



REHABILITATION & COMMUNITY PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION

Alert

COVID-19 Impact on Direct Support Professionals and Providers of Intellectual Disability/Autism Services

Individuals with intellectual disability or autism (ID/A) are at increased risk of complications due to COVID-19, while providers of ID/A services had been struggling for years due to underfunding before the pandemic hit. These challenges have led to significant strain on the ID/A workforce, with providers having significant problems with maintaining staff.

In August 2020, RCPA along with six other associations in Pennsylvania that represent Intellectual Disability/Autism (ID/A) service providers joined together to collect and analyze data on: 1) the impact of COVID-19 on providers; 2) barriers to Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) being able to work during the pandemic; and 3) the impact on DSP Turnover and Open Position Rates. Other stakeholders participated in the analysis and are listed in the endnote.

The [report](#) includes information regarding the impact on services, individuals receiving services and the DSP staff. This report is being discussed at a press conference today and will be made available to the public. It is our hope that the information will help legislators understand the impact COVID-19 has had on our services.

