

State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services



Employment & Day Services Division

# Employment Newsletter



February is black history month, a month when we reflect on the equality of all Americans and the fight to ensure everyone is equal regardless of race, origin, religion, gender, or disability.

### *Brad Lomax & Chuck Jackson: Unsung Heroes*

In 1977, disability rights activists held protests to pressure the Federal government to issue regulations for Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. One of the most famous demonstrations was a 28-day protest outside a federal building in San Francisco known as the "504 Sit In". Many of the activists in this sit in were individuals with disabilities.

Two Black disability activists, Brad Lomax and Chuck Jackson, participated in the sit in. Brad Lomax was an Oakland resident with multiple sclerosis which required him to use a wheelchair. Brad Lomax and Chuck Jackson led an effort in their community to cook and deliver hot meals during the month-long protest. Later, the team traveled to Washington D.C. to further the pressure to implement regulations.

The unified efforts of disability rights activists led the government to issue regulations for Section 504. These regulations laid groundwork for the passage of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. To learn more about Brad Lomax, Chuck Jackson, and other disability rights advocates, check out the article: [Honoring Black History Month: Unsung Heroes of the Disability Rights Movement](#).

# EDS Updates

## **Customized Employment (CE)**

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has worked in conjunction with the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS) and the Department of Education (SDE) to expand Customized Employment Services in Connecticut. The Connecticut Customized Employment Curriculum was developed by the Regional Educational Service Center (RESC) Alliance in consultation with the state agencies as well as the UConn Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.

The second training session began on January 31st, 2022, and runs through May 2022. The ADS- DDS team has worked with the training facilitators to revise the 2022 format of the CT CE Curriculum. Our focus remains to build the capacity of existing CE providers and coverage for our job seekers statewide while addressing the time constraint concerns voiced by our first cohort of trainees.

The State of Connecticut Customized Employment Staff Registry is now complete. This registry will be used and monitored by ADS and DDS. In order to provide CE services in the State of CT, staff must be listed on this registry.

If you have a staff member who received an ACRE approved or State of Connecticut Customized Employment certificate, please have them complete the application to our registry.

## [Connecticut Customized Employment Staff Registry](#)

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### **CT DDS Employment Services Strategic Planning Committees**

In February 2021, the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) published their Finding & Observations Report on the State of Connecticut Department of Developmental Services Employment Services. The report commends strengths, reviews areas of improvement, and makes recommendations for action. The report is organized into the seven content areas below:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Leadership                           | 5. Interagency Collaboration                        |
| 2. Strategic Goals & Operating Policies | 6. Services & Service Innovations                   |
| 3. Financing & Contracting Methods      | 7. Employment Performance                           |
| 4. Training & Technical Assistance      | Measurement, Quality Assurance, & Program Oversight |

Throughout the end of 2021, the committees established and began reviewing the different sections of the report. Seven sub-committees were created, each assigned to a different section of the report. A Steering Committee was created to organize the chairpersons and EDS Liaisons tasked with leading the sub-committees. The group was formally referred to as the “DDS SELN Strategic Planning Committee” but was renamed the “DDS Employment Services Strategic Planning Committee” to better reflect the focus of the group on employment services.

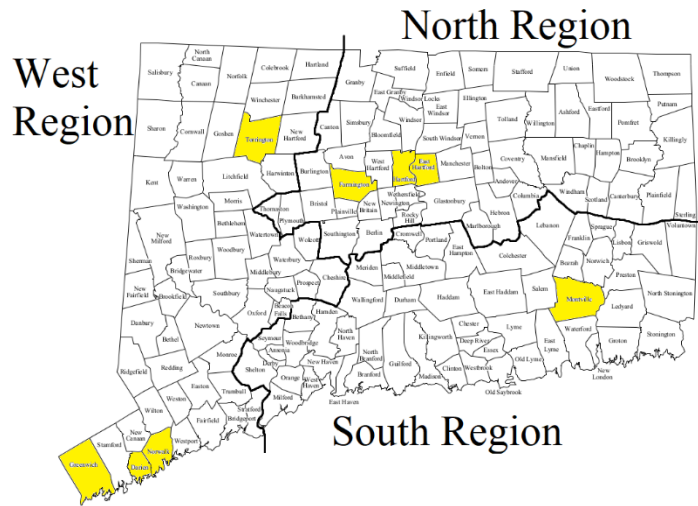
More information about this exciting process can be found [here](#).

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### **Project SEARCH**

CT now has **NINE** Project SEARCH host site/programs run by DDS provider agencies and school partners.

Project SEARCH is a nine-month internship training program, available to school transition age students and young adults eligible for DDS services, who need more intensive employment skills training. Many of the programs are **now accepting applicants** for the 2022/2023 program year which starts in September of 2022.



**West region**

- Host - **Charlotte Hungerford Hospital**, Torrington (since 2020) Provider - Litchfield ARC
- Host - **Greenwich Hospital**, Greenwich (since 2019) Provider - Abilis
- Host - **Darien YMCA**, (start 1/2022) Provider - Abilis
- Host - **Norwalk Community College**, Norwalk (since 2018) Provider - Norwalk school district & Ability Beyond
- Host - **Nuvance Hospital**, Norwalk (start 1/2022) Provider - Ability Beyond

**North region**

- Host - **UConn Health**, Farmington (since 2015) Provider - FAVARH
- Host - **Goodwin University**, East Hartford (since 2019) Provider - MARC of Manchester.
- Host - **Hartford Hospital**, Hartford (since 2021) Provider - MARC of Manchester.

**South region**

- Host - **Mohegan Sun**, Uncasville (since 2019) Provider - UCP Eastern CT

[CT Project SEARCH Contact List](#)

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# Links & Resources

# Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Transition Resources Expo

The State Education Resource Center (SERC), Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS), and Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will be presenting at the transition resource expo.

Wednesday March 23, 2022  
5:00PM-7:00PM

For questions and inquiries, please contact Margo Sheldon:  
[sheldonm@cestrumbull.org](mailto:sheldonm@cestrumbull.org)



## CES TRANSITION RESOURCE EXPO

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

5:00-7:00 PM

Please register by March 18th in order to receive the webinar link:

[CES EXPO REGISTRATION LINK](#)

Please join us for a virtual informational session:  
***Transition Updates and Services***

### PRESENTERS:



State Education Resource Center (SERC)

Presenter: Missy Wrigley

*Information will be presented to highlight what professionals and families need to know about secondary transition planning services.*



Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS)

Presenter: Sean Kennedy

*Come learn about the new approach ADS/BRS is taking to increase career success for students. We will discuss your role as a stakeholder and pre-employment transition services.*



Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

Presenter: Brian K. Smith, Catherine DeStefano

*DDS 101: Information will be shared regarding the Eligibility Application Process, Transition Tasks, Types of Support Services and Service Delivery Options*

For questions and inquiries, please contact Margo Sheldon: [sheldonm@cestrumbull.org](mailto:sheldonm@cestrumbull.org)

RSVP for the Meeting [here](#).

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## Contact Employment & Day Services:

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