



Services for Oregon's Most Vulnerable Citizens are in Crisis!

Turnover of direct care workers exceeds 65% costing at least \$12 million annually in replacement costs.

Other Critical Issues

- ✓ No increases in 5 years.
- ✓ Savings exhausted, some organizations face bankruptcy.

Compare!

The state is responsible for assuring the health, safety and rights of people needing Comprehensive Services.

Non-profits now provide this service in communities throughout Oregon. It would cost the State over \$200,000,000 in direct labor costs alone to provide the same supports.

Nearly 3,000 people with Developmental Disabilities (DD) living in Oregon communities must have twenty-four hour support.

My name is Mistina. I have worked as a Direct Care Provider for 9 years. After the first 6 months, I knew this was the type of work I wanted to do. I love knowing that I can help make a difference in the lives of people. However, I am always looking for a job that pays better, and I have even left the people I have supported for years for better paying jobs. I have gone to school so I could get higher paying jobs, but I missed the people I supported so much that I keep coming back. I think if Direct Care Professionals got paid better wages and were able to have the same type of benefits as state employees doing the same work, then we would not have a compelling reason to turn our backs on the people that depend on us and with whom we have developed meaningful relationships. Being able to continue working with people with whom we have developed relationships enhances the quality of life for those that need supports.

I know from my own experience that when I receive my check, more than half of it goes to pay for daycare—another huge percentage goes to pay for health coverage for my and my children. This means that there is very little left which I can contribute to my family.

In the long run, it is not only my family that loses out, but the people I provide supports to lose, as well. Eventually, I will have to leave my job as my children are getting older and want to be involved in more activities and need more medical attention.



Recommendation: *An increase of approximately \$60 million in State General Funds to increase rates for current DD Comprehensive Services is needed for the 2007-09 biennium.*

Further, cost of living increases must be included in every biennial budget. Without such adjustments, community nonprofits will continue to be in crisis.