

**State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services**



Employment & Day Services Division

**Monthly Employment
Newsletter**



EDS Updates

Customized Employment (CE)

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.

Thank you for your enthusiasm and feedback!

Connecticut Customized Employment Training 2022 Winter/Spring session will allow more time for both trainees and facilitators. The 4 Module training will follow a Module per Month format starting January 31, 2022. For more information, check out these resources:

[DDS Customized Employment FAQ Memo](#)

[Rates Document](#)

[CT CE Winter-Spring 2022 Course Update & Application Link](#)

[CT Customized Employment Training Overview and Calendar](#)



[Customized Employment Works Everywhere](#)
[Customized Employment Competency Model](#)

CT DDS SELN Strategic Planning Committees

The Department's Strategic Planning Committees were created in the Summer of 2021 to address the State Employment Leadership Network's (SELN) Finding & Observations Report (February 2021). The report commends strengths, reviews areas of improvement, and makes recommendations for action. A Steering Committee and seven sub-committees each meet monthly, each sub-committee group is assigned to one of the seven content areas below:

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

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

CT 7th Annual Secondary Transition Symposium *Building Tomorrow's Leaders Today*

The Connecticut Secondary Transition Symposium brings students and their families together with educators and other professionals to improve secondary transition programming and services for students with disabilities. The 7th Annual Symposium, with the theme of "*Building Tomorrow's Leaders Today!*", will continue to build the capacity of educators and other professionals, in partnership with middle and high school students with disabilities and their families, to help ensure successful post-school outcomes.

**CT 7th Annual Secondary Transition Symposium:
Building Tomorrow's Leaders Today!**

Day 1: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 – 8:30 am to 12:15 pm
Day 2: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 – 12:30 pm to 3:45 pm
Day 3: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 – 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

The Connecticut Secondary Transition Symposium brings students and their families together with educators and other professionals to improve secondary transition programming and services for students with disabilities. The 7th Annual Symposium, with the theme of "Building Tomorrow's Leaders Today!", will continue to build the capacity of educators and other professionals, in partnership with middle and high school students with disabilities and their families, to help ensure successful post-school outcomes.

The Symposium will be VIRTUAL this year!



Keynote speaker Dan Habib will kick off the Symposium on Day 1 for all registered participants with "Action! Effective Practices in Transition." Day 1 and Day 2 will include sessions for families, students, and educators/professionals. Dan Habib returns on Day 3 to close the Symposium with a Film Screening of *Intelligent Lives* and a Facilitated Q&A/Panel Discussion for all registered participants.

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER THROUGH CANVAS TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE CONFERENCE.
[Canvas is the Learning Management System where our Symposium's materials and activities will take place.]
INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE SENT ONCE REGISTRATION HAS BEEN CONFIRMED.

The Symposium is hosted by the Connecticut Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS), the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services (DDS), the Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center (CPAC), the Connecticut Secondary Transition Youth Advisory Board (YAB), the Connecticut Special Education Youth Advisory Council (YAC), the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), the RESC Alliance, the State Education Resource Center (SERC), and the University of Connecticut Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD).

Registration is available on the [SERC Events page](#).

Registration deadline is January 21, 2022

REGISTRATION QUESTIONS: Lauren Johns, SERC Project Specialist, johns@ctserc.org
CONTENT QUESTIONS: Missy Wrigley, SERC Consultant, wrigley@ctserc.org

Sponsored by:




In collaboration with:



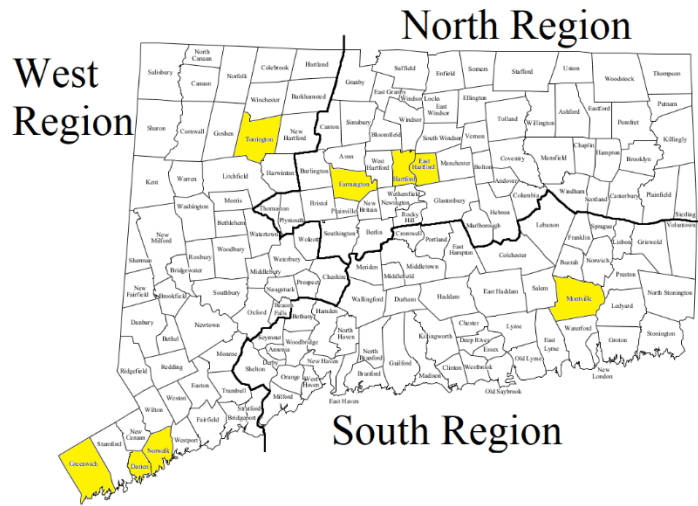





Registration deadline is January 21, 2022
Registration link [here](#)

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 - **Norwalk Hospital**, (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

Information Sessions



Project SEARCH with MARC, Inc. of Manchester

**2022- 2023
Informational Session**
(Students, Families, School Districts Welcome)

January 6, 2022
January 19, 2022
February 3, 2022
February 17, 2022
March 3, 2022
March 17, 2022

2:00pm- 2:45 pm

THROUGH ZOOM LINK (see below)

Project SEARCH is a unique, business-led, one year internship program that takes place entirely in the work place. The program allows each student with a disability to be immersed in a workplace setting giving hands on experience that will increase their skills and abilities. These skills and abilities will enhance their chances at real competitive work and reaching their ultimate goals.

Benefits for Students & Families

- Creates opportunities to work in a high-status organization within the community
- Concentrates on developing intern strength areas.
- Works towards independence in areas such as transportation, self-advocacy, health, and wellness, financial literacy, etc.
- Provides opportunities to explore a variety of employment options through multiple internships.
- Provides opportunities to build job specific and employability skills
- Delivers transition services in an inclusive settings

Project SEARCH applications are due by May 29, 2022

Please RSVP to lsidera@marcct.org for link and/or need additional dates & times.

MARC, Inc. of Manchester

22'- 23' Informational Sessions

All sessions 2:00pm - 2:45pm

January 6, 2022
January 19, 2022
February 3, 2022
February 17, 2022
March 3, 2022
March 17, 2022

Please RSVP to lsidera@marcct.org for link and/or need additional dates & times.

LARC - Litchfield Arc.

22'- 23' Informational Sessions

January 19, 2022 at 2:00pm
February 1, 2022 at 5:00pm
February 24, 2022 at 2:00pm
March 9, 2022 at 5:00pm
March 29, 2022 at 2:00pm



2022-2023 Project SEARCH Informational Sessions:

January 19, 2022 2pm
February 1, 2022 5pm
February 24, 2022 2pm
March 9, 2022 5pm
March 29, 2022 2pm

For more information and meeting link, please contact:

Kathy Riberdy
Project SEARCH
Special Educator/Coordinator
(860) 482-9362 Ext. 340
kriberdy@litchfieldarc.org
www.litchfieldarc.org

Project SEARCH is an exciting opportunity offered by LARC.

The Project SEARCH Program is a unique, business led, nine-month internship program for individuals with disabilities.

Interns in the program will complete three rotations at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, Torrington, CT, with the main goal of gaining the necessary skills to obtain competitive employment.

The Project SEARCH model involves an extensive period of training and career exploration, long-term job coaching and continuous feedback from teacher, skills trainer, and mentors.

Who is eligible to participate?

- Young adults with disabilities aged 18-35
- Reside in Northwestern CT
- In the process of completing or have already completed a high school education
- Receiving DDS funding for employment services
- Strong desire to work and demonstrate potential for competitive employment

LARC is accepting applications until
May 1, 2022

For more information and meeting link, please contact kriberdy@litchfieldarc.org



Project SEARCH with UCP of Eastern CT 2022-2023 Program Year

Virtual Informational Sessions via Zoom
(Students, Families, Case Managers and School Districts Welcome)

January 21, 2022 at 10am
February 15, 2022 at 4pm
March 17th, 2022 at 10am
April 11, 2022 at 4pm
May 11, 2022 at 10am
June 2, 2022 at 4pm

Project SEARCH is a unique, business-led, one year internship program that takes place entirely in the workplace. The program allows each student with a disability to be immersed in a workplace setting giving hands on experience that will increase their skills and abilities. These skills and abilities will enhance their chances at real competitive work and reaching their ultimate goals.

Benefits for Students & Families

- Provides post-secondary training and internships in an inclusive setting.
- Creates opportunities to work in a high-status organization within the community.
- Concentrates on developing intern strength areas.
- Works towards independence in areas such as transportation, self-advocacy, health, and wellness, financial literacy, etc.
- Provides linkages to vocational rehabilitation, developmental disability, and other post-secondary support agencies.
- Provides opportunities to explore a variety of employment options through multiple internship settings.
- Provides opportunities to build job specific and employability skills.

Please RSVP to colbrys@ucpect.org for session links or for questions about the program.

UCP of Eastern CT 22'- 23' Informational Sessions

January 21, 2022 at 10:00am
February 15, 2022 at 4:00pm
March 17th, 2022 at 10:00am
April 11, 2022 at 4:00pm
May 11, 2022 at 10:00am
June 2, 2022 at 4:00pm

Please RSVP to colbrys@ucpect.org for session links and/or program questions

Favarh - The Arc of the Farmington Valley, Inc.
22'- 23' Informational Session

January 24, 2022 at 2:00pm

Please email
ProjectSearch@favarh.org to
RSVP and/or program
questions

Link for meeting [here](#)

An Opportunity to Change Outcomes

Families can learn how young adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities can become involved in this internationally recognized internship program, hear what it has to offer, find out what will be expected of chosen interns. Come meet and mingle with the Project SEARCH staff and experience the impact this program had on those who have successfully completed the program.

Project SEARCH benefits include:

- Non-paid internships with UConn Health
- Competitive, transferable, and marketable job skills
- Increased independence, confidence and self esteem
- Work-based individualized coaching instruction and feedback from the instructor, skills trainers and UConn Health mentors

Project SEARCH uses a combination of classroom instruction coupled with workplace internships to prepare individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities for competitive employment.

Project SEARCH is a unique, school-to-work transition program for young adults with disabilities

Date: January 24, 2022

Time: 2:00pm

Location:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81230569371?pwd=ZVZlRkF0OStyVFc0aE5SSGZwVlY3R1Uj02>

RSVP By: January 21, 2022

For more information about Project SEARCH in Connecticut visit our website at favarh.org/day/project-search.html or contact Favarh at ProjectSearch@favarh.org



facebook.com/Favarh-1457638861172855/
youtube.com/watch?v=ld-pWU03rhY
youtube.com/watch?v=8juNYG6nP1U
(Available on Google Chrome)



Links & Resources

The UConn Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities 2022 Adulting Series

What every adolescent young adult should know about living the inclusive life you want in the community

A free interactive virtual learning opportunity just for adolescents and young adults with disabilities!

Application deadline
Wednesday, January
19th, 2022.

Click [here](#) to apply.



2022 ADULTING SERIES

What every adolescent young adult should know about living the inclusive life you want in the community

A **free** interactive virtual learning opportunity just for adolescents and young adults with disabilities!

APPLY TODAY!

Deadline for applications is **Wednesday, January 19, 2022**

To apply today [CLICK HERE](#)

Space is limited so hurry!

Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by email by January 21, 2022.



Contact Employment & Day Services:

460 Capital Avenue Hartford, CT 06106

(860) 418-6091 | [Email](#) | [Website](#)



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