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The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration has announced another round of Direct Service Workforce Investment Grants to be funded by pandemic relief funding from the federal government.

A key and critical focus of FSSA's Home-and Community-Based Services Spend Plan for the federal funds is on supporting the direct service workforce. As part of the DSW State Plan which includes short-, mid-, and long-term strategies around wages and benefits; training and pathways; and promotion and planning, FSSA is launching a critical short-term wages and benefits strategy in the form of a Direct Service Workforce Investment grant opportunity.

DSWs are essential in providing the day-to-day, in-person support necessary for people to live, work and participate in their communities. FSSA is dedicating \$130 million to this opportunity with a requirement that 95% of funding awarded flow directly to DSWs.

Stone Belt will be applying for these funds and will be passing the award amounts to eligible DSW's in the form of one-time bonus payments, shift-differentials, enhanced benefits, and other recruitment and retention activities.

Once awards have been made, more information on specific programs and amounts will be released.

