



Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of more than 300 nonprofit organizations providing critical services to New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), New York Disability Advocates extends its heartfelt thanks for your support and call for hazard pay for essential frontline workers.

Much like hospital workers, first responders and all other front-line workers, the direct support professionals (DSPs) who provide round-the-clock care to tens of thousands of individuals with developmental disabilities play an essential role in our New York's COVID-19 response.

Every day, DSPs—the majority of whom are women and people of color—put their own health and lives at risk to care for New Yorkers with I/DD in residential facilities across the state—a population that is at increased risk for contracting and dying from the disease.

New Yorkers with I/DD depend upon the selfless, life-sustaining care direct support professionals provide. We urge you to ensure DSPs are included to receive any hazard pay that the state allocates.