



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

Hello All,

Thank you to those who attended our STEP (Supporting Transformation to Empower People) Info Sessions and Training Sessions. For those that weren't able to make it, you can find the recordings on the [DDS Website Provider Gateway](#).

As you begin your transformational planning through STEP, we wanted to emphasize the importance of **involving individuals, their support teams, and DDS case managers**. STEP is focused on person-centered transitions that allow individuals to flourish in supports that meet their goals and the best fit for their needs. To match individuals effectively, collaboration is critical. Here are some things to keep in mind as you plan for transitions:

- Work with individuals early and often to understand their transition goals. Transitions won't be a fit for everyone, and individuals should be enthusiastic and willing participants.
- Coordinate with families and support teams to gather support and to identify transition roadblocks, risks, and challenges.
- Collaborate with case managers to identify strategies to mitigate these transition challenges and lean on IP sessions for STEP conversations.

The STEP team also held trainings and info sessions for DDS staff, including case managers. They are extremely excited about STEP and these transformational efforts and need to be part of the process. As you develop plans, **make sure you are also engaging with the planning and support teams, which includes the case managers and individuals to ensure everyone is engaged in the process early on.**

If you have questions about STEP, you are invited to join open Technical Assistance virtual office hours to develop your transition plans on Fridays from 10:00 to 11:00 am. [Use this link to join](#). You can also [request one on one Technical Assistance](#).

We are excited to see your creative and innovative approaches and look forward to making STEP a reality with your support.

Sincerely,
The DDS STEP Team

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