



## Direct Support Careers in the Developmental Disabilities Field

*By: Ronnie Kauder, NYC Labor Market Information Service*

**Reviewer: Noah Isaacs, Project Manager and Educator, Innovations, Development, Institute for Community Living**

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The City University of New York was awarded \$19.86 million through the United States Department of Labor’s Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant program to offer CUNY CareerPATH, a three-year program aimed at supporting adult students in career advancement and successful college transition, responding to local industry needs, and building CUNY’s capacity to serve adult workers. CareerPATH provides academic and English language skills instruction “contextualized” to five industry sectors – health care, education, manufacturing, culinary arts and hospitality, and business – with the goal of engaging adult learners and accelerating their progress once they enroll in college. Strengthened connections between English language pre-college programs, occupational training, and degree programs — bolstered by strong advisement and enhanced student services — help students progress on each step of their education and career pathway. In the short term, participants earn industry-recognized credentials and find jobs. In the longer term, they translate their training into college credit and enter degree programs.

This brief, Direct Support Careers in the Developmental Disabilities Field, was written to shine light on an important, and oft-neglected sector of the labor market— direct support workers in the DD field. By understanding this workforce and its needs, CUNY can better shape its existing programs and help to create new, industry-aligned programs. Employers and policy makers can use this information to make informed decisions about hiring, training, and supporting staff.

The reviewer should complete the information below:

Based on your expertise, how would you rate the product’s ability to meet standards within your field?			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outstanding	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete

*Reviewer: Type Reviewer Name and Title*

**SUMMARY**

Based on knowledge of the product, please summarize your review of the product below in 2-3 paragraphs.

***Direct Support Careers in the Developmental Disabilities Field* is a quality product that outlines the needs in this field. Easy to read and well laid-out, this brief gives an excellent overview of career pathways in the direct support arena. In outlining the industry and the current challenges it faces, CUNY exhibits an expertise and important grasp of the Developmental Disabilities Field. More than that, they offer real world solutions that explore ways to surmount obstacles and create a healthier and better equipped workforce.**

**Given the upcoming structural transformation to a managed care system, CUNY's vision for how to prepare this workforce is extremely timely. CUNY is well-positioned to train this workforce in this new environment and both Employers and policy makers would be wise to read this brief and help put its recommendations into practice.**

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Type Name Noah Isaacs

11/17/2015

Signature



This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. The CUNY CareerPATH Program is an equal opportunity employer/program and auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.