



## DIRECT SERVICE PROFESSIONAL (DSP) TRAINING STIPEND PROGRAM

Beginning this fall, DSPs may receive **up to two \$625 (before taxes) stipends** when they complete online training courses approved by the Department of Developmental Services (Department). The Training Stipend Program **ends June 30, 2024**, and all courses must be completed by that date.

DSPs, including some frontline supervisors and clinical staff, who meet the following criteria are eligible for the training stipend:

- Work as a paid DSP an average of 10 hours or more per week;
- Perform direct support tasks like skills development, guidance, and personal assistance to regional center consumers as a regular part of their job duties;
- Spend at least 50% of work hours doing direct support tasks; and
- Are employed by a regional center vendor or by a participant in the Self-Determination Program.

Approved DSP training courses are available in the ARCA Learning Center at <https://provider.arcalearn.org>. To register, the DSP must input their employer's vendor number, verify the vendor's name, and input the name of the regional center associated with the vendor number. DSPs should ask their employer for this information, or for DSPs supporting individuals through Participant-Directed Services or in the Self-Determination Program, the Financial Management Services (FMS) vendor. To obtain the first training stipend, DSPs must complete the *Code of Ethics* training, which was developed by the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP). DSPs can receive a second stipend after they complete an additional Department approved course. A list of Department approved online courses can be found under the DSP Training Stipend Program tab found [here](#).

Other important information about the training stipend:

- The stipend payments are considered taxable income.
- The online training courses are about one hour long. They can be taken at any time.
- These online courses can be paused and resumed at the DSP's convenience.
- The trainings count towards Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for Community Care Licensing.

More information can be found at: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/workforce-initiatives/>