

Essential Worker Templates and Tools for DSPs

We wanted to share templates provided to us by ANCOR for you to customize for your employees use to give credibility to their claim that their work is considered essential. These may become useful if you live somewhere that has ordered a "Stay Home" or "Shelter in Place" ordinance.

[customize these templates](#)

Additionally, National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) has developed a COVID-19 Toolkit for DSPs: Resources for DSPs Taking Care of Themselves in Crisis.

With the coronavirus global pandemic, there is a constant barrage of information being shared. Things are changing almost hourly across the country. NADSP is committed to sharing resources for Direct Support Professionals. We understand that given this global crisis, DSPs are still working to provide supports. NADSP has created a tool kit with self-care information and additional resources for individuals. The tool kit contains: Free Webinars, handouts and links to online resources.

[Learn More](#)

Additionally, NADSP and ANCOR shared the following ACTION ALERT:

Action Alert

DSPs, you *are* essential, and the world needs to know.

But it's up to you to tell the world, *I am essential.*

And we have the tools to help.

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are essential to ensuring the health and safety of the people with intellectual and developmental disabilities they support. They are "essential staff" all the time, especially during a global health pandemic, and they must be seen as essential.

The good news? You can sound your voice to tell the world that DSPs are essential! We have partnered with the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals to

create four easy ways to take action right now.

Use our one-click advocacy tool to [Tweet at your governor with a letter outlining no-cost, high-impact ways she or he can support DSPs during the COVID-19 crisis](#) to ensure people with I/DD have the support they need.

1. **Share** an example on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram of what you do and/or who relies on your support using hashtag #DSPsAreEssential. Here are two examples:
 - I support two young men with I/DD who are struggling to understand COVID-19. They rely on me throughout their day. For me, staying home isn't an option. #DSPsAreEssential
 - My city is on lockdown, but three women with significant disabilities are counting on me to show up. #DSPsAreEssential
3. **Use** our one-click advocacy tool to [send a message to your members of Congress urging them to prioritize funding for I/DD services](#) — including funding to strengthen the direct support workforce — as they consider stimulus packages in the wake of COVID-19.
4. **Work** with leadership in your organization to [customize these templates](#) for documents that give credibility to your claims that your work is essential if you live somewhere that has ordered a "Stay Home" or "Shelter in Place" ordinance.

If there are other ways in which ANCOR and NADSP can support your efforts, or if you need support using any of the tools here, please [contact André Floyd, ANCOR's Communications Specialist, by email](#)