



# ABOUT MOHR

MOHR is the collective voice of its members – organizations providing employment and day supports to adults living with disabilities throughout our state. Together, we create an environment where direct service providers are empowered to fulfill their missions so that adults with disabilities across the state are able to lead connected and engaged lives.

## WHAT ARE DAY AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES?

Day services provide support outside the home for adults with disabilities to be active in the community, socialize with their peers, build their skills and explore recreational opportunities. Employment services allow individuals to enter the workforce, giving them the opportunity to earn a wage, achieve personal fulfillment, utilize their skills, and participate in the community – the same things most Minnesotans look for from their work.

## WHY DO THESE SERVICES MATTER?

People with disabilities represent the largest minority in the country. These individuals deserve to find meaningful work and opportunities to explore their personal interests and goals. Additionally, employing people with disabilities has been shown to benefit businesses as well, giving them increased productivity, and access to a broader pool of workers.

## AT A GLANCE

### MEMBERS

**100+**

*MOHR represents more than 100 nonprofit day and employment service providers - nearly all the providers in the state.*

### INDIVIDUALS



*Through our members, we provide services to tens of thousands of Minnesotans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.*

### GOOD FOR BUSINESS



*Hiring employees with disabilities contributes to higher productivity, lower absenteeism and increased customer loyalty.*

**1 in 5**

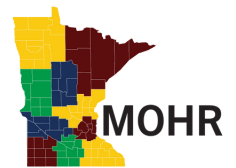
### REPRESENTATION

*Approximately 20 percent of Minnesotans live with one or more disabilities.*

## GET IN TOUCH

[mohrmn.org](http://mohrmn.org)

# 2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



## Current Situation

### 3,500+ UNSERVED

Due to severe staff shortages, more than 3,500 Minnesotans are currently on waiting lists for day and employment services. Some have been waiting more than 3 years. This number grows every day.

### UNLIVABLE WAGES

The biggest barrier to hiring direct support professionals is the low wage rate funded in the current disability waiver rate framework (DWRS).

### LOSS OF ACCESS

On average, MOHR members are serving 27% fewer individuals than they were before COVID. The individuals with the highest needs are the most likely to be left behind due to organizations' inability to hire enough staff to provide the needed support.

### YOU CAN HELP

The legislature can help solve this problem by updating the state-set reimbursement rates for day and employment service providers.

## STRENGTHEN THE DISABILITY WAIVER RATE SYSTEM (DWRS)

Employment and Day services programs are funded by the state's Medicaid DWRS reimbursement, meaning staff pay rates are largely controlled by legislative action. The current DWRS is woefully out of date, making it extremely challenging to hire and retain workers because wages are not competitive. This results in individuals with disabilities being left out of the workforce and unable to access day supports because providers cannot hire enough staff to support them. The Best Life Alliance legislation proposes adjustments to the DWRS focused on using more current economic data for updates to reimbursement rates. This will allow providers to offer more competitive wages and benefits, in turn helping more Minnesotans to access services.

House File 999, Rep. J. Hanson / Senate File 1015, Sen. Fateh

## STRENGTHEN THE EXTENDED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The MN Department of Employment and Economic Development oversees a critical disability employment support service called Extended Employment. This disability employment support program helps Minnesotans to reach their competitive employment goals. The proposed MOHR Extended Employment legislation would increase the sustainability of the Extended Employment program by adjusting the reimbursement rate to be more responsive to current market trends and therefore increasing access to this important service.

House File 1501, Rep. Brand / Senate File 1271, Sen. Putnam