



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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EMPOWERING PEOPLE'S INDEPENDENCE RAISES STARTING WAGE FOR DIRECT CARE STAFF TO \$15 PER HOUR.

ROCHESTER, NY, May 28, 2021 – Effective June 6th, 2021, Empowering People's Independence (EPI) will raise the base wage for direct support professionals to a minimum of \$15.00 per hour. The wage increase recognizes the critical role that our care support professionals play in our organization and in the health and human services sector.

EPI joins a growing number of local employers who have committed to actively address our community's root causes that contribute to systemic poverty, inequality, and exclusion.

"We value our direct support professional staff," said Jeff Sinsebox, EPI President/CEO. "With this wage increase we seek to ensure that our employees earn a living wage. While in the past we have often been able to offer bonuses, the new \$15 per hour starting wage will provide our employees a stable and predictable increase in earnings."

EPI provides progressive, tailored services to people with developmental disabilities, epilepsy, and brain injury. The wage increase also recognizes the increasing complexity and demands of the work performed by our direct support staff.

"Direct Support Professionals play an essential role in the lives of the people with disabilities who entrust us for their care," said Esther Neal, EPI VP of Human Resources. "Our new higher starting wage, will make possible for EPI to continue to attract and retain the skilled and dedicated workforce essential for our ability to deliver quality programs and services."

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More than 200 EPI employees will benefit from the hourly wage increase. A large percentage of the EPI employees benefitting from the raise are women and persons of color.

About EPI

Headquartered in Rochester, NY and with offices in Syracuse and Binghamton, EPI provides comprehensive services for people with disabilities in the Finger Lakes, Southern Tier, Western and Central New York regions. EPI's offerings include Self-Direction, Day and Community Habilitation, Residential Services, Respite, and Health Homes. EPI also offers the only week-long camp for children and young adults with epilepsy in New York State.

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