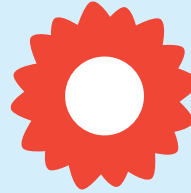




May Virtual Informational Forums

DDS
portal.ct.gov/dds

Happy Spring!



Spring is a time of transformation and growth. As the trees bloom, flowers blossom, and the weather warms up, everyone is ready to get back outside and enjoy our communities. Spring is about new possibilities, and DDS is embracing the same.

On March 8th I wrote to you for the first time about **Supporting Transformation to Empower People, or STEP**, for the first time. STEP, formerly known as “Moving On,” is focused on enhancing and highlighting the supports we offer that promote choice, independence, and integration.

As DDS moves forward with STEP, we are holding virtual informational forums on seven different support options that focus on independence, choice, and community integration. The discussion on each topic will include a variety of perspectives, including subject matter experts, individuals and families, and other stakeholders.

I highly encourage you to sign up by scanning the QR code on the next page or by visiting the DDS website (portal.ct.gov/dds). Please make an effort to attend as many forums as you can. Both morning and evening sessions are available for each topic. Each forum will also be recorded and available on our website.

While all of this is incredibly exciting, I want to assure you that our agency is focused on a multipronged approach to supporting each

individual toward the lives of their choosing. It's important that we listen to what you want, what your goals, are and how we can help you achieve them.

Ensuring you feel empowered, valued, and respected also encompasses the vision of STEP. We want you to have choices in the life that you lead. STEP will help us all get there. Supports that have been the foundation of our agency for many years will continue to be necessary options in our available services. The intent of STEP is to ensure that the opportunity to become more independent and participate in the community is available to everyone interested.

I'd like to thank each of you for your feedback which has helped to shape the direction our agency is now moving in, and your tenacity and advocacy in ensuring the individuals who receive supports and services through our agency are always first.

As always, thank you for all that you do.

Sincerely,
Jordan Scheff, DDS Commissioner



STEP Topics and Forums



Residential

- Morning Session: May 26, 9:00–11:00 am
- Evening Session, May 23, 6:00–8:00 pm

Individualized-Home Support (IHS):

Individualized Home Support (IHS) is an option where a staff person provides support to individuals in their own home or a family home, along with additional support when in the community to help individuals achieve their goals as specified in their person-centered plans.

Supportive Housing: Supportive Housing provides an independent residential option that combines rental assistance with support from a qualified provider in an integrated apartment complex. The qualified provider works with the landlord or property manager to ensure the apartment complex meets the needs of the individuals and is well maintained. The goal of Supportive Housing is to ensure that individuals have the right supports and access to a safe, affordable apartment of their choice.

Community Companion Homes (CCH):

Community Companion Home (CCH) is a residential option where a person is carefully matched with a licensed provider family that supports and welcomes the person to live in the provider family's home. A CCH provides a nurturing home environment where people can share responsibilities, develop relationships, and grow independently. CCH provider families receive extensive training to support individuals.

Interested in learning more?

Join us at one or more of our upcoming forums!

Scan the QR code at right ►

or visit portal.ct.gov/dds and click on "2023 DDS Stakeholder May Virtual Forums" to register. Disponible en español con el código QR.



Assistive Technology and Remote Supports

- Morning Session: May 9, 9:00–11:00 am
- Evening Session: May 11, 6:00–8:00 pm

Assistive Technology: Assistive Technology encompasses an array of products, equipment, and software that enhance learning, working, and daily independent living for individuals with IDD.

Remote Supports: Remote Supports provide greater independence for individuals by using technology to connect an individual with staff or a caregiver who is not physically in the same location as the individual. The technology uses two-way communication so the staff or caregiver can check on the individual and monitor their condition. Remote Supports enable the individual to request assistance without the need for the staff or caregiver to be physically present.



Employment

- Morning Session: May 18, 9:00–11:00 am
- Evening Session: May 17, 6:00–8:00 pm

DDS has been an Employment First agency since 2011. Our agency is committed to ensuring that individuals who are interested in employment services have the opportunity to access employment-based supports in an integrated setting. Employment-based services and opportunities are discussed and offered as the priority option for individuals and families that see this as an asset to personal growth and independence.

Self-Direction

- Morning Session: May 10, 9:00–11:00 am
- Evening Session: May 16, 6:00–8:00 pm

This service allows an individual to have the most control of their own support and the associated budget. Individuals can hire and manage staff they have selected to provide them with supports. Self-Direction enables the individual to hire staff from a variety of places: acquaintances, neighbors, students, retired persons, and co-workers are all potential candidates. As the employer, you can set the schedule, assign duties and supervise your own staff.

