



# ***Rally for Competitive DSP Wages***

***Monday, May 13, 2019 10:00am—1:00pm***

***NJ State House Annex, Trenton NJ***

On May 13, we want HUNDREDS of members of the Coalition for a DSP Living Wage to gather for a rally in front of the NJ State House Annex in Trenton to tell Governor Murphy and the Legislature that \$54-million is needed in FY2020 to secure a competitive DSP starting wage that's 25% above minimum wage. A HUGE turnout would make a strong statement to lawmakers that NJ must #PayFair4DirectCare in FY2020.

## **\*\*EVENT DETAILS\*\***

**Date/Time:** Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 10:00am-1:00pm, held Rain or Shine

**Where:** In front of the [State House Annex, 125 West State Street, Trenton](#)

**What to Wear:** If you already have a lime green Coalition for a DSP Living Wage t-shirt, please wear it to the event. Otherwise, please wear green or blue. A limited number of Coalition t-shirts will also be available on a first come, first serve basis at the event.

**What to Bring:** Bring a bag lunch or money to purchase lunch at the State House Cafeteria or nearby Café 128 on West State Street. Food will not be provided.

### **Public Transportation:**

Direct rail service to Trenton is provided by both NJ Transit (1-800-582-5946) and Amtrak (1-800-872-7245). NJ Transit also provides bus service to and within the Trenton area.

### **FROM THE TRAIN STATION**

**Walking:** South Clinton Avenue runs along the left side of the train station. Proceed up the avenue (to your right when facing the road) one block and make a left onto East State Street. (You'll soon pass the Department of Environmental Protection on your left.) At Warren Street the street becomes West State Street. The State House is two blocks up on the left. The walk takes 10-15 minutes.

**Cabs:** Cabs are available at the rear of the station.



**Buses:** Buses stop in front of the train station at the corner of South Clinton Avenue. Most service West State Street and the State House.

### **What to Do to Prepare for the Rally:**

**Make a Sign & Bring it to Trenton:** Bring signs to the rally in support of greater state funding for DSP wages. This is your chance to tell state leaders why they must invest \$54-million in FY2020 to secure a competitive DSP wage that's 25% above minimum wage and reflects the skill, training and responsibility required for the complex work. Need help figuring out what to write? How about:

- It's time NJ #PayFair4DirectCare
- Direct Support is #NotMinWageWork
- Who will care if no one is there?!
- DSPs Do More, They Deserve More
- Low Pay is NOT Ok

Please keep in mind that no sticks or poles may be affixed on the signs and they must be made solely of paper or cardboard, otherwise they will not be permitted for safety reasons.

**Make Your Voice Heard via Social Media:** You have the chance to not only be advocates in person on May 13 – you can make your voice heard through your social media pages on Facebook and Twitter. Use hashtags #NotMinWageWork #PayFair4DirectCare and #DSPRally2019 before, during and after the event. Here are some sample tweets to post immediately to help spread the word and show support:

- Joining @NJDSPCoalition in Trenton for #DSPRally2019 on May 13 to show support for DSPs who provide essential supports for NJ residents with I/DD Direct Support is #NotMinWageWork @GovMurphy @NJSenatePres @SpeakerCoughlin
- Direct support workforce is in crisis with 44% turnover and 20% vacancy rates because of low wages. It's time #NJ invest in a competitive wage for DSPs that reflects the skill, training and responsibility required for the complex job. #DSPRally2019 #NotMinWageWork @GovMurphy



- Why #PayFair4DirectCare? Because over 30,000 NJ residents with I/DD rely on direct support professionals to achieve what we all want—a life well lived. @GovMurphy @NJSenatePres @SpeakerCoughlin #DSPRally2019 #NotMinWageWork

**Invite Your Legislators:** Nothing is more impactful than legislators hearing directly from their constituents. Give [your State Senator and your two members of the Assembly](#) a call or send them an email invitation to stop by the rally on May 13:

Dear Senator/Assemblyman-Assemblywoman:

I live in your legislative district and on May13, 2019, I will be in Trenton with other members of the Coalition for a DSP Living Wage for a rally that will bring attention to need for the state to invest in DSP wages. The rally will be held in front of the State House Annex and where we're inviting lawmakers to stop by and say a few words anytime between 11:00am—12noon. I hope you're able to come by and say hello!

YOUR NAME

YOUR ADDRESS