



“I started out [as a DSP] in a home, being instrumental and helping others, to get to where I am today. I was able to move up because there are so many opportunities here.”

-- Cleveland Southern
Habilitation Specialist supervisor



“As far as only needing a high school education [to be a DSP], it’s incredible – not to mention the effect you have on the people who you work with. Most of the time when I was working in the home, it wasn’t like I was going to work. It was like I was going to my second home.”

-- Wesley King
Team Treatment Leader



“You can develop a career at OPWDD...you can take exams or be promoted....as a DSP at OPWDD, there is a plethora of opportunities.”

-- Alicia Southern
Habilitation Specialist I



Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities

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Albany, NY 12229-0001



Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities



Grow Your Career
at OPWDD



(866) 946-9733 | NY Relay System 711

www.opwdd.ny.gov



Grow Your Career at OPWDD

At OPWDD, you come to the agency for a job, but you stay for a career.

OPWDD operates 13 offices statewide, with positions available in every county, both at regional office locations and within the community. Each position can offer you numerous opportunities to grow a thriving career.

Cultivate Your Experience With 20+ Hours of Training

Once you are hired as an entry-level direct support professional with OPWDD, you begin your career with an extensive New Employee Orientation. Learning is provided to you in the traditional classroom style, with interactive hands-on modules and on-the-job training days.

During this time, you will develop a comprehensive knowledge base for providing high-quality services to a diverse population of people.



Upon successful completion of the New Employee Orientation, you will be able to:

- Work towards becoming certified to administer medications.
- Support people through day-to-day activities and during difficult times.
- Provide first-aid and CPR.
- Assist people with the use of cutting-edge technologies and adaptive equipment.
- Be an integral part of a multi-disciplinary team.
- Assist people in developing skills and enjoying a more independent and self-directed life.
- Ensure people are provided a positive and therapeutic environment.
- Successfully complete a one-year traineeship program that provides you with additional supports.

Grow Your Skills with Professional Development

Once you have completed your traineeship with OPWDD, you have multiple pathways to take for additional training and professional development. These pathways will help you to gain the knowledge and skills to be successful in your initial position and provide you with an opportunity to learn skills that can lead to advancement within OPWDD.

New York State and OPWDD also offer professional development opportunities online and in a classroom setting to support you to be successful in your career.

Online offerings include:

- Regulatory required trainings;
- Thousands of optional professional trainings; and,
- Computer skills training.

Interactive classroom topics include:

- Health and safety;
- Clinical;
- Supervision;
- Interpersonal skills;
- Teamwork; and,
- Presentation skills.

Branch Out for Advancement

As an employee of OPWDD, you may access professional development offerings through the NYS & CSEA Partnership for Education and Training. Clinicians and managers may find additional programs through the Public Service Workshop Program (PSWP). Topic areas include:

- Online learning and certificate programs;
- Leadership training;
- Continuing education training in multiple disciplines;
- Applied skilled trades training;
- Licensed Master Social Worker training;
- Work-Life balance instruction;
- Interpersonal skills training;
- Professional writing;
- Data analysis;
- Individual development; and,
- Computer skills.

Build Your Experience

You also may be eligible for continuing education tuition and exam fee reimbursement through New York State bargaining unit reimbursement programs. This includes specialized programs for careers in nursing, information technology, welding and other certifications and licensures.

Want to Learn More?

If you are interested in learning more about how you could grow a career with OPWDD, please call (866) 946-9733 or visit www.opwdd.ny.gov.

