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Missouri Department of Mental Health Establishes First of Its Kind **Apprenticeship Program for Direct Support Professionals**

The Department of Mental Health (DMH), Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD), has developed Missouri Talent Pathways, an initiative to recruit and retain a highly skilled and dedicated workforce.

The first of its kind in the nation, Missouri Talent Pathways was recently approved by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship. Missouri Talent Pathways is now a registered apprenticeship program which blends on-the-job mentoring with technical instruction and culminates in participants receiving a certificate as a Certified Direct Support Professional. As a registered apprenticeship intermediary, the Division and its community partners will have access to an expanded applicant pool, traditional workforce development programs, and a career ladder framework for direct support professionals.

Other objectives of the Missouri Talent Pathways Apprenticeship include:

- increasing competency of national best practices and statewide applicability and portability;
- improving cost and time efficiencies;
- expanding talent pipelines.

Specifics for stakeholders, community partners, state agencies, and national partners regarding the process to apply for this registered apprenticeship can be found [here](#).

For more information contact Debra Walker at debra.walker@dmh.mo.gov, or 573-751-1647.

[Click](#) for information about Registered Apprenticeships in Missouri.