California Department of Developmental Services
Fact Sheet
Last Updated: August 2024

Direct Service Professional (DSP) Internship Program

The DSP Internship Program provides 2,500 entry-level interns the opportunity to be paid for up to thirty hours per week for up to three months while learning high-quality DSP skills alongside a qualified DSP in a variety of settings performing a variety of functions while supporting an individual with intellectual or other developmental disabilities. DSP Interns who become permanent DSP employees with a regional center service provider will earn a $625 (before taxes) stipend after 6 months of continuous employment and another $625 (before taxes) stipend after 12 months of continuous employment.

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has contracted with All's WELL Healthcare Services (All's WELL) to recruit, interview, provide background checks, train, and act as the employer of record for the DSP Interns.

For an individual to be eligible for the DSP Internship Program, they must:

- be at least 18 years of age.
- have a high school diploma, General Educational Development (GED) equivalent, or a Certificate of Completion.
- have a valid Government-issued Identification Card.
- pass the background check and other required health screenings.

Participating regional center service providers must:

- be in good standing with the regional center and not be subject to any sanction while participating in the Program.
- have qualified DSP employees willing to and capable of mentoring and supervising at all times, an entry-level DSP Intern.
- provide the DSP Intern with orientation and task-oriented training.

All's WELL will meet with and maintain regular communication with each participating regional center service provider before and during the placement of DSP Interns. Regional center service providers may hire the intern at any time during the internship placement.

Other important information about the DSP Internship Program:

- There is no cost to regional center service providers to participate in the Program.
- DSP Intern wages (and worker's compensation) will be covered by All's WELL.
- DSP Interns will go through All's WELL's training program, preparing them to shadow a regional center service provider's qualified DSP.

More information can be found at: https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/workforce-initiatives/

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