

DHS Stipend and Enhanced Rate/Budget Requirements

Who is eligible?

Enhanced rate

A worker qualifies for the enhanced rate when the worker has completed qualifying trainings, the training requirements have been verified and provides services to a person who receives PCA services or participates in CDCS or CSG and either:

- Is eligible for 12 or more hours of state plan PCA per day or
- Has the home care rating EN

Stipend

A worker qualifies for the stipend when he or she works with a person who is a participant in PCA Choice, CDCS or CSG, has completed the qualifying trainings and those training requirements have been verified. The \$500 stipend is available to the first 1,500 workers to qualify before June 30, 2021.

Completing qualifying trainings for the stipend and/or enhanced rate

To qualify for the stipend and/or the enhanced rate, a worker can complete one of the combinations below:

Option 1

A worker with a current RN, LPN, CNA or HHA License or certificate must complete the Group A course and have a current license or certificate.

A license or certificate must be kept current in order to continue to qualify for the enhanced rate. The worker will not receive a reminder notification when his/her certification is about to expire.

Option 2

A worker who lives within 50 miles of a qualifying in-person training must complete all of the following:

- The Group A course
- 1 course from Group B and
- 1 course from Group C

Option 3

A worker who does not live within 50 miles of a qualifying in-person training must complete all of the following:

- The group A course and
- 3 courses from Group C

Second stipend

A worker who received a stipend before July 1, 2019 can qualify for a second stipend by completing:

- 1 course from Group B (workers cannot use the same certificate they used to qualify for the first stipend unless taking a recertification course). If you qualified for the stipend the first time using option 1 described above, you do not need to take a Group B course but will still need to satisfy the Group C requirement to receive a second stipend. and
- 2 courses from Group C. Workers cannot use the same Group C courses used to qualify for a first stipend to qualify for a second stipend.

Group A

DirectCourse online course: **Civil rights and advocacy: History of the disability rights movement.**

DirectCourse contains many courses with similar titles. Be certain you select the correct one.

[Create an account](#) if you do not already have one.
[Log on into your existing DirectCourse](#) account.

Group B

Group B courses are in-person training opportunities. To a view of list of options, please see DHS' instructions on [qualifying for the enhanced rate and/or stipend](#). Alternatively, workers can use a current American Red Cross or American Heart Association certification they acquired through an in-person course to qualify.

PCA Choice, CSG and CDCS direct support workers

PCA Choice, CSG and CDCS workers can take these courses at no cost. To sign up for the in-person courses, click the signup button at the top of this page: the [Direct Support Worker Training](#) page. On the signup page, make sure to check the box on the bottom that says, *"I have not yet completed the in-person course requirement and am a worker who provides PCA Choice, CSG, or CDCS services. Please determine if one is available for me."* The company that administers this website will contact you about your options, if available.

Traditional PCA direct support workers

Traditional PCAs can search, register, and pay for qualifying courses through [Minnesota State's continuing education website](#) using the search tool in the upper right corner of the screen.

Trainings that expire

If a worker uses a training that expires (such as CPR certification or first aid certification), that worker's eligibility for the enhanced rate expires when that certificate expires.

Group C (Online course)

Complete one of the courses from this list to meet the requirement for Group C. You only need to complete one. These courses are available through the same links you use to take course A.

- Direct support professionalism: Becoming a direct support professional
- Direct support professionalism: Contemporary best practices
- Direct support professionalism: Applying ethics in everyday work
- Direct support professionalism: Practicing confidentiality
- Personal care: Understanding personal and self-care
- Personal care: Individualizing personal care
- Personal care: The basics of hygiene
- Personal care: Basics of grooming and dressing
- Personal care: Oral care
- Civil rights and advocacy: Disability rights and legislation
- Civil rights and advocacy: Challenges and strategies for exercising rights

Next steps

Once you complete qualifying coursework, visit the Direct Support Worker Training page to submit your proof. You may have already visited this page when you registered for a course from group B. If you qualify for the stipend, you will receive a check in the mail. If you qualify for the enhanced rate or budget, you will receive a notification you can show your employer.

If a worker uses a training that expires (such as a licensure, CPR certification or first aid certification), that worker's eligibility for the enhanced rate expires when that certificate expires. A worker must submit proof of updated certification on the [Minnesota Direct Support Worker Training website](#) before the worker's eligibility expires. If the worker does not, the worker's eligibility expires. The worker will not receive a reminder notification when his/her certification is about to expire.

