

THE 5 PILLARS OF DIRECT CARE JOB QUALITY



QUALITY TRAINING

- Training is accessible, affordable, and relevant to the job
- Content covers a range of relational and technical skills associated with quality care
- Competency-based, adult learner-centered instruction with opportunities for hands-on learning
- Programs account for cultural, linguistic, and learning differences
- Documentation and verification of program completion and/or certification, with connections to employment



FAIR COMPENSATION

- Living wage as a base wage
- Access to full-time hours
- Consistent scheduling and notice of scheduling changes
- Employer- or union-sponsored benefit plans
- Paid sick days and paid family and medical leave
- Grief support and bereavement leave
- Financial support and asset development programs
- Access to merit, longevity, and other base pay increases



QUALITY SUPERVISION & SUPPORT

- Clear presentation of job requirements, responsibilities, workflows, and reporting structures
- Consistent, accessible, and supportive supervision
- Access to personal protective equipment and other supplies to ensure worker and client safety
- Connection to peer mentors and peer support networks
- Connection to community-based organizations to address employment-related barriers



RESPECT & RECOGNITION

- Direct care workers reflected in organizational mission, values, and business plans
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion formalized in organizational practices
- Consistent feedback is given on work performance and retention is celebrated
- Opportunities for direct care workers to influence organizational decisions
- Clear communication about changes affecting workers, with opportunities for feedback
- Direct care workers empowered to participate in care planning and coordination
- Other staff trained to value direct care workers' input and skills



REAL OPPORTUNITY

- Employer-sponsored continuous learning available to build core and specialized direct care skills
- Opportunities for promotion into advanced direct care roles with wage and title increases
- Organizational commitment to cross-training workers and promoting from within
- Connections to external training and job development programs for other health care and social service careers