

# Missouri Direct Service Workers: We need to hear from you!

Missouri's Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) is recruiting members to apply for a statewide Direct Service Worker Advisory Panel! The State is looking for 15 direct service workers to serve on the Advisory Panel and share their experiences and needs. The State knows that **you** are the backbone of the long-term services and supports system.



**WHO:** Direct service workers help older adults and people with disabilities work and live where they want. DHSS is looking for DSWs providing direct care through the Home and Community-Based Services program. This includes agency model or consumer-directed personal care services, adult day care services, and residential/assistive living personal care services.

## Examples of direct service workers include:

- Personal Care aides/attendants
- Certified nursing assistants (CNAs)
- Companions
- Adult Daycare Direct Care Staff
- Homemakers

**WHAT:** Examples of what DHSS wants to learn from direct service workers:

- What is important to you in your role as a direct service worker?
- What training(s) would be helpful in your role as a direct service worker?
- What, if any, barriers exist to staying and/or advancing in your role as a direct service worker?
- What types of support work help you stay in your role as a direct service worker?

**WHEN:** Meetings will commence in mid-2024, with a meeting scheduled every other month through early 2026. DHSS appreciates the participation of board members and knows their time is valuable. Gift cards will be provided to board members for each meeting attended.

**HOW:** If you would like to join the Direct Service Worker Advisory Panel, please complete [this form](#) or contact April Young at [ayoung@advancingstates.org](mailto:ayoung@advancingstates.org) or 202-898-2578 by **Tuesday, April 30, 2024**.