



Is Direct Care Work Right for You?

If you are thinking about being a direct care worker who helps people with disabilities, here are some things to consider.

<p>Rewarding</p> <p>Many direct care workers find their job very fulfilling. Some even refer to it as a “calling” because helping people with disabilities gives them a strong sense of purpose and meaning to their lives.</p>	<p>Pay</p> <p>While direct care work is incredibly important, workers’ pay often does not reflect the value of the work.</p>
<p>Flexible Hours</p> <p>Depending on the needs of the person receiving care, there might be flexibility in your work schedule.</p>	<p>Time Off</p> <p>Many direct care jobs do not pay for sick days, vacation, or holidays.</p>
<p>New Experiences</p> <p>You may help the person you care for go to work, volunteer, or participate in community events. This gives you the chance to do different things and learn from new experiences.</p>	<p>Challenges</p> <p>This job can be physically and emotionally difficult. Every person and situation is different, and some may be more challenging than others.</p>
<p>Job Growth</p> <p>The number of people in need of direct care workers is expected to grow a lot over the next several years.</p>	<p>Opportunities to Advance</p> <p>Many employers do not offer job advancement (promotion) for direct care workers. However, you can take classes and get certificates that might help you take on more responsibility and earn better pay.</p>