

Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services



Employment & Day Services Division

Employment Newsletter

June 2022

EDS Updates

Stay up to date with the Employment & Day Division! This section provides news and updates on different programs and services offered/overseen by the EDS Division Team.

The Employment & Day Services (EDS) Division was created in 2018 to oversee DDS employment and day options. EDS works with individuals, families, providers, community partners, and businesses to prepare individuals for competitive employment. The division currently offers a variety of day and employment services to individuals across Connecticut, learn more below:

Customized Employment

Customized Employment (CE) is an alternative method of finding competitive integrated employment that focuses on the strengths, skills, and abilities of individuals with significant disabilities and the unmet needs of employers. It is a highly structured, person-centered process, carried out over time in three components: Job Discovery; Job Development, Negotiation and Placement; and Post-Employment Supports.

A new class of provider staff have been certified in Customized Employment through the State Curriculum! To provide CE Services, provider staff must (1) complete the application to the [CT CE Staff Registry](#) and (2) the provider agency must have CE on their provider profile. Learn more [here](#).

Future iterations of the next CT CE Certification Course are in the final stages of planning. More information will be released shortly.

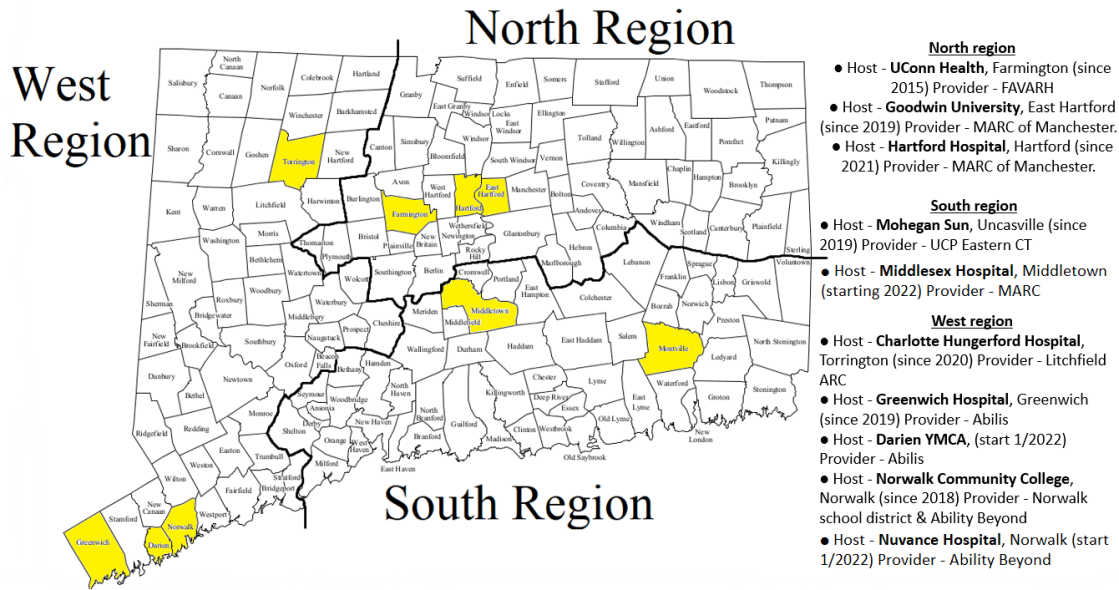


Project SEARCH

There are 10 Project SEARCH programs across Connecticut. 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. Businesses across the state serve as Project SEARCH host sites with programs run by DDS provider agencies and school partners.



DDS providers in the south and western part of the state are working to add 2 additional programs with potential start in late fall/early winter. Stay tuned for updates on these expanding employment training opportunities!



DDS providers qualified to offer Transition Services interested in starting their own Project SEARCH program can contact the EDS team [here](#) to determine if there is a geographic need and for other start up information.

[Connecticut Project SEARCH Contact List](#)

Employment & Day Quarterly Conversations

EDS will be holding quarterly meetings for individuals and families to learn about and discuss employment. All individuals and families served by DDS are welcome to join, use the RSVP link below for a link. Meeting dates are listed below:

September 22nd, 2022 @ 5:00PM via Microsoft Teams

January 19th, 2023 @ 5:00PM via Microsoft Teams

April 20th, 2023 @ 5:00PM via Microsoft Teams

July 20th, 2023 @ 5:00PM via Microsoft Teams



EDS Provider Meeting



EDS will be holding an informational listening session for provider agency staff where EDS will discuss Customized Employment, the Innovative Employment Opportunity (IEO) Grant, Shift Training, and other division related projects and news. To get the meeting invitation, RSVP below. Questions can be submitted in the RSVP.

Thursday, August 18th 1:00 - 2:30PM via Microsoft Teams

[**RSVP HERE**](#)

Case Management Corner

Topical information to DDS Case Managers, Resource Managers, Transition Advisors, and other DDS staff involved in the planning process

SELN E-Learning

To support DDS case managers, DDS has partnered with SELN to offer the Supporting a Vision for Employment E-learning course. The course is self-paced, and learners must complete all assignments during the 4-week section. To learn more, request information below.

[Request Information](#)

Employment & Day Monthly DDS Conversations

On the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00AM, EDS will hold meetings for DDS Divisions/Units. These meetings will allow EDS to discuss employment and topical projects/information as well as other units to share information that is topical to EDS. DDS Divisions/Units can request to attend with the RSVP form where one can request a specific topic/question on the agenda.

First meeting (via Microsoft Teams):

Wednesday, September 14th

10:00 - 11:00AM

[**RSVP**](#)



Celebrating CT Project SEARCH Graduates



Respect Ability Webinar



Understanding ABLÉ Today and Future Opportunities for Advancement

  July 20 at 2 p.m. ET / 11 a.m. PT

This RespectAbility Webinar will be an exciting and dynamic conversation about the personal benefits of opening an ABLÉ savings account and how it connects to advancing job opportunities for people with disabilities.

respect
ability
FIGHTING STIGMAS. ADVANCING OPPORTUNITIES.

[Register Here](#)



Celebrating Olmstead: How Blending, Braiding, and Sequencing Leads to Integrated Employment

Wednesday, June 29, 2022
3:00pm - 4:00pm ET

This federal interagency webinar, hosted by the LEAD Center, is the second in a series of webinars on blending, braiding, and sequencing resources and funding to support employment outcomes, and to promote equity and inclusion for people with disabilities. Register [here](#).

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