



The ! Is For You, DSPs 💚 💚

There's a reason we have an exclamation point.

September 13th–19th is Direct Support Professional (DPS) Recognition Week, and we're turning up the **!** for the incredible DSPs across Imagine!.

Every day, DSPs help people build skills, pursue goals, navigate challenges, connect with their communities, and have greater choice and independence in their lives.

It's skilled, creative, highly individualized work. No two people are the same, no two days look alike, and DSPs are constantly adapting, problem-solving, and creating opportunities.
This coming week, we're putting the spotlight where it belongs.

To our DSPs: thank you for the talent, heart, humor, energy, and humanity you bring to Imagine! and the people and communities you support. This ! is for you. 💚

A Note From Jodi

September is full of reminders of what makes the Imagine! community special: people creating opportunities, building connections, sharing their voices, and showing up for one another.

As we head into DSP Recognition Week, I'm especially grateful for the skill, creativity, and commitment our Direct Support Professionals bring to this work every day.

There's a lot happening across Imagine! and our broader community this month.

I hope you'll explore, stay connected, and find something here that matters to you.



Jodi Walters
Chief Executive Officer

This Month at a Glance

💼 Thinking About Work? We Have Options.



Supported Employment Resource Nights make it easy to explore what working could look like for you.

Employment Resource Room
Mondays | 4–7 PM
Free • Drop in •
No registration

Come with questions, explore employment options, get help with job searches, or simply learn what supports are available.

Come curious. We'll help you figure out what's next.

Resource Night Info

🏛️ Questions About Changes to LTSS?



Colorado's Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) system has seen a lot of change over the past year, and we know that can bring questions and confusion.

HCPF is hosting an LTSS Sustainability Webinar to clarify what's changing, how different initiatives fit together, and what may be ahead.

Wednesday, September 16
1–2:30 p.m. | Virtual

Have a question or something you'd like HCPF to clarify? Click here to submit it by September 11 to help shape the conversation.

Webinar Link

🏛️ Medicaid Commission: LTSS Is on the Agenda



Colorado's Medicaid Commission is examining the sustainability of the state's Medicaid program, and Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) will be part of the upcoming meeting

Thursday, September 17
11 a.m.–4 p.m. | Virtual

The Commission is also gathering input from families, the disability community, and others who rely on or work with Medicaid. Please consider sharing your experience through their stakeholder survey by clicking here.

Committee Info

We See Potential. We Create Opportunity.

At Imagine!, Supported Employment starts with a simple belief: Everyone who wants to work *can* work.

That doesn't mean there's one path to employment. Quite the opposite.

Our team starts with the person: their strengths, interests, abilities, goals, and the conditions that help them succeed. From there, we get creative. We build experience, develop skills and confidence, connect with employers and community partners, and find the right supports to help turn potential into opportunity.

Sometimes that means preparing for a first job. Sometimes it means finding the right workplace or building greater independence on the job. And when traditional jobs don't quite fit, we look for another way forward.

Because employment is about more than a paycheck. A great job can build confidence and independence, expand relationships and community, create a professional identity, and open doors to what comes next.

Imagine! brings the expertise, partnerships, resources, and creativity to help make that possible.

And in February, we'll get to show you what that can look like. At the 2027 Imagine! Celebration, we'll share one Supported Employment success story about an incredible individual we can't wait for you to meet. Stay tuned. 💚

Click here to connect with Imagine! about Supported Employment (send an email and we follow up)!

Meet Kam 👋

For Kam, a great day at work means staying on task, helping customers, and taking pride in a job well done. See how Kam shines at Walgreens.

WATCH KAM'S STORY





Meet Chris 👋

Chris is building skills and confidence in his role at Niwot Market, with support from Imagine!'s Employment Services team. See how the right job and the right support can create opportunities to thrive.

WATCH CHRIS AT WORK

Housing Corner

Annie's Journey Back to Belonging





Annie spent decades in several life-sharing communities in the Northeast where she had relationships, support, and places she belonged.

But over time, those communities changed. The connections and supports around her began to disappear, and Annie became increasingly isolated. She and her family knew it was time for something different.

Coming home to Colorado was the right next step, but it wasn't a simple one. After decades out of state, Annie needed help navigating eligibility, assessments, paperwork, and a complex system of services before she could access the residential support she needed.

That's where Imagine! came in.

Our team worked alongside Annie and her family to navigate the system, solve problems, and ultimately secure access to the Developmental Disabilities Waiver.

Now, Annie is preparing for another big move--this time into the new L'Arche home in Fort Collins.

Through a new partnership between Imagine! and L'Arche Northern Colorado, the home will bring people with and without intellectual disabilities together to share daily life, build relationships, and create a community rooted in connection and belonging.

For Annie, it means something especially powerful: her story is no longer about losing community. It's about creating a new one.

Learn More About Community Living

L'Arche Northern Colorado

Explore L'Arche's new Fort Collins home and its vision for creating a community centered

The Grove at Cottonwood

Discover a new neuro-inclusive affordable housing community in Broomfield designed to

Ready for More Independence?

Living with family now but thinking about a place of your

on shared life, relationships, and belonging.

LEARN ABOUT L'ARCHE NOCO

support independence, accessibility, connection, and choice.

EXPLORE THE GROVE

own?

Imagine!'s Housing Support & Stability Services can help eligible Boulder County residents explore housing options and take steps toward greater independence.

EXPLORE HOUSING SUPPORTS

Medicaid Work Requirements

What the Imagine! Community Should Know

You may have started hearing about new Medicaid "work requirements" coming in 2027. With so much changing in Medicaid right now, we know news like this can raise questions, especially for people who rely on Medicaid-funded services and supports.

Here's the most important thing for many people connected to Imagine!: the new work requirements will not apply to everyone.

- The requirements are primarily aimed at certain adults ages 19–64 who receive Medicaid through Colorado's expansion population.
- **People receiving Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS), including Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), are exempt from the new work requirements.**
- Other exemptions and exclusions also apply, including for many people with disabilities and family caregivers.

HCPF has started contacting Coloradans who could potentially be affected. Receiving a letter does not necessarily mean the requirements apply to you.

- **If you receive one, read it carefully and keep your contact information current so you don't miss important updates.**

There are still details to work through before the new requirements take effect in 2027.

Imagine! is following the implementation closely, and we'll continue sharing information that is relevant to our community as we learn more.

Click here to read more from HCPF

Stay Informed. Help Shape What Comes Next

We're continuing to follow Medicaid changes and share updates as new information becomes available.

Visit our **Medicaid Updates page** for resources and information from our recent community information session.

Have a topic you'd like Imagine! to cover next? Tell us what you want to learn more about and when and how you'd be most likely to participate.

Click **here** to share your ideas for future sessions; we can't wait to hear your ideas!

Stories of Impact

❤️ What Can We Help Celebrate ❤️

We're beginning work on Imagine!'s Annual Report, looking back at the people, partnerships, milestones, and moments that shaped the past year.

And we know we haven't heard them all.

What happened this year that we should know about? Maybe it's a goal reached, a new opportunity, a meaningful connection, a partnership that made something possible, or simply a moment that stuck with you.

You don't need to write a polished story. Send us a few sentences, a quote, a photo, or a quick note about something worth celebrating or remembering.

We'd love to hear from people receiving services, families, staff, volunteers, employers, partners, donors, and friends throughout the Imagine! community.

Click Here to Share!

Coming Up



🎨 Imagine! Artists at Fall Into Art

Direct Support Professional
RECOGNITION WEEK
September 13 - 19, 2026
ANCOR | RELIAS

DSP Recognition Week is September 13–19

Catch Imagine! artists at Fall Into Art, a free community art festival in Longmont!

Sunday, September 20 | 1–5 p.m.
Left Hand Brewery Beer Garden

Browse original artwork, meet local creators, and support Imagine! artists.

DSP Recognition Week starts September 13!

Show some extra love this week to the Direct Support Professionals whose skill, creativity, and commitment make choices, connections, and opportunities possible every day.

#ShowYourAppreciation



Click Here to Access Our Community Calendar

Heard Around Imagine!

"After 25 years as an executive in mental health and substance use treatment, I made the meaningful decision to begin a new chapter, one that would bring me closer to the people we serve and allow me to contribute to the IDD field. This transition has been incredibly rewarding."

For Steff Lefke, Imagine!'s new Assistant Director of Community Partnerships, joining Imagine! meant intentionally choosing a new chapter in a long career.

"I feel fortunate to be part of Imagine!, whose mission and values resonate so deeply with me. I am genuinely happy, inspired, and fulfilled, and I look forward to continuing to learn, grow, and make a difference."

Want to be part of what happens here? Imagine! is always looking for people who bring curiosity, compassion, creativity, and their own talents to our community.

COME WORK WITH US: EXPLORE CAREERS AT IMAGINE!

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Imagine!

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