**Sent to providers via Everbridge 09-12-2023**

**DDS Releases First Video in STEP Video Series Featuring Individualized Home Supports**

Good morning DDS Qualified Providers,

Over the last several months, DDS has been working to create a series of fun, inspirational videos featuring the real-life experiences and stories of individuals with I/DD who are currently using one or more of the seven core STEP (Supporting Transformation to Empower People) supports to achieve greater independence in their lives. The aim of these videos, and accompanying fact sheets, is to show individuals, parents, and guardians the opportunities for greater independence and freedom and to hopefully allow them to see the possibilities for themselves or their loved ones with the STEP core supports.

I am excited to announce that today, DDS will release the first video, Individualized Home Supports (IHS) (link to first video) in this series. Every week after that we will share a new video highlighting one of the seven STEP core supports in this order:

* Individualized Home Supports (IHS)
* Community Companion Homes (CCH)
* Supportive Housing
* Self-Direction
* Assistive Technology
* Remote Supports
* Employment

You can find these STEP videos and other resources on the DDS STEP website, and we will also share them on social media and YouTube here in English: [https://youtu.be/wSj2sBQt0JQ](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FwSj2sBQt0JQ&data=05%7C01%7CKyle.Fishbein%40ct.gov%7C8394305c13114d3754c108dbb2fcba77%7C118b7cfaa3dd48b9b02631ff69bb738b%7C0%7C0%7C638300570744110633%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BfPIclYFJNh5%2Fv5dj99bvJt3hT7iykXDeL48UBMFRM0%3D&reserved=0) and here in Spanish: [https://youtu.be/RcxWZxXJ7Hw](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FRcxWZxXJ7Hw&data=05%7C01%7CKyle.Fishbein%40ct.gov%7C8394305c13114d3754c108dbb2fcba77%7C118b7cfaa3dd48b9b02631ff69bb738b%7C0%7C0%7C638300570744110633%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=aNwlkzg9f0yXE4jH5NYh6i4VM8XXRnsZcGHRDxLLWHE%3D&reserved=0). You can also directly link to the [IHS page here](https://portal.ct.gov/DDS/STEP/Individualized-Home-Support-IHS) on our DDS STEP page.

Since you are an important partner in supporting individuals with intellectual disability and their families, we invite you to preview each video before its public release. Please share these videos with anyone you think might benefit from STEP supports. Also, consider sharing our social media post about the videos.

This is an exciting time and a once-in-a-generation opportunity for those of us who support individuals with I/DD to embrace the prospect of helping individuals achieve a greater sense of independence and a more integrated life in the community. I hope you will join DDS as we work to spread the word about the STEP supports to the individuals and families we support.

A special thank you to the providers and staff who helped to make several of these videos a reality!

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

DDS STEP Team