

Valentine's Day



Dear Governor Murphy,

Happy Valentine's Day! In this month of **love**, I want you to know how much I **love** Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), the workforce that assists people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), and the services delivered through the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). Without DSPs and services, inclusion in the community would not be possible. I know you are working hard on your FY20 Budget and so I ask you to please show your **love** for the (DDD) service delivery system by:

1. increasing wages for DSPs, who work with individuals with I/DD, by \$1.25 an hour and
2. appropriately funding Day Program services for adults with I/DD

I will be heartbroken if the FY20 Budget does not address these two critical items. The best Valentine's Day gift this year isn't candy or flowers; it's a service delivery system that recognizes the value of the Direct Support Professional workforce and ensures critical services are there for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who need them.

Thank you and have a wonderful Valentine's Day.

