

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When and where can I apply for this opportunity?

A: Applications for individual professionals will be open from December 16, 2025 to January 30, 2026. Additional applications for provider agencies will be released in early 2026.

Q: Which external Nevada provider staff can apply for individual certification?

A: All providers who are enrolled with Nevada Medicaid, including I/DD waiver providers, mental health providers, specialists, and clinical staff.

Q: I work for an ADSD Regional Center. Can I apply for individual NADD certification?

A: The three Regional Centers are pursuing NADD accreditation. That process includes individual certification for some of the state staff. If you are interested in individual NADD certification, please contact your supervisor.

Q: Which Nevada state staff can apply directly for individual certification (outside of agency accreditation)?

A: Any Nevada Department of Human Services staff who work with adults or children/youth with I/DD, including staff at [Child and Family Services \(DCFS\)](#), [Public and Behavioral Health \(DPBH\)](#), or [Social Services \(DSS\)](#), as well as [Aging and Disability Services \(ADSD\)](#) staff who are not part of a regional center (see above.) Additionally, staff at the Nevada Health Authority who work with adults or children/youth with I/DD may also apply.

Q: What is the cost of NADD Membership?

A: If you are selected for this program, ADSD will cover the cost of NADD membership for 2025 and 2026. Beyond 2026, you will be responsible for annual dues. Current membership rates can be found at: <https://thenadd.org/join-nadd/>

Q: What is a DSP?

A: A Direct Support Professional (DSP) is a person whose primary role is to provide day-to-day support to people with disabilities in their homes, at work, at school or in their communities. They may be known by other titles such as support staff, direct care staff, personal care attendants, job coach, or para-educators. Typically, DSPs do not have a clinical license, but they may have a degree in a related field.

To be eligible for NADD-DSP Certification, one must have at least 1 year of work experience as a DSP with a minimum of 1,000 hours in support of someone with intellectual/developmental disabilities and/or mental health conditions. Experience may be paid or unpaid.

Q: What is a Specialist?

A: NADD defines a Specialist as a non-licensed individual who delivers, manages, trains and/or supervises services for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and mental health conditions. This may include staff working in units of county or state government, QIDPs, program directors, program supervisors, case/care managers, program specialists, supports coordinators, peer specialists, trainers and others.

To be eligible for NADD-DDS Certification, an applicant must demonstrate a combination of education and work experience equivalent to a master's degree plus one year of work experience in a related field. A post-secondary degree, however, is not necessary, given sufficient experience.

Q: Who is eligible to become a NADD Certified Clinician?

A: To become a NADD Certified Clinician, one must be a licensed or credentialed professional who has direct experience serving individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and co-occurring mental health needs (IDD/MI). Examples of eligible applicants may include: Registered Nurse (RN) or Master's degree with 7+ years of clinical experience in IDD/MI; BCBA, BCaBA, Behavior Consultant, or recognized behavior professional, with 5+ years of clinical experience; Licensed clinician (e.g., psychologist, physician, LCSW, OT, NP, etc.), with 5+ years of clinical experience; Faculty/supervisor in a post-secondary or clinical training program, with 5+ years of relevant experience.

Q: How often does certification have to be renewed?

A: Certifications must be renewed every 2 years and require a renewal fee and 8-10 hours of relevant continuing education.