP Senate Resolution by clicking [HERE](#). CO's Senators have yet to sign on.

Alliance DSP's Honored in 2015

[Alliance's 2015 DPS of the Year: Donald Romero from Inspiration Field in La Junta](#)

[ANCOR's 2015 DSP of the Year for Colorado: Carla Buterbaugh from Dungarvin in Colo. Springs](#)

[ANCOR's 2015 NATIONAL DSP of the Year: Alex Andrews from Imagine! in Boulder](#)



WHEREAS, direct support professionals, direct care workers, and in-home support workers are primary providers of publicly-funded, long-term support and services for individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals must build close, respectful, and trusted relationships with the individuals they help support; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals help those with disabilities participate fully in their communities and remain connected to family and friends; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals provide a broad range of individualized support enabling individuals to live meaningful and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals are important in supporting an individual with disabilities to avoid more costly institutional care; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado recognizes the contribution of direct support professionals that help strengthen our communities by fostering greater inclusion for persons with disabilities;

Therefore, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the entire State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim, forever after, the period between September 14, 2015 and September 18, 2015, as

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WEEK

in the State of Colorado.



*GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado, this fourteenth day of
September, 2015*

John W. Hickenlooper
John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Governor Hickenlooper joined many other states in proclaiming Direct Service Professionals Week.
Click [HERE](#) to view the other state proclamations.