

DSP SPECIALIST

There are four specialist areas in which you can seek credentialing. The four specialist certificates include: Positive Behavioral Support, Health Support, Inclusion and Supervision & Mentoring. The specialist certificate is designed to recognize DSPs who have obtained specialized training and have demonstrated competence in providing specialized support to individuals with disabilities in community human services. You must apply for each specialist credential separately. Click on each title below for more information:

- DSP Specialist Inclusion (DSP-S-I)
- DSP Specialist in Health Support (DSP-S-HS)
- DSP Specialist in Positive Behavior Support (DSP-S-PBS)
- DSP Specialist in Mentoring and Supervision (DSP-S-MS)
- DSP Specialist in Employment Supports (DSP-S-ES)

Fee: \$100

Re-certification: In order to maintain DSP-Specialist in Inclusion status the DSP must be re-certified every two years. The re-certification process requires:

- Re-certification of the DSP-Certified credential;
- Proof of completion of 5 hours of continuing education in inclusion;
- Re-affirmation of commitment to the NADSP Code of Ethics

Fee: \$10

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about each of the three credentialing levels, please see the NADSP Website <https://www.nadsp.org/>

Visit with your Regional Staff Trainer to:

- Discuss the benefits of becoming DSP credentialed
- Obtain application packets
- Identify supports for compiling and submitting your application

Contact the State Training Director for more information about the North Dakota Direct Support Professional Community of Practice (800) 233-2737.



North Dakota Center for
Persons with Disabilities (#809)
Developmental Disabilities
500 University Ave. W.
Minot, ND 58707



NADSP CREDENTIALING

The NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS (NADSP) has developed a national credentialing program for Direct Support professionals working in community human services.





Making a World of Difference in People's Lives

The purpose of this credentialing program is to provide national recognition for the contributions and competence of Direct Support Professionals who apply for and meet the credentialing standards.

The NADSP credentialing program affords DSPs the opportunity to commit to the profession of direct support through its three-tiered credential program.

DSP REGISTERED

This is the first level of credential offered. The DSP-R is intended to recognize people who have entered the profession and desire to have careers in the field of community human services. It is not intended to be a credential for which NADSP prescribes or sanctions DSP competence. DSP-R applications that are complete and include payment will be reviewed within 6 weeks of receipt. Applications will not be reviewed until payment has been received. Applicants should ensure they meet the following criteria before applying.

Requirements:

1. Documentation showing a cleared criminal background check within the past twelve months in the state the DSP is employed (there is some variation by state);
2. Letter from employer indicating that the DSP:
 - a) has completed all required training and orientation as prescribed by the state and an employer in community human services or a person who self-directs her or his own services and supports*;
 - b) has six months continuous and current employment with an employer in community human services or a person who self-directs his or her own services and supports;
 - c) is an employee in good standing and legally able to work in the United States

3. Letter of intended professional commitment from the DSP which describes the DSP's values, commitment to and purpose for entering the profession; and
4. Signed and dated commitment to adhere to NADSP's Code of Ethics.

Fee: \$50 (One-time application and fee.)

DSP CERTIFIED

The second level of credentialing recognizes Direct Support Professionals who have demonstrated competence that is measured and approved by the NADSP. This credential sets this group of DSPs apart from other DSPs in that they have demonstrated skills that typical entry level DSPs would not have acquired. As the primary competence credential for direct support practice, the DSP-Certified credential is the core of our credentialing program. Regardless of specialization, every DSP approved as a DSP-Certified has demonstrated skills and knowledge that enable him or her to practice high quality direct support.



Required elements:

1. Must be a DSP-Registered;
2. Proof of completion of 200 related instruction hours, including classroom/online learning and such strategies as: skills mentoring or discussion seminars or applying the learning through on-the-job training or portfolio development sessions, from an NADSP accredited education or training program;
3. Proof of two years continuous and current work;
4. Professional resume;
5. Updated letter of professional commitment;
6. Letter of support/recommendation from a person to whom the DSP provides service or, in some situations, their family member or legal representative;



7. Portfolio of work samples that demonstrate competence in 8 of the 15 NADSP competency areas <https://nadsp.org/2011-09-22-14-00-06.html>;
8. Signed and dated re-commitment to adhere to the NADSP Code of Ethics.

Fee: \$150

Re-certification: Every 2 years

The completion of 20 hours of continuing education in the area of community human services

Fee: \$50.00

*For NADSP credentialing purposes, Level I in the Community Staff Training program will be interpreted as the required training and orientation prescribed by the state and an employer for DSP Registered credential. The balance of Level III training requirements will be applied to the 200 hours of instruction for DSP Certified. (See Community Staff Training Program Learn While You Earn brochure for a complete explanation of the North Dakota Community Staff Training Program Levels.)