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 <u>CT CE Staff Registry</u> 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.

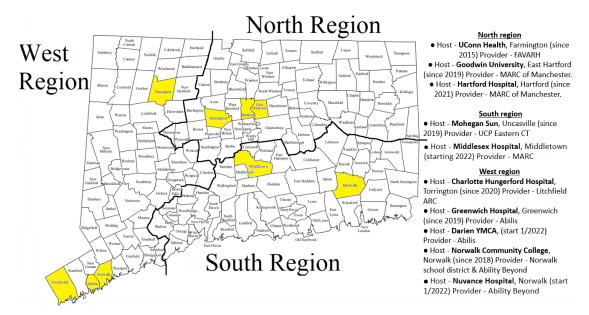


Project SEARCH

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



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



Self-Advocacy

There are 10 Self-Advocate Coordinators (SACs) in the Self-Determination Division to represent the people supported by DDS. Learn more about the SAC's different Focus Areas <u>here</u>.

The Advocates' Corner on the DDS website provides information and resources to Connecticut Citizens with intellectual disabilities, their families, and professionals with a focus on, self-advocacy, independent living, employment, health, and safety for individuals.

Each region has dedicated Self-Advocate Coordinators who offer various events throughout the month for individuals with disabilities including social and advocacy events in person and online. To learn more, contact one of the SACs in your region here.

Provider Highlight

Each month, the EDS team will highlight programs from different DDS Qualified Providers to share news, ideas, and innovations. Want to be highlighted? Send submissions <u>here</u>.

Do you know a provider agency with a microbusiness used to support individuals in employment services such as Group Supported Employment (GSE) or Individual Supported Employment (ISE)? There are many providers across the state with entrepreneurial efforts such as gardens, thrift shops, and stores selling products made by individuals in an employment program. Let the EDS team know about these employment opportunities supported by the community here.

Links & Resources

DDS does not endorse or recommend any particular product, process, or service listed below.

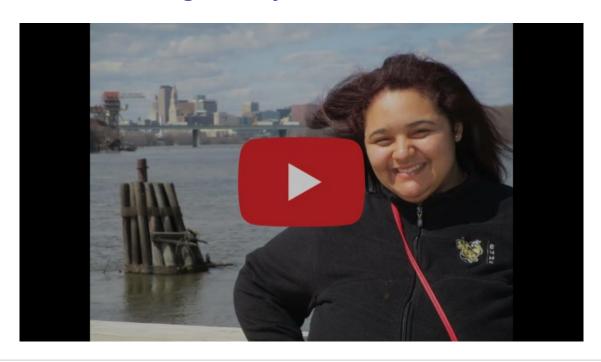
Learn to Earn Program

New England Business Associates (NEBA) was awarded a grant to place individuals with disabilities into FREE manufacturing training! They ran two successful classes in MA and now trying to run in CT. There are two information sessions on Wednesday, June 30th from 10AM-12PM & 2PM-4PM for those interested in learning more about the program and who would be a good fit!

For more information or to RSVP, click <u>here</u>.



Celebrating CT Project SEARCH Graduates



Respect Ability Webinar



Understanding ABLE Today and Future Opportunities for Advancement

CC 5 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 ABLE savings account and how it connects to advancing job opportunities for people with disabilities.







Webinar



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 <u>here</u>.

Want to receive the newsletter via email from EDS? Subscribe below:



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